



Robert Kalamaras
Chief of Police



Fairfield Police Department

Continually Striving to Make Fairfield Safer
Honor - Professionalism - Excellence



100 Reef Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

February 9, 2022

Dear Beach Area Resident:

I want to thank Patti Zecchi, Carolyn Kamlet, and the entire Fairfield Beach Residents Association for allowing me the opportunity to speak on Wednesday, February 2nd, via ZOOM.

We have worked hard over the past several years to address overcrowding, traffic/parking violations, noise disturbances, underage alcohol consumption, and partying. I want to make sure that everyone understands that these quality of life issues are a priority for us, and we remain committed to working to resolve these issues, with the understanding that they may never go away completely.

I would like to credit the officers, who are responding to the calls for service and are required to make critical legal decisions pursuant to their legal authority. Sometimes, these decisions are made at a moment's notice and judged for years after by many. In a time when police officers in general have been demonized by some constituencies, we are grateful for the unwavering support of our community members.

Over the past several years, we have been able to collaborate with Fairfield University to relocate or stop the hosting of some of the large-scale student events, such as Clam Jam, Oktoberfest, and Sham Jam. This past year, we endured certain nuisance events like the Labor Day Weekend parties and Santa Con. These events remind us that there are times when we must work together to switch our focus from trying to prevent things that are beyond our control, and instead to manage things that are within our control.

We sympathize with the challenges of living amongst the student population; a population of short-time residents who may or may not share the same level of sentiment and regard for the neighborhood and its properties. While police presence and enforcement of violations are part of the equation, relationship-building between the student population and full-time residents is paramount.

Each year the Fairfield Police Department partners with Fairfield University, in collaboration with representatives of the Fairfield Beach Road Association, the Peninsula Association, and the Lantern Point Association, to improve communication, examine past issues, and anticipate potential future issues. As part of this partnership, Fairfield University facilitates opportunities

Fairfield Police Department

for the student population to engage with the full-time residents as neighbors; to develop familiarity, understanding, and ultimately respect for each other's rights as residents. I urge residents to take full advantage of these relationship-building opportunities. While there is still much room for improvement, this learning collaborative continues to evolve and has been a key component of our approach to problem-solving.

As many of you might have noticed in my letter to the FBRA in the beginning of the year, we are no longer using the verbiage of "Zero Tolerance", when referring to the enforcement of quality-of-life issues in the beach area. Each individual event will be investigated on its own circumstances and viewed through a lens of "probable cause." Should a nuisance or disturbance violation occur, to the degree that satisfies the legal elements for arrest, an arrest will be made without prior warning. In addition, police officers will also be enforcing alcohol violations and pedestrian violations, among others, without prior warning. The officers are well-aware of the expectations of the full-time residents and that will weigh heavily on the officer's use of discretion.

We will continue to play a key role in communicating to students both the clear expectations and the consequences of any crimes committed or violations that affect the quality of life of residents.

Noise complaints over the years have dropped significantly, and our goal for the rest of the school year is to seek further reductions. I hope that all of the residents in the beach area remain confident in the level of service that is provided by the Fairfield Police Department. I understand that there are different levels of tolerance within that community, as it relates to the student population, and we try to strike a balanced approach with that in mind.

I look forward to a healthy and quiet spring season.

Sincerely,



Robert Kalamaras
Chief of Police
Fairfield, Connecticut