

**Special Emergency City Commission Meeting
March 16, 2022**

Video of the meeting and agenda can be found [here](#): ,

Commissioners Mike Kolody, Jake Sachs, Randy Hartman, Vice Mayor Jason McGuirk, and Mayor Russ Owen were present. The purpose of the meeting was to address the many public concerns related to recent large, disruptive spring break gatherings in the city.

he link to the temporary

Emergency Ordinance No. 09-22 can be found here:

<https://www.cityofnsb.com/DocumentCenter/View/16094/Ord-09-22-Emergency-Ordinance-Juvenile-Curfew-Adopted>

Public Participation:

Eleven residents and business owners spoke. They thanked the Commissioners for calling the special meeting. Observations cited included:

- Hundreds of kids congregating/swarming blocking streets and sidewalks.
- Destructive behavior like throwing pool chairs and potted plants into a condominium pool.
- Teens disrespecting business owners and their properties.
- Girls dressed a bit too skimpily to be in a place of business where families are.
- Parents renting rooms and Airbnb homes and dropping their kids off without leaving a responsible adult. Parents going to bars and partying, leaving their kids to do what they wish.
- Underage drinking, driving vandalism, and theft.
- Most suggested curfews and a stronger police presence, with perhaps a police substation on Flagler.

Mayor Owen reassured everyone, that the Commissioners, City Attorney, City Manager, and law enforcement began working on this problem immediately. They want to not only solve the immediate problem temporarily, but also work toward a plan that would work long term.

NSB Police Chief Coffin stated that the department thought they were prepared for Spring Break even though they are still understaffed. They found that **every** Central Florida county as well as UCF was on Spring Break at the same time which hasn't happened before. He also feels that some parents **are** adding to the problem, by renting facilities, but not staying to supervise how many met and congregated.

Tuesday, March 13, Chief Coffin met with law enforcement partners (Edgewater, Port Orange, South Daytona, Volusia County, and Beach Safety). Staffing will be increased for St. Patrick's Day/Night. Both uniforms and plain clothes officers will write tickets and trespass warnings.

Mayor Owen added that the noted behaviors may stem from a societal problem, mainly with parenting, and while the city cannot fix that area, an ordinance was

indicated. He added that the Commission would meet with hotel managers to help ensure that adults are in the rooms as his goal is for “us to [become] an unhospitable community for certain behaviors” but be totally welcoming to families.

Commissioner Hartman asked about where the holding facilities were located. Chief Coffin responded that it’s the jail but there is a six-hour maximum set by the Dept. of Juvenile Justice; however, if the parents are out of town, it may take longer, so an officer is used to watch them, which means there is one less officer in the field. Vice Mayor McGuirk said if parents want their kids to become problems for us, I want to make it a problem for them, by waking them up and telling them to come get their child no matter what time. We can only do so much with a curfew. Mayor Owen replied that the ordinance isn’t perfect as it was crafted quickly. We may refine the language it for future use.

Commissioner Sachs asked if the police had been aware that this was an organized event, to which the Chief replied that it wasn’t organized per se (no permits were issued). Sachs then asked if a curfew would be an additional burden on law enforcement. The Chief replied he did not think it would. He thinks it will provide statistical data that can be used to predict behavior at future events.

Commissioner Kolody added that this was very disturbing, and even with an ordinance, these spontaneous events will happen again. We need to take a cohesive look at what happened and try to plan future events better.

Mayor Owen asked if a check-point strategy might work, and the Chief felt that it is both ineffective and inconvenient for those who are following the law. It also ties up law enforcement, limiting mobility.

City Attorney, Carrie Avallone, stated that usually ordinances have two readings before passage, but an emergency ordinance needs only a majority vote. The ordinance has a term of 60 days, which should cover the next waves of Spring Break. She stated that parents have a legal duty to supervise their children.

City Manager, Khalid Resheidat, stated that the police department is outnumbered, and supports a curfew as an immediate solution but that won’t solve the problem long term. Mr. Resheidat will be reaching out to Central Florida school boards to see if Spring Breaks can be staggered like they have been in the past.

A motion to pass Ordinance No. 09-22 with changes noted was passed by a 4 to 1 vote with Mayor Owen, Commissioners Kolody and Hartman, and Vice Mayor McGuirk voting YES, and Commissioner Sachs voting, NO.