

# City of Marco Island

## *Press Release*

04-08-20 019

### Marco Island Public Pedestrian Beach Access to Remain Closed

On Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> the Marco Island City Council voted 4-3 for a limited reopening of one pedestrian access and one egress point to the Marco Island beach. The intention was to provide the opportunity for residents to be able to walk Marco Island's wide beaches, as a means to be outside, get exercise, and seek relief from the stresses of this time of worldwide emergency, something that many island residents asked for. What has become apparent subsequently and immediately is an extremely high level of concern among Marco Island's residents that any action with even the potential to increase visitor traffic is an action that puts them further at risk. It is clear that the social cost and community-wide anxiety triggered by the opening of even a single pedestrian beach access point is not worth the few walks on the beach it would provide for our residents.

I am therefore announcing that under the authority granted by the Marco Island City Council in declaring a State of Emergency on March 16, 2020, and under Section 10-6 of the City's Civil Emergency Code, in consultation with City Council Chairman Erik Brechnitz, that the public pedestrian beach access points at Maple and Collier Boulevard and Winterberry Drive and Collier Boulevard will not reopen on April 13, and will remain closed through at least April 30, 2020 pending further City Council action. My preference would be that the City Council have the opportunity to reconsider this action as a body, but for that to happen would require further delay, and I am confident that the Council will agree that immediate action in this case is what is best for the Marco Island community.

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Issued by City Manager, Mike McNees on 4-08-20 at 10:48am.