



April 14, 2026

Subject: Public Safety Solutions & Concerns Regarding Proposed Oceanfront Curfew

Dear Honorable Mayor and members of City Council,

Public safety is a shared priority, and we appreciate the urgency behind calling a Special Session to address recent violence at the Oceanfront. The concern is real, and the need for action is immediate.

I am concerned that the proposed 9pm curfew for the next two weekends will have significant unintended consequences for our restaurant and hospitality community.

The Oceanfront is not only a public space—it is an economic engine. Restaurants depend heavily on evening and weekend business, particularly during peak seasons which just started and special event weekends. A 9:00 p.m. curfew for all discouraging visitors, reducing foot traffic, and creating confusion among guests who may choose to avoid the Oceanfront altogether. This directly impacts revenue, employee hours, and overall business sustainability.

Additionally, many restaurant employees work evening and late-night shifts. While exemptions exist for employment, enforcement realities may create challenges for workers traveling to and from their jobs, further complicating workforce reliability during already strained staffing conditions.

Most importantly, a curfew does not address the root issue—targeted criminal behavior by specific individuals and groups. Broad restrictions on all residents and visitors may inadvertently penalize those who are contributing positively to our city while failing to deter those intent on breaking the law.

Instead of broad limitations, I strongly urge the City to focus on targeted, enforceable, and sustainable public safety strategies, including:

Strengthened Law Enforcement & Coordination

- Fully support and deploy Virginia Beach Police to enforce existing laws consistently—if someone or something is telling them they can not enforce those laws and ordinances go to the source to have it changed.
- Increase visible presence through foot patrols, bikes, mounted units, and technology such as ShotSpotter.
- Expand partnerships with the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police, and federal agencies, including the FBI, to enhance intelligence-sharing and enforcement capabilities.
- Coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions, as many offenders are not Virginia Beach residents.

Operational & Strategic Enhancements

- Utilize the Real Time Crime Center to identify and respond to hotspots.
- Reinstate joint enforcement initiatives, DUI checkpoints, and efficient arrest processing teams.
- Ensure vendors, performers, and event organizers are properly permitted and held accountable.

Community & Leadership Engagement

- Encourage City leadership, council members, and community partners to actively engage at the Oceanfront—walking the Boardwalk and Atlantic Avenue to see conditions firsthand.
- Publicly support law enforcement and reinforce a unified message around safety and accountability.

Visitor Experience & Prevention

- Focus on attracting family-friendly visitors through intentional marketing and programming.
- Invest in lighting, signage, and structured entertainment that promotes a safe, welcoming environment.
- Plan proactive, well-managed events rather than reacting to large, unstructured gatherings.

Policy Considerations

- Consider a targeted curfew for minors if enforcement proves effective.
- Avoid broad restrictions that may harm compliant visitors and local businesses.
- Implement clear messaging regarding expectations, enforcement, and consequences.

Virginia Beach's reputation as a safe, welcoming, and vibrant destination has been built over decades. The recent incidents are deeply concerning, but the solution must be precise and effective—not overly broad in a way that undermines our economic vitality. We must protect our residents, employees, athletes, and visitors—without unintentionally discouraging the very activity that sustains our Oceanfront.

We respectfully urge careful consideration of the economic and operational impact of this proposed curfew and encourage a more targeted approach that strengthens safety while preserving access, vibrancy, and business viability.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to our community during this critical time.

Respectively,



Debbie Lou Tucker-Hague
VBRA President