



TOWN OF KILL DEVIL HILLS

Land Where Flight Began

MEMORANDUM

January 8, 2018

TO: KDH Board of Commissioners
FROM: Mayor Sheila F. Davies, Ph.D.
REF: Mayor's Agenda

2. Fully-accessible beach access in honor of KDH Commissioner Bill Pitt

Previously, the Board of Commissioners authorized the development of a plan for a fully-accessible beach access to accommodate those who are physically challenged. The Town does not currently have sufficient means for a wheelchair-bound person to enjoy the beach and ocean.

Staff worked with former Kill Devil Hills resident Randy Holcombe who is paraplegic to look at the Town's oceanfront accesses and judge their suitability. The conclusion for the most appropriate site was to make some modifications to the Ocean Bay Boulevard access to achieve the desired goal. It presently offers parking, restrooms, the Ocean Rescue Division's headquarters, and immediate emergency vehicle access. Some of the modifications, which Staff is continuing to work on cost estimates for are:

- Extension of the existing ramp
- Purchase of mobile mats that will extend closer to the water
- Potential purchase of equipment that offers actual access to the water.

Cost estimates will be completed as soon as possible and an update provided to the Board.

There has been interest from local service organizations that would like to contribute, including the North Banks Rotary Club, which has obtained grant funding from the local district for participation in this project in honor of former Kill Devil Hills Commissioner and Rotarian Bill Pitt. Bill loved the oceanfront, recognized its enormous importance to our local economy, and was a powerful advocate for beach nourishment.

I recommend the Board of Commissioners dedicate the fully-accessible improvement of the Ocean Bay Boulevard beach access in honor of Commissioner Bill Pitt, and a motion is requested.