



The City of Treasure Island, Florida

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BEACH IMPACT

ALLEGATIONS DEBUNKED

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Mayor Minning to hold press conference January 21st

January 15, 2015 -- Treasure Island Mayor Bob Minning will host a press conference to set the record straight regarding allegations of "environmental destruction" made by three Treasure Island motel owners in a recent lawsuit.

"Their allegations of beach and habitat destruction and wildlife endangerment are just not supported by the facts" said Minning. "I'm going to take their points and address them one by one." The mayor said he'll provide ample information and documentation to "show once and for all, the city's past, present and future commitment to environmental preservation and stewardship."

The press conference is scheduled for 1pm on Wednesday, January 21st at Bazzie's, 10650 Gulf Boulevard, in the Bilmar Beach Resort.

The lawsuit, filed in 2014 on behalf of the Thunderbird, the Page Terrace and the Windjammer, alleged dune deterioration, enhanced erosion and vegetation destruction, among other things, were happening because of city events on the beach, such as Bands on the Sand and Sanding Ovations. "The motel owners have and continue to make these claims without ever having shown any fact based proof to back up them up." said Minning.

The issue of beach raking is an especially interesting one, said the mayor. "Of all the beach activities that occur, raking the sand is by far the most destructive and causes the most harmful impact to the propagation and growth of dunes and vegetation," he said. Yet when the city suspended beach raking in 2009 to promote vegetation and dune growth, as well as sand accretion, the very same motels strenuously objected and demanded reinstatement of beach raking.