

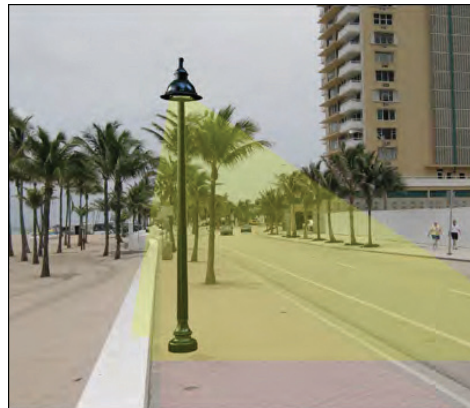
# ISSUE BRIEFING

**Issue:** Sea Turtle Nesting on Fort Lauderdale Beach

**Challenge:** Reduce lighting to protect sea turtles

**Response:** Working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), the City has made **significant progress toward decreasing the amount of light on the beach** to protect the sea turtles and minimize disorientations. Strategies and initiatives in place to support this effort include:

- **Over 100 city-owned turtle-compliant light poles** located along the east side of A1A are retrofitted with covers approved by the FWC.
- **Investing \$2 million to enhance the safety and protection of sea turtles** by further limiting the amount of artificial light on the beach.
  - City has designed a prototype turtle-compliant light fixture to **replace all acorn-style lights** along the east and west sides of A1A.
  - The FWC approved, turtle compliant light fixtures will **illuminate the sidewalk and roadway without shining any light on the sand** (see photo at right).
  - Construction is **scheduled to begin in Sept.** and be completed within six months.
  - The project is being **funded through an FDOT grant.**
  - The turtle compliant light fixtures designed by the City have also been **approved by the FWC for use in the cities of Riviera Beach and Delray Beach.**
- **Code officers are specifically assigned to the beach** to monitor light emanating from properties and ensure businesses are complying with lighting regulations.
- Through proactive enforcement, **Code has opened 172 cases on beach lighting violations.** Of these, 49 properties have complied; 76 are actively working with staff to reduce lighting; and 47 have received a Notice of Violation. Three cases went before the Special Magistrate; two of which have now complied. Fines will begin in September if the third property does not come into compliance.
- **Properties continue to work with the City to reduce lighting visible from the beach** by turning off lights completely, shielding bulbs, discontinuing the use of wall mounted light fixtures, deactivating security lights, retrofitting fixtures with turtle compliant bulbs, discontinuing the use of decorative lighting, and limiting outdoor lighting.
- **The City will produce a report at the end of the turtle season** to substantiate progress toward the overall reduction of lighting at the beach.
- We encourage our neighbors to **contact Code Enforcement at 954-828-4989 to report any beach lighting violations.**



- According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), in 2010 all three species of sea turtles that nest regularly on the state’s beaches had annual nest counts well above average for the previous 10 years. **Loggerheads, the species that most commonly nests in Florida, had nest counts that were 30 percent higher than the 10-year average.**
- According to the Sea Turtle Conservation Program 2010 Report, authored by the Nova Southeastern University Oceanographic Center, **a total of 2,565 nests were documented in Broward County in 2010, which was 641 more than 2009 and the highest number of nests recorded since 2000.**
- The Nova report states, “it could be concluded that the **2010 disorientation was less severe than in 2006 and 2007 and that the number and size of the events may have stabilized.**”
- According to the report, the maximum number of **disorientations in Fort Lauderdale in 2006 was 4,559 compared with 1,767 maximum disorientations in 2010.**
- The City recognizes and appreciates that **this is both a serious and complicated issue. We are working diligently to achieve a balance** between the safety and protection of the sea turtles and the safety and protection of our pedestrians, joggers, bicyclists, motorists, residents, visitors and businesses, all of whom need to coexist cooperatively on the beach each and every day of the year.
- We are confident that by working together we can **effectively address the concerns** that have been raised and **formulate a solution that is acceptable** to the diverse stakeholders involved in this issue.

For more information, scan the QR code at right or visit [www.fortlauderdale.gov/briefings](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/briefings)

