**Letter to the Editor**

Save Historic American Beach, Inc., is a nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of Florida representing residents, property owners and other stakeholders who are committed to protecting the area’s endangered wildlife and preserving the natural beauty and fragile ecology of Historic American Beach.

Our goals are to:

* Protect threatened sea turtles whose nesting habitat is being damaged.
* Preserve the dunes that protect our community and our wildlife.
* Make Historic American Beach safe to run, walk, fish, swim and recreate without fear of vehicle traffic.
* Restore the area’s natural beauty for all Nassau County residents and tourists to enjoy.

For more than 30 years, American Beach residents have appealed to Nassau County to end beach parking and driving on American Beach, just as it is prohibited on all residential beaches across the county including for our neighbors at Summer Beach Resort and Amelia Island Resort.

We see the significant damage beach driving causes to the beach and to the dunes. We have numerous photos of dead sea turtle hatchlings. Still, the County continues to ignore our pleas.

Contrary to recent local newspaper articles and social media vitriol, Save Historic American Beach **DOES NOT** want to “privatize” or limit access to the beach. We welcome everyone to visit American Beach and the American Beach Museum. We encourage visitors to learn about the area’s important history as a beach resort founded during segregation by the Afro-American Life Insurance Company under the leadership of A.L. Lewis in 1935 so African Americans could enjoy “recreation and relaxation without humiliation.”

Additionally, we want all citizens of and visitors to Nassau County to enjoy the beautiful beaches of Amelia Island including American Beach, and to do so safely without the threat of being run over by vehicles. It is important to note that more than 250 parking spaces at Burney Park and Evans Rendezvous provide easy walking access to American Beach.

American Beach has been intentionally withheld the opportunity to enjoy a pristine beach where the safety of residents, tourists and endangered wildlife is prioritized — protections that every other beach resident in Nassau County enjoy.

On February 6, our attorneys sent a Notice of Intent to Nassau County stating that Save Historic American Beach Inc. will file suit under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) citizen-suit provision if the County does not take actions needed to stop foreseeable violations of the ESA within 60 days. That window closes April 11, 2025. The County responded on March 14, that it would “vigorously defend” beach driving.

Save Historic American Beach would rather not sue the County in federal court. It is potentially a costly endeavor for everyone, including the taxpayers. However, we are ardent in our conviction that Nassau County cannot protect endangered sea turtles, the dunes that defend our properties and our wildlife, or the residents and tourists who want to safely enjoy American Beach unless beach driving ends.

Mark C. Dawkins, CPA

Chair, Save Historic American Beach, Inc.