

BAL HARBOUR

- V I L L A G E -

OFFICE OF THE VILLAGE MANAGER

LETTER TO COUNCIL

NO. 181-2018

To: Mayor Gabriel Groisman and Members of the Village Council
From: Jorge M. Gonzalez, Village Manager 
Date: November 19, 2018
Subject: **Supplemental Material - Agenda Item R9B**

The purpose of this Letter to Council (LTC) is to provide you with supplemental material for Agenda Item R9B - Discussion Regarding the Placement of the Mobile Mats on Bal Harbour Beach.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me.


JMG/AC

BAL HARBOUR

- V I L L A G E -

COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Village Council

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, Village Manager 

DATE: November 20, 2018

SUBJECT: **Discussion Regarding the ADA Access Surfacing "Mobi Mats" at Bal Harbour Beach**

BACKGROUND

As detailed within a recent Letter to Council No. 165-2018 dated October 19, 2018, Village staff installed two Americans with Disabilities (ADA) beach access mats ("Mobi-Mats"), at the 96 street public beach access and behind the Oceania condominium public beach access point. These two locations were initially chosen because they are public access points to the beach and they provide user access to the beach without impeding the daily beach cleaning/dressing operations. The Jetty location was not identified because access to the beach is currently provided.

The mats are installed to provide a portable outdoor access surfacing for people with disabilities, which bring tactical agility on unstable grounds for aging people with walkers or canes, wheelchair-bound people, parents with strollers for the visitors of Bal Harbour Beach. Generally other communities such as Miami Beach have installed these access mats at public beach access points throughout the City. The Mobi-Mats are sold in one hundred (100) foot sections at a cost of three thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$3,750) per section not including installation.

The following information provides you with general information regarding the current Bal Harbour Beach conditions:

- Total distance from 96 street to the Jetty - 4,482 linear feet;
- Distance from the existing 96 street public access Mobi Mat installation to the existing Oceania Condominium public access Mobi-Mat Installation - 2,821 feet;
- Distance of the Oceania Condominium Mobi-Mat location to the Jetty - 1,650 feet;
- There are 23 official beach dune crossing access points.
- Access mats must be removed and reinstalled during Storm events.

Since installation, these ADA mats have received favorable comments from the community and several residential condominiums have inquired if they could install these mats across the dune behind their buildings at their cost.

Also, staff has identified four additional locations for installations; behind (1) the Seaview Hotel, (2) the St. Regis Hotel/Condominium, (3) the Carlton Terrace and (4) the Bal Harbour 101 Condominiums. These new locations would provide ADA access mats at a balanced spacing ranging between seven hundred twenty five feet (725) to eight hundred twenty feet (820) apart along the entire Beach. The four additions would ensure individual Oceanside building proximity to the ADA access points within an average of less than four hundred feet (400) apart.

The installation of the new sets of ADA access mats would bring the overall number to six (6) and the total cost inclusive of the existing mats installations to twenty two thousand five hundred dollars (\$22,500) for the entire project. Should you agree to these locations, the new sections would be ordered and installed upon receipt by Village staff.

Since the additional locations would provide the ADA access mats along the Beach in a predetermined spacing, we would recommend that the Village adopt the policy stance that these installations should remain under the purview of the Village and that no individual properties install additional sets. This policy would eliminate potential liability concerns if these access mats were to be installed by others and ensures that all mats are removed during approaching storm events.

CONCLUSION

Since installation, these ADA mats have received favorable comments from the community. The inclusion of four new access mat sets would provide additional ADA access mats at a balanced spacing ranging between seven hundred twenty five feet (725) to eight hundred twenty feet (820) apart along the entire Beach. The four additions would ensure individual Oceanside building proximity to the ADA access points within an average of less than four hundred feet (400) apart. I therefore present the four additional locations for the installation of these ADA accessible surface mats over the dune crossings and the related issues for your general discussion and consensus.