

To: Community Association Managers of Marco Island

From: Andrew Tyler, Beach & Coastal Resources Advisory Committee antylrdb@yahoo.com

Re: Turtle Season Lighting issues

Date: 9-August-2020

Dear CAMMI members;

Hello, my name is Andrew Tyler. I live in a beach-facing condominium and I serve on the City Council's Beach & Coastal Resources Advisory Committee. My sponsor, Councilor Roman, suggested I reach out to you all.

As I'm sure you know, Marco Island's beaches play host each summer to nesting Sea Turtles. In the 2019 season our beach saw numerous nests hatch with associated 'disorientations'. This occurs when hatchlings fail to crawl to the waters of the Gulf, and instead head in other directions, sometimes with fatal consequences. Sadly, these events have continued into the 2020 season.

With the goal of reducing disoriented hatchings on Marco, I set out to educate myself about the causes and challenges from as many stakeholders as possible. Included in this list are: our own property Manager, the City's Community Service Department, and Managers and staff at other condominiums. Professionals at Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and the not-for-profit group, the Sea Turtle Conservancy (STC) <https://conserveturtles.org/> have been immensely helpful. The notion that artificial lighting plays a significant role in these events is accepted science, because disorientations just do not occur on undeveloped beaches.

I am writing today to solicit any thoughts and ideas you might have on reducing the lighting from our buildings that potentially impacts nestlings during season. Let me assure you, I am well aware of how hard many Managers work with this problem. I'm aware of signs placed in the common areas and by elevators, e-mails to the owners, and so on. I'm sure citations coming to your property despite your best efforts are immensely frustrating. So, if you have thoughts, ideas, suggestions and questions about this issue then please feel free to contact me at the e-mail above. I'm happy to share what we have learned this year, either personally, or I'm happy to organize an informal Zoom chat, if there is sufficient interest.

Finally, I'm know many of you are aware that the STC are running a program which provides a free survey of your property, where they will recommend lighting fixtures and fittings that are 'turtle friendly'. STC will then provide recommended products at NO CHARGE, as long as the property agrees to pay for their installation. If your property is NOT already registered for this program, then please consider doing so. Property surveys have been delayed this year for the obvious reasons, if you're curious to learn more about the benefits of their program then contact them directly.

Thank you all for your time and consideration. We're all aware that there are many attractions to Marco Island, and for me the sheer diversity of life here is important.

Sincerely yours,

Andrew Tyler,

Beach & Coastal Resources Advisory Committee, City of Marco Island