



**City of St. Pete Beach**  
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August 1, 2005

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ST PETE BEACH FL 33706

Dear Friends, Neighbors and Good Citizens of St-Pete Beach;

I have had the honor of serving you for 12 years as an elected official, first as Commissioner of District 3 and now as the Mayor of our beloved city for 3 terms.

I seriously take to heart the responsibility you have entrusted in me.

As Mayor, my position is to represent and protect the lifestyle we all embrace living on St Pete Beach. I have the responsibility to represent and protect your interests, to guide our community through the important improvements that are now needed, and to reclaim our position as one of the premier waterfront communities on the west coast of Florida.

And you know that even when improvements are to be made for the good, they can be scary at first! But, in the end, with careful planning and monitoring along the way, the results are exciting and invigorating.

### Recent Improvements

Recently, there have been many improvement projects that we are now enjoying:

- Remember how Blind Pass Road looked and what it looks like now. Its transformation has brought a breath of fresh air to our city.  
*(4) LANES WERE NOT THE WISHES OF RESIDENTS.*
- Our new city hall building is now a symbol of the pride we have in reinvesting in our city.  
*NOW IN A "BRIGHT" AREA*
- The 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Fishing Pier, the boat ramp at Don Cesar Place, the promenade along Gulf Way, new and refurbished with taste. *WITHOUT RESIDENT INPUT*
- Driving by the re-born Don Vista building you can see the future beauty that will come from face-lifting our beach.

### Other Projects

Other projects are also in the works:

- A renovation and expansion of our community center will bring wonderful new activity spaces for our youngsters, their parents and grandparents.

## Petitions and Misinformation

Now after 3 plus years of our hard work, a group of residents is initiating a citizen petition drive to virtually stop all the work that has been done to date.

The overwhelming majority of these individuals did not participate in any way in the planning process. They have had the opportunity to join in, and offer ideas and suggestions, express their concerns and offer constructive options to help our city deal with these important issues all throughout these past 3 years. HA!

Instead, they are circulating information to the community that is irresponsible and grossly inaccurate. They collected signatures on a first set of petition questions that were filed with the city. We have heard from many citizens that they felt that they were misled by the information they were told in order to gain their signature. They now wish they hadn't signed. HA!

This first set of petition questions that were filed will be submitted to the circuit court for a ruling on constitutional validity and brought forward for a public referendum if determined to be valid. This group is now circulating a second set of petitions with more grossly inaccurate information.

I am asking that residents do not sign this petition. Please stop this blatant attempt to undermine the basic premise of representative democracy and the attempt to unnecessarily divide our community through misrepresentation of the facts.

## Valid Information and Communication

I encourage anyone with questions concerning any of the complex aspects involved in this endeavor to contact any member of the City Commission, or the City Manager. We would enjoy explaining any part of the plans for the future of our city as we are proud to be regarded by other communities as being ahead of the curve on the preservation and protection of a city's future.

The City will begin a public information campaign over the next month to provide residents with as much factual information as possible to help understand the projects. A sequence of direct mailings on various topics will be mailed to you. Town Hall question and answer forums will be held for all the districts and times and dates will be announced.

In closing, I would simply state that we live in a great city with our geographic location on the Gulf of Mexico and Boca Ciega Bay, and in close proximity to downtown St. Petersburg. Even with all of this, the best thing about our city is the many residents that take great pride in the community and dedicate their time to make St. Pete Beach the special place that it is. I ask everyone to take the time to participate in the process of governing so that the end result will be a positive improvement to the community that can be enjoyed for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and interest and God bless our City and America.

Sincerely,

Ward J. Friszolowski  
Mayor