



CITY OF ATLANTIC BEACH
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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March 15, 2021

Honorable Rory Diamond
Jacksonville City Council - District 13
City of Jacksonville
117 West Duval Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Re: Access to Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park

Dear City Council Member Diamond:

Thank you for engaging faithfully in dialogue with our City about issues of importance to Atlantic Beach and neighboring areas in Duval County.

This letter requests your continued consideration to promote access into Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park and the North Beach area from Mayport Road. Hanna Park includes many amenities and a beautiful section of the public beaches that we all enjoy in Duval County. This fabulous park sits in your District directly between Naval Station Mayport and Atlantic Beach.

Our public beaches are a treasure for all to enjoy, and they offer us coastal resiliency. To those two ends, we are very grateful for continuing County efforts to replenish the beach under the Duval County Shoreline Protection Project. With finite public parking available at our popular beach accesses in Atlantic Beach, continued development outside of our City, and the law enforcement/traffic challenges as a result of congestion in our beachside neighborhoods, we feel that promoting greater use of Hanna Park would better serve County residents, visitors, and our own residents.

As part of our dialogue, you will recall past conversations to discuss various options or ideas for free entry, or reduced fees, at the main gate of Hanna Park for qualified groups. This could include military families and/or those receiving assistance with valid identification. Such benevolent actions would reap positive benefits for many residents in our County during this challenging pandemic when they have struggled to meet their essential needs.

I am deeply appreciative that the proposed Mayport Road Park – with a bike park – is among the projects programmed in the Capital Improvement Plan. A bike park will address what has been identified as an unmet need in our area for the biking community. It is my continued request that you consider installing a bike/pedestrian-only gate there at the southwest corner of Hanna Park that would promote multimodal public access to the trail system, park amenities, and beach. I

would appreciate updates on this since Atlantic Beach has a context-sensitive Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) project on the List of Priority Projects with the North Florida Transportation and Planning Organization (NFTPO) that includes a multi-use path along Mayport Road as a proposed East Coast Greenway route through Atlantic Beach. It is my hope that our actions can together serve as a catalyst for greater, safer pedestrian and bike travel along a safer Mayport Road and into Hanna Park.

Again, thank you for your efforts. We in Atlantic Beach look forward to meeting with you to discuss the path forward.

Sincerely,



Ellen Glasser

cc:

Mayor Lenny Curry
Council President Tommy Hazouri
Council Member Matt Carlucci – At Large
Council Member Terrance Freeman – At Large
Council Member Sam Newby – At Large
Council Member Ronald B. Salem – At Large
Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services Daryl Joseph