

**APPLICATION FOR CAC
VICTOR N RIOS
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MARCO ISLAND, FL 34145
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I am very interested in becoming a member of the CAC. I believe that my interest and dedication to our beautiful island, my many years of volunteer work and my professional experience, as explained below, makes me an ideal candidate for this position. I am currently a Member of Marco Island Beach Advisory Board to which I was appointed this past summer.

Prior to moving to Marco Island, my wife and I resided in the small town of Westlake Village in Southern California, just Northwest of Los Angeles. While living in California I was a volunteer member of the LA Best (1994 to 2004), which is an organization, dedicated to providing an after school program for schoolchildren in the City of LA. I was a Member of the Board of Directors, then a member of the Advisory Board and I also ran a very successful program for LA Best training children how to use personal computers. For such a program I received The First Lady of California Volunteer Award, and also the prestigious ITT Corporation Geneen Award for Community Service.

For the last 25 years of my professional career I was a Corporate Executive for the ITT Corp. I held various positions, including VP of Engineering, President of a major division and Corporate VP and CIO (Chief Information Officer). I also held various levels of US Government Defense Dept Security Clearances. I have traveled to 65 countries and interfaced with the highest level of Government officials from many countries in North and South America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia Pacific region.

I have a BS in Engineering from Havana University, and an MBA from Rutgers University in NJ. I was born in Cuba and speak, read and write Spanish. I also served in the US Army and received an Honorable Discharge.

My wife Joan and I moved to Marco Island in December of 2004. We are permanent residents of Marco and what originally attracted us to the island was its beautiful beach, the warm weather, the people and the friendly atmosphere of our community.

Both my wife Joan and I are members of Marco Island Shell Club. I also have taken a serious interest in maintaining our beaches clean and safe and as a matter of fact, last year I contacted Nancy Richie to get her help in getting the full length of Marco island beach raked regularly. Ms Richie met me with County Collier officials prior to the recent beach re-nourishment project and we all agreed on the steps necessary to get the beach raked in its entirety. I also have recommended for additional Marine and Police patrol of the area to keep better control of people who violate fishing and boating ordinances. Also, as pointed out above I am a current member of Marco Island BAC.

My wife Joan and I regularly walk the beach from Cape Marco to Resident's Beach and on occasion also to Tiger Tail and when possible even visit Hideaway beach. We stop and talk to tourists, snowbirds and residents alike and tell them the importance of maintaining our beaches clean, as well as protecting and respecting our wonderful wildlife. We also help many of these people identify the various shells as well as how to tell when the shells are "alive" and why they should not take them. We frequently attend the sessions at the Marco Island Public Library for presentations on the various aspects of the Island as well as presentations by the National Park on the Everglades, conservation issues, etc. These sessions have helped us in developing further interest and dedication to maintaining our beach and wildlife.

As we walk the beach several times a week, we always carry with us extra plastic bags. While we use some of them to put the shells that we pick, we use others to pick up the garbage that is constantly left by people on the beach. The biggest concerns are empty and broken beer bottles, cut up aluminum cans, pieces of fish nets and plastic bags. All this garbage is not only unsightly, but they present a safety problem not only for beachgoers, but also for the wildlife. On a typical walk we usually gather several plastic bags of garbage which we empty on the various receptacles that we find along the beach.

In summary, I believe that my experience and dedication, as well as understanding the need to properly manage our beaches and coastal areas so that us as, well as future generations can continue enjoying our natural resources and its wildlife. I believe that I have a very good grasp of Marco Island's and Collier County needs to effectively maintain "our Paradise" balancing human needs with that of our wildlife and beautiful beaches and natural resources, so that we continue to be a desirable place to live as well as maintaining economic growth driven by those resources.