



**For Immediate Release:  
City Administrator, Ken Grimes, Jr.**

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The City of Orange Beach in conjunction with the Orange Beach Citizens Association will host a Public Forum on Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at the Orange Beach Community Center following the Committee of the Whole meeting, which begins at 5:00 p.m. Moderating will be Ron David, President of the Orange Beach Citizens Association along with the City of Orange Beach Mayor Tony Kennon, Council Members, and City Staff.

The primary topic of the Public Forum will be the proposed Beach Renourishment Fee Assessment, which the City proposes for the specific purpose of maintaining the beachfront along the coastline properties of Orange Beach. The City sees the beach as an essential need, which will always require capital investment to maintain its viability and success. This proposed fee will help ensure protection of property, reduce storm damage through stronger storm damage protection, guard against rising sea levels and the frequency and intensity of future storms, and help create and maintain viable beach ecosystems and habitats.

Tropical storms and hurricanes have caused millions of dollars in damage to beachfront properties, and public infrastructure through land loss and damage to structures. By maintaining the beaches, the community is better protected from these losses, business interruption is minimized, and public safety is ensured. The establishment of a beach maintenance fund will provide the mechanism by which these goals can be accomplished.

The City intends to conduct a professional study of beach funding options in the coming months. This study should provide recommendations for funding mechanisms, total cost, and the extent of the fee district. This Public Forum on February 9th is to gain community input regarding the proposed beach fee program. Citizen's are encouraged to attend and hear the facts about this issue, which is critical to the economic vitality of the City of Orange Beach. Additional meetings will be held prior to any action on behalf of the City Council on this issue.

For Additional Information:

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