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Alexandra Argila

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alex@littledogagency.com

843.856.9201

Folly Beach, SC Makes History in Go-Green Movement

Folly City Council votes 'yes' to a mandate banning items that pose a threat to the environment

Folly Beach, SC – Folly Beach joins an elite list of beaches nationwide in moving forward to promote an environmentally savvy community. On Tuesday, October 19th, Folly made history when City Council passed the second in a set of new ordinances banning specific items that raise a potential risk to the environment and its inhabitants. Starting January 1, 2017, beachgoers will no longer be allowed to bring plastic bags or Styrofoam coolers, among other items, onto the beach. The ordinance also bans Folly Beach businesses from distributing these items to their customers.

"Folly Beach is a close community and our businesses are an integral part of that community. As a result, we decided to be proactive in the way our businesses and our visitors impact the Island", said Lewis Dodson, President of the Folly Association of Business. "We saw the damage that non-recyclable plastic bags and Styrofoam were inflicting on our most valuable assets, the beach and ocean, and we are committed to protecting these assets and being good stewards of our environment. We hope that this is the first step of many for a more sustainable way of life."

Passing the ordinances, originally proposed by Councilman DJ Rich, required a joint effort from The Folly Beach City Council, local businesses and several research entities. City council worked with the South Carolina Aquarium, Surfrider Foundation and the Coastal Conservation League (among others) to determine the impact of these items. These groups confirmed that plastic and Styrofoam were taking a profound toll on sea-life, as well as other wildlife that lives near the sea, and that it was in great interest of the community to make a positive change.

Tim Goodwin, Mayor of Folly Beach, is elated that his community is behind this initiative. "This is just one small step for the health of the environment. Our ocean and our ocean

life are important parts of what makes Folly so special, and we have to do our part to preserve our slice of paradise," says Mayor Goodwin.

This is a historic move for Folly and South Carolina. While similar ordinances have been implemented in several communities nationally, Folly is among the first to take these ordinances a step further in an effort to protect the waterways. Folly has also implemented several other "Green" initiatives including a community garden, water bottle refill stations and rain barrel programs.

For the next few months, Folly will work toward educating the public and local businesses about the new laws.

For more information about Folly Beach's new ordinance and the items that are banned, please go to VisitFolly.com, find them on Facebook at Visit Folly or download the free 'Visit Folly' smart phone app.

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