



From: Jan LeViner <jleviner@cityoftybee.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 6:47 PM
To: AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Cc: Shirley Sessions <ssessions@cityoftybee.org>; Edward Hughes <bhughes@epra-law.com>
Subject: [Ext]RE: Open Records Request (GA-TYBEE-20-0933)

Mr. Goode,

Per your ORR dated April 16, 2020, attached please find all correspondence from any official in the Office of the Governor regarding Executive Order No. 04.08.20.01. Also included is communication to the Governor and his staff from Mayor Sessions.

If you should have questions or need additional information, please let me know. There is no fee associated with this request.

Jan

Jan LeViner, CMC
City Clerk
City of Tybee Island
912.472.5080



Tybee Island Youth Council

MAYOR
Shirley Sessions

CITY COUNCIL
Barry Brown, Mayor pro tem
John Branigin
Jay Burke
Nancy DeVetter
Spec Hosti
Monty Parks



CITY MANAGER
Shawn Gillum

CITY CLERK
Janet LeViner

CITY ATTORNEY
Edward M. Hughes

CITY OF TYBEE ISLAND

March 18, 2020

The Honorable Brian Kemp, Governor of the State of Georgia

Dear Governor Kemp:

Hope this finds you well. I can only imagine how busy you are in lieu of the current situation our state and country is facing, as we struggle in unknown territory working together on how best to contain the COVID-19 Virus.

As Mayor of the City of Tybee Island, I am encouraging residents and businesses to adhere to the recommendations by health officials, our President and our Governor in demonstrating choices that will benefit everyone.

Like other communities in Georgia, our business sector's future depends on the support of the community. As a tourist destination, Tybee's economic livelihood is heavily reliant on tourism, and especially vulnerable during this crisis.

In an effort to help businesses on Tybee, I am respectfully asking you to consider deferring business sales taxes during the month of March and if possible April. This action would significantly aid in their survival during this challenging time.

I speak for our community in letting you know that we respect and appreciate your leadership. We will continue to follow your recommendations on addressing this issue.

All my best,

Shirley Sessions

Mayor Tybee Island

ssessions@cityoftybee.org

912.695.0724 (M)

P.O. Box 2749 – 403 Butler Avenue, Tybee Island, Georgia 31328-2749
(866) 786-4573 – FAX (866) 786-5737
www.cityoftybee.org

Jan LeViner

From: Shirley Sessions
Sent: Sunday, April 19, 2020 8:26 PM
To: Jan LeViner
Subject: Fw Letter to Governor Re: Business Sales Tax Deferment request
Attachments: Letter to Governor Kemp March 18 2020.docx

From: Shirley Sessions
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 2:15 PM
To: nick.buford@georgia.gov <nick.buford@georgia.gov>
Cc: ben.watson@house.ga.gov <ben.watson@house.ga.gov>; Petrea, Jesse <jesse.petrea@house.ga.gov>; buddy.carter@senate.ga.gov <buddy.carter@senate.ga.gov>; Shawn Gillen <sgillen@cityoftybee.org>
Subject: Business Sales Tax Deferment request

Hi Nick,

Thank you so much for taking time out of your busy schedule to speak with me today. I appreciate your offer to ensure that the Governor receives the attached letter.

Please let me know how I may assist you in the future.

Best regards,
Shirley

Shirley Sessions
Mayor Tybee Island, GA
ssessions@cityoftybee.org
912.695.0724 (M)

Jan LeViner

From: John Branigin
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 11:40 AM
To: Jan LeViner
Subject: Fwd: Tybee Island Beach Closure

Jan,

This is my only communication with anyone from the Governor's office...

John

From: John Branigin <jbranigin@cityoftybee.org>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020, 4:36 PM
To: Shirley Sessions; Broce, Candice
Cc: Ben Watson L; Petrea, Jesse; Carter, Buddy; Bubba Hughes; Shawn Gillen; Barry Brown; Monty Parks; Nancy DeVetter; Spec Hosti; Jay Burke; Buford, Nick
Subject: Re: Tybee Island Beach Closure

Please tell Governor Kemp he can come and lock me up!

John Branigin
City Council - Tybee Island

From: Broce, Candice <candice.broce@georgia.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 4:34:01 PM
To: Shirley Sessions <ssessions@cityoftybee.org>
Cc: Ben Watson L <BWatson@Southcoastmedical.com>; Petrea, Jesse <jesse.petrea@house.ga.gov>; Carter, Buddy <buddy.carter@senate.ga.gov>; Bubba Hughes <bhughes@cbrhlaw.com>; Shawn Gillen <sgillen@cityoftybee.org>; Barry Brown <bbrown@cityoftybee.org>; John Branigin <jbranigin@cityoftybee.org>; Monty Parks <mparks@cityoftybee.org>; Nancy DeVetter <nancy.devetter@cityoftybee.org>; Spec Hosti <spec.hosti@cityoftybee.org>; Jay Burke <jay.burke@cityoftybee.org>; Buford, Nick <nick.buford@georgia.gov>
Subject: RE: Tybee Island Beach Closure

Thank you for your letter. We understand your position and hope to continue working closely together on keeping Georgians safe as we fight COVID-19.

At this time, we are asking Tybee Island leaders to comply with the terms of the Executive Order. The beaches are now open. Please let us know if you have any additional questions.

Candice L. Broce
Director of Communications & Chief Deputy Executive Counsel
Office of Georgia Governor Brian P. Kemp
candice.broce@georgia.gov | (678) 346-8900
gov.georgia.gov

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From: Shirley Sessions <ssessions@cityoftybee.org>

Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 2:17 PM

To: Broce, Candice <candice.broce@georgia.gov>

Cc: Ben Watson L <BWatson@Southcoastmedical.com>; Petrea, Jesse <jesse.petrea@house.ga.gov>; Carter, Buddy <buddy.carter@senate.ga.gov>; Bubba Hughes <bhughes@cbrrhlaw.com>; Shawn Gillen <sgillen@cityoftybee.org>; Barry Brown <bbrown@cityoftybee.org>; John Branigin <jbranigin@cityoftybee.org>; Monty Parks <mparks@cityoftybee.org>; Nancy DeVetter <nancy.devetter@cityoftybee.org>; Spec Hosti <spec.hosti@cityoftybee.org>; Jay Burke <jay.burke@cityoftybee.org>; Buford, Nick <nick.buford@georgia.gov>

Subject: Tybee Island Beach Closure

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April 3, 2020

The Honorable Brian Kemp, Governor of the State of Georgia

Dear Governor Kemp:

Please know that I truly appreciate your efforts and the actions you have taken in placing a Shelter in Place order to help contain and stop the COVID-19 virus.

In that same vein, as Mayor of Tybee Island and on behalf of our City Council and the citizens of our community, and beyond, I respectfully ask that you please allow Tybee Island beaches to remain closed.

It will be a devastating blow to the safety of our residents and others to reopen the beach at this time. With Jekyll Island, South Carolina, North Carolina and Florida beaches closed, the influx of residents and visitors on our 2.5 mile beach will create a severe health crisis, and chaos in trying to maintain social distancing.

Residents and visitors have been diligently abiding to the restrictions thus far. Our police force does not have resources to enforce social distancing, in fact, six of our officers are currently quarantined.

No one wants to walk on the beach more than I, however I firmly believe it is a small sacrifice to pay in the long run to help conquer this COVID-19 enemy.

I pray you and your loved ones stay well and safe.

My best,

Shirley Sessions

Mayor, Tybee Island

912.695.0724

ssessions@cityoftybee.org

Jan LeViner

From: Shirley Sessions
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 11:48 PM
To: Jan LeViner
Subject: Fwd: Wooden Beach Crossovers are Closed on Tybee Island

Sent this April 6th press release to Candice in Governor Kemp's office and received her response that follows.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: Shirley Sessions <sessions@cityoftybee.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020, 12:05 AM
To: Michelle Owens
Subject: Fwd: Wooden Beach Crossovers are Closed on Tybee Island

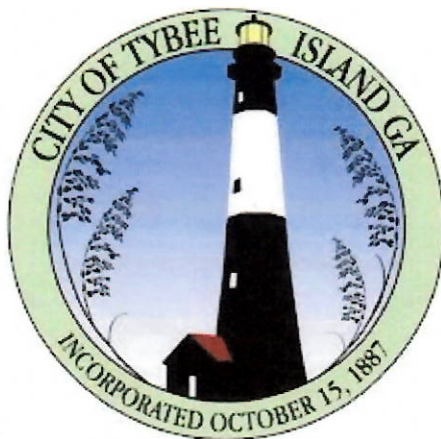
Michael,

FYI

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: City of Tybee Island
Subject: Wooden Beach Crossovers are Closed on Tybee Island

[View this email in your browser](#)



ANNOUNCEMENT

April 6, 2020

Wooden Beach Crossovers on Tybee are Closed to the Public

Tybee Island, GA - An executive order by Governor Kemp reopened Tybee Island beaches to the public last Friday, with the stipulation that tents, chairs and umbrellas are not allowed.

The beaches are open for exercise only, and beachgoers must practice social distancing by maintaining 6 feet of separation between one another.

Due to this social distancing rule, the City of Tybee will be closing the wooden beach crossovers. To access the beach, please use one of the five vehicle access points on the island. These access points are located at Polk Street, Gulick Street, 3rd Street, 19th Street and Inlet Avenue.

Be aware that summer season has not started on Tybee Island, therefore lifeguards are not monitoring the beaches at this time.

Also, please remember to stay off the dunes. It is unlawful for any person to pick, gather, remove, walk in the dunes, or otherwise disturb the vegetation present on sand dunes, including sea oats. Violators are subject to fines, imprisonment and/or community service.

Tybee Island would like to thank the Georgia State Patrol and Department of Natural Resources for their assistance enforcing the rules and maintaining order on the beaches.

[Click image to download PDF](#)


Call our main phone
line to obtain
permits or make
payments
(912) 786-4573

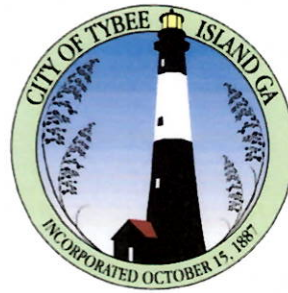

Email or call city staff
directly. Most are set
up to work remotely
City Directory
[www.cityoftybee.org/
directory](http://www.cityoftybee.org/directory)


Visit our website and
click on **Contact Us**
www.cityoftybee.org


Message us on
FaceBook
[www.facebook.com/
cityoftybeeisland](https://www.facebook.com/cityoftybeeisland)

How to Contact Tybee Island City Hall

Due to COVID-19 safety concerns, City Hall is closed to the public. However our staff is available to assist you virtually if you need to transact business.



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You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:

City of Tybee Island Main Street Program
403 Butler Ave
P.O. Box 2749
Tybee Island, GA 31328-9785

Add us to your address book

Jan LeViner

From: Edward M. Hughes <bhughes@epa-law.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 4:09 PM
To: Jan LeViner
Subject: FW: DNR/GSP

From: Shirley Sessions <ssessions@cityoftybee.org>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 11:33 PM
To: John Branigin <jbranigin@cityoftybee.org>; Barry Brown <bbrown@cityoftybee.org>; Jay Burke <jay.burke@cityoftybee.org>; Spec Hosti <spec.hosti@cityoftybee.org>; Monty Parks <mparks@cityoftybee.org>; Nancy DeVetter <nancy.devetter@cityoftybee.org>; Shawn Gillen <sgillen@cityoftybee.org>; Edward M. Hughes <bhughes@epa-law.com>; Jan LeViner <jleviner@cityoftybee.org>
Subject: DNR/GSP

Following text from Michael Owens, Kemp's staff.

"Governor Kemp has confirmed his support of the enforcement of his order. DNR and GSP will comply accordingly. I have already forwarded your concern regarding the sunbathers earlier to Major Hutchins. He will brief his trooper to heighten awareness. There was a slightly and temporarily reduced trooper count this morning as a result of the weather emergencies."

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Jan LeViner

From: Edward M. Hughes <bhughes@epa-law.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 4:07 PM
To: Jan LeViner
Subject: FW: Tybee Island Beach Closure

From: Broce, Candice <candice.broce@georgia.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 5:23 PM
To: Petrea, Jesse <jesse.petrea@house.ga.gov>; Shirley Sessions <ssessions@cityoftybee.org>
Cc: Ben Watson L <BWatson@southcoastmedical.com>; Carter, Buddy <buddy.carter@senate.ga.gov>; Bubba Hughes <bhughes@cbrhlaw.com>; Shawn Gillen <sgillen@cityoftybee.org>; Barry Brown <bbrown@cityoftybee.org>; John Branigin <jbranigin@cityoftybee.org>; Monty Parks <mparks@cityoftybee.org>; Nancy DeVetter <nancy.devetter@cityoftybee.org>; Spec Hosti <spec.hosti@cityoftybee.org>; Jay Burke <jay.burke@cityoftybee.org>; Buford, Nick <nick.buford@georgia.gov>
Subject: RE: Tybee Island Beach Closure

I certainly will. Thank you.

Candice L. Broce
Director of Communications & Chief Deputy Executive Counsel
Office of Georgia Governor Brian P. Kemp
candice.broce@georgia.gov | (678) 346-8900
gov.georgia.gov

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From: Petrea, Jesse <Jesse.Petrea@house.ga.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 5:20 PM
To: Shirley Sessions <ssessions@cityoftybee.org>
Cc: Broce, Candice <candice.broce@georgia.gov>; Ben Watson L <BWatson@southcoastmedical.com>; Carter, Buddy <buddy.carter@senate.ga.gov>; Bubba Hughes <bhughes@cbrhlaw.com>; Shawn Gillen <sgillen@cityoftybee.org>; Barry Brown <bbrown@cityoftybee.org>; John Branigin <jbranigin@cityoftybee.org>; Monty Parks <mparks@cityoftybee.org>; Nancy DeVetter <nancy.devetter@cityoftybee.org>; Spec Hosti <spec.hosti@cityoftybee.org>; Jay Burke <jay.burke@cityoftybee.org>; Buford, Nick <nick.buford@georgia.gov>
Subject: Re: Tybee Island Beach Closure

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Candice,

I have spoken regularly with Stuart Wilkinson today in this matter and the Mayor. I support our local city government in this request during this exceptional time. Please make the Governor aware of my support for the position of Tybee leadership.

Jesse Petrea

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 3, 2020, at 2:16 PM, Shirley Sessions <ssessions@cityoftybee.org> wrote:

April 3, 2020

The Honorable Brian Kemp, Governor of the State of Georgia

Dear Governor Kemp:

Please know that I truly appreciate your efforts and the actions you have taken in placing a Shelter in Place order to help contain and stop the COVID-19 virus.

In that same vein, as Mayor of Tybee Island and on behalf of our City Council and the citizens of our community, and beyond, I respectfully ask that you please allow Tybee Island beaches to remain closed.

It will be a devastating blow to the safety of our residents and others to reopen the beach at this time. With Jekyll Island, South Carolina, North Carolina and Florida beaches closed, the influx of residents and visitors on our 2.5 mile beach will create a severe health crisis, and chaos in trying to maintain social distancing.

Residents and visitors have been diligently abiding to the restrictions thus far. Our police force does not have resources to enforce social distancing, in fact, six of our officers are currently quarantined.

No one wants to walk on the beach more than I, however I firmly believe it is a small sacrifice to pay in the long run to help conquer this COVID-19 enemy.

I pray you and your loved ones stay well and safe.

My best,

Shirley Sessions
Mayor, Tybee Island
912.695.0724
ssessions@cityoftybee.org

<Request to Governor RE beach closure.docx>

Jan LeViner

From: Edward M. Hughes <bhughes@epa-law.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 4:07 PM
To: Jan LeViner
Subject: FW: Tybee Island Beach Closure

From: Broce, Candice <candice.broce@georgia.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 5:04 PM
To: Shirley Sessions <ssessions@cityoftybee.org>; John Branigin <jbranigin@cityoftybee.org>
Cc: Ben Watson L <BWatson@Southcoastmedical.com>; Petrea, Jesse <jesse.petrea@house.ga.gov>; Carter, Buddy <buddy.carter@senate.ga.gov>; Bubba Hughes <bhughes@cbrhlaw.com>; Shawn Gillen <sgillen@cityoftybee.org>; Barry Brown <bbrown@cityoftybee.org>; Monty Parks <mparks@cityoftybee.org>; Nancy DeVetter <nancy.devetter@cityoftybee.org>; Spec Hosti <spec.hosti@cityoftybee.org>; Jay Burke <jay.burke@cityoftybee.org>; Buford, Nick <nick.buford@georgia.gov>
Subject: RE: Tybee Island Beach Closure

The Georgia State Patrol and Department of Natural Resources are increasing patrols on the beaches, parking lots, and surrounding areas. The highways leading to these areas will have increased patrols. Beach paraphernalia will be prohibited. All of these resources will be in place at 6 PM tonight onward.

Candice L. Broce
Director of Communications & Chief Deputy Executive Counsel
Office of Georgia Governor Brian P. Kemp
candice.broce@georgia.gov | (678) 346-8900
gov.georgia.gov

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From: Shirley Sessions <ssessions@cityoftybee.org>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 5:01 PM
To: John Branigin <jbranigin@cityoftybee.org>; Broce, Candice <candice.broce@georgia.gov>
Cc: Ben Watson L <BWatson@Southcoastmedical.com>; Petrea, Jesse <jesse.petrea@house.ga.gov>; Carter, Buddy <buddy.carter@senate.ga.gov>; Bubba Hughes <bhughes@cbrhlaw.com>; Shawn Gillen <sgillen@cityoftybee.org>; Barry Brown <bbrown@cityoftybee.org>; Monty Parks <mparks@cityoftybee.org>; Nancy DeVetter <nancy.devetter@cityoftybee.org>; Spec Hosti <spec.hosti@cityoftybee.org>; Jay Burke <jay.burke@cityoftybee.org>; Buford, Nick <nick.buford@georgia.gov>
Subject: Re: Tybee Island Beach Closure

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Candice,

Thanks for responding and I appreciate your call and conversation.

As I stressed to you earlier, the beach entrances are closed, as are our public parking lots. Again, we do not have the needed resources to take down/remove signs and barricades at this late date. We do not have, and I strongly believe with additional police and patrols it will be impossible to enforce the 6 foot apart social distancing.

I respectfully beseech the Governor to reconsider his declaration for beach opening.

Truly,
Shirley Sessions

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: Broce, Candice <candice.broce@georgia.gov>

Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020, 4:50 PM

To: John Branigin; Shirley Sessions

Cc: Ben Watson L; Petrea, Jesse; Carter, Buddy; Bubba Hughes; Shawn Gillen; Barry Brown; Monty Parks; Nancy DeVetter; Spec Hosti; Jay Burke; Buford, Nick

Subject: RE: Tybee Island Beach Closure

To clarify for all, the beaches will be open once the order goes into effect at 6 PM today. We are currently working with Mayor Sessions, Georgia State Patrol, and the Department of Natural Resources to ensure adequate resources for enforcement.

Please let us know if we can be of assistance.

Candice L. Broce
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Subject: Re: Tybee Island Beach Closure

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Please tell Governor Kemp he can come and lock me up!

John Branigin
City Council - Tybee Island

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Subject: RE: Tybee Island Beach Closure

Thank you for your letter. We understand your position and hope to continue working closely together on keeping Georgians safe as we fight COVID-19.

At this time, we are asking Tybee Island leaders to comply with the terms of the Executive Order. The beaches are now open. Please let us know if you have any additional questions.

Candice L. Broce

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April 3, 2020

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I pray you and your loved ones stay well and safe.

My best,

Shirley Sessions

Mayor, Tybee Island

912.695.0724

ssessions@cityoftybee.org

Jan LeViner

From: Edward M. Hughes <bhughes@epa-law.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 4:08 PM
To: Jan LeViner
Subject: FW: Tybee Island Beach Closure

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Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 4:34 PM
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Dear Governor Kemp:

Please know that I truly appreciate your efforts and the actions you have taken in placing a Shelter in Place order to help contain and stop the COVID-19 virus.

In that same vein, as Mayor of Tybee Island and on behalf of our City Council and the citizens of our community, and beyond, I respectfully ask that you please allow Tybee Island beaches to remain closed.

It will be a devastating blow to the safety of our residents and others to reopen the beach at this time. With Jekyll Island, South Carolina, North Carolina and Florida beaches closed, the influx of residents and visitors on our 2.5 mile beach will create a severe health crisis, and chaos in trying to maintain social distancing.

Residents and visitors have been diligently abiding to the restrictions thus far. Our police force does not have resources to enforce social distancing, in fact, six of our officers are currently quarantined.

No one wants to walk on the beach more than I, however I firmly believe it is a small sacrifice to pay in the long run to help conquer this COVID-19 enemy.

I pray you and your loved ones stay well and safe.

My best,

Shirley Sessions

Mayor, Tybee Island

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