

April 1, 2016

**Report of the West Haven Beach Parking Task Force To
Mayor Edward M. O'Brien Regarding Recommended Enhancements
To The West Haven Beach Parking Program**

West Haven Beach Parking Task Force

Ronald M. Quagliani, (D) At-Large, Chairman

Raymond V. Collins III, Chairman – WH Board of Police Commissioners

Beth A. Sabo, Commissioner of Human Resources

William P. Slater, Parks & Recreation Director

Francis Withington, Constituents Complaints Officer

West Haven Beach Parking Task Force

Formation

Mayor Edward M. O'Brien commissioned a special task force on December 30, 2015 "to study parking at West Haven's beach parking lots and to identify parking problems relative to beachgoers in the surrounding neighborhoods and propose solutions to the Mayor".

The Mayor appointed the following individuals to the Task Force:

Ronald M. Quagliani, (D) At-Large, Chairman

Raymond V. Collins III, Board of Police Commissioners

Beth A. Sabo, Commissioner of Human Resources

William P. Slater, Parks & Recreation Director

Francis Withington, Constituents Complaints Officer

Intent

To provide an enhanced beach-going experience for West Haven residents and visitors to our city.

To increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the beach parking program.

To increase revenues and reduce the City's costs, while providing residents with a low cost or no cost option when enjoying our beach and shoreline.

Charge

The Task Force is charged with investigating the above intent and goals put forth by the Mayor of the City of West Haven to enhance the Beach Parking Program.

The Task Force will present, to the Mayor, its findings and recommendations no later than April 1, 2016.

The Task Force will be provided with meeting spaces by the City of West Haven to meet as many times as needed to accomplish the intent and goals of the Task Force.

Task Force Meetings

The Task Force convened several meetings; all in public session.

A public comment session was included as part of all meeting agendas. The Task Force received commentary from current program administrators and City departments including the West Haven Police Department, West Haven Park & Recreation Department (Beach Constable Program), West Haven Tax Department and the West Haven Information Technology Department.

Presentations were also made by vendors representing parking management systems, bulk mailing and beach sticker printing solutions.

Resident input was solicited and feedback was received in-person at task force meetings as well as by email, letter and telephone. Residents brought forward suggestions and ideas on how to enhance the beach parking program in general and specifically to fees, fines, enforcement, litter, and noise.

All Task Force meeting agendas and minutes are posted on-line at the City of West Haven website for public inspection <http://www.cityofwesthaven.com/documentdownloads.htm>.

The Task Force met on the following dates:

Tuesday, January 12, 2016 2 PM

Tuesday, January 26, 2016 2 PM

Thursday, February 4, 2016 7 PM (Public Comment Session Only)

Tuesday, February 9, 2016 2 PM

Tuesday, February 16, 2016 10:30 AM

Tuesday, March 1, 2016 2 PM

Tuesday, March 8, 2016 2 PM

Tuesday, March 22, 2016 2 PM

Friday, April 1, 2016 - Final report Presented to Mayor Edward M. O'Brien

Recommendations:

The Task Force, after extensive deliberations, unanimously approves the following recommendations to Mayor O'Brien for his consideration:

Vehicle Credentialing (Beach Sticker)

The West Haven Beach Parking Task Force recommends that the current beach sticker and distribution process be modified as follows:

1. Beach stickers to be mailed to each non-commercial registered vehicle owner in the City of West Haven.
2. Beach sticker to be mailed in early June, in the same mailing as the tax bills, to reduce postage costs.
3. Beach stickers will have the vehicle license plate number printed on it to reduce the opportunity for stickers to be utilized improperly, as well as to enhance enforcement by easily matching the beach sticker to the vehicle to which it is affixed.
4. The beach sticker will be valid for two years (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2018).
5. The current beach sticker will be valid thru July 1, 2016.
6. There is no fee for beach parking for residents.
7. The fee for beach parking for non-residents is \$10 per day, \$5 after 5pm, and \$75 for a season pass.
8. The fee for a replacement beach sticker or boat ramp sticker is \$10.
9. The fee for a yearly boat ramp permit is \$100.
10. On-line options for the distribution of boat and beach stickers should be considered in the future as system upgrades occur.

Beach Parking Lots/Surrounding Streets

The West Haven Beach Parking Task Force recommends that the City's beach parking lots and surrounding streets be modified as follows:

1. Signage at all beach parking areas should be standardized and clearly visible with an opening time, closing time, and other pertinent information as determined by the WH Park & Recreation Commission, in consultation with the West Haven Police Department.
2. Signage that is missing or illegible should be replaced on streets surrounding the beach area that currently have an approved summer parking restriction in place.

3. The designation of resident and non-resident beach parking lots should remain the same.
 - a. Resident Only Parking – South Street, Dawson Avenue, Savin Rock Conference Center, Oak Street, Altschuler Plaza.
 - b. Non-Resident Pay-For-Parking Lots – Sea bluff, Bradley Point, Morse Park, Sandy Point, April Street.
4. Beach parking areas should be closed each evening at a time decided by the West Haven Park & Recreation Commission and the West Haven Police Department. Each parking area should be closed in a way that provides a motorist a visible indicator that the beach parking lots are closed (safety chain or other similar device with signage).
5. Regulations should be changed to allow for vehicles to be towed as well as tagged when they are found to be in violation of our established parking regulations within our beach parking lots.
6. Palace Street should be converted to a Pay-For-Parking location (resident/non-resident) to leverage the two parking kiosks that are installed in that area.
 - a. Vendors choosing to park on Palace Street will pay the appropriate per space parking fees.
7. Additional parking kiosk locations should be considered in other non-resident parking locations as funding becomes available.

Constable Program

1. A portion of revenue collected due to increased fines and enforcement should be used to enhance the Beach Constable Program.
2. Hours and locations should be expanded as deemed necessary by the West Haven Park and Recreation Department.
3. Enhanced compliance and revenue collection would be realized with expanded hours.

Enforcement

1. Regular and consistent enforcement of West Haven parking violations is a must. Violators will adjust their behavior knowing that illegal parking will result in a parking fine and potential towing of their vehicle.
2. Recognizing that the West Haven Police Department regularly has competing priorities and that public safety is a top priority, parking enforcement tends to be spotty and inconsistent.

3. To achieve a level of consistency in enforcing parking violations at our beach parking areas and surrounding neighborhoods, a supplemental non-sworn parking compliance enforcement program should be instituted.
4. These seasonal individuals (part-time, no benefits), under the direction of the WHPD, will issue parking tags to violators of the City's parking laws. These individuals would function similar to constables with limited scope and authority to enforce parking laws only.
5. West Haven Police officers will continue to perform parking compliance as a routine and normal course of their duties as well.
6. The West Haven Police Department will enhance their parking management system to provide increased efficiencies in collecting past due parking tags. A dedicated connection to the West Haven Tax Office and the State of Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles will increase parking fine payment compliance.
7. Parking fines should be increased to enhance parking law compliance. Many parking fines are low and do not deter motorists from parking illegally.
 - a. This item was completed (approved by the WH City Council on 3/14/2016).
8. Beach and beach parking rules should be easily accessible on the City website.

Special Event Parking

1. A non-resident parking fee should be established and collected at our beach parking lots for special events that require additional staffing by City departments to help offset costs.
2. Other such events that take place along our shorefront shall include (but not be limited to) the Savin Rock Festival, Savin Rock Fireworks, and other events deemed appropriate, that draw a large number of non-resident attendees thus requiring extra city services and additional costs to be incurred by the City of West Haven.

Budget Considerations

Recommendations brought forward by this task force are reasonable and tempered based on the budgetary considerations of the city.

The task force believes that any expenses incurred to implement our recommended enhancements to the beach parking program will be able to be funded by the additional revenues realized by increased enforcement and a rebalancing of parking fines.

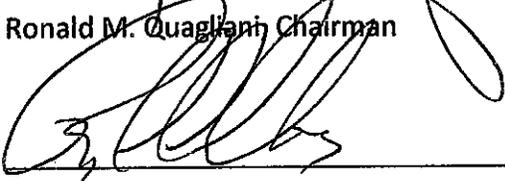
We, the members of the West Haven Beach Parking Task Force, would like to thank Mayor O'Brien for initiating this process, the many city department personnel that participated in the

process and researched information, the staff of the Mayor's Office (Cathy Sherman, Erin Sweeney, and Mia Sumra) for providing administrative support, and most importantly, the residents of the City of West Haven who took the time to offer us your concerns, suggestions, and ideas.

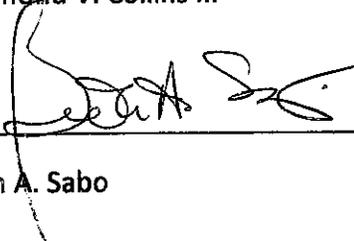
We wish all of you a safe and enjoyable summer.



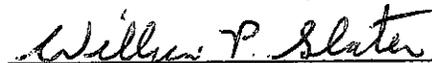
Ronald M. Quagliani Chairman



Raymond V. Collins III



Beth A. Sabo



William P. Slater

Francis Withington