



Village of Biscayne Park Commission Agenda Report

Village Commission Meeting Date: October 6, 2016

**Subject: Discussion on prohibition of balloon
usage and balloon releases**

Prepared By: Commissioner Barbara Watts

Sponsored By: Commission

Background

The release of helium balloons and so called "Chinese lanterns" have been shown to endanger marine life, particularly sea turtles, as they resemble them when they deflate and are grounded. So too, as evidence from California attests, these air-borne confections endanger power lines and cause electrical outages.

A number of South Florida municipalities have passed resolutions or ordinances banning helium balloons and the like from public and even private spaces and Miami-Dade County is considering participation but have not yet made a final commitment. Such legislation largely has been due to awareness campaigns launched by environmental groups in Florida, California, and abroad (see backup websites). I suggest that the Commission discuss the matter and consider passing a resolution banning the release of helium balloons (there are alternatives), limiting (or providing guidelines for) their outdoor display, and/or publicize the dangers that accompany their release so that residents refrain from releasing them and/or and take special care to secure them when displaying them outdoors (please excuse run-on sentence).

Fiscal / Budget Impact

Staff time.

October 6, 2016

Commission Agenda Report

Recommendation:

Pass a resolution limiting or banning the outdoor display of helium balloons and the like, and include information regarding their potential environmental hazards in a flyer, on the Rec. Center's Facebook page and rules for Rec. Center rental, and in the Newsletter.

Attachments

- General Balloon Ban information
- Balloon Ban Participation Options
- Dania Beach Ordinance
- Lantana Ordinance

Links:

<https://www.marinelife.org/four-south-florida-counties-now-implementing-balloon-ban/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ban.balloon.releases/>

http://www.mcsuk.org/what_we_do/Clean+seas+and+beaches/Campaigns+and+policy/Action+on+sky+lanterns+&+balloons

<http://www.mypalmbeachpost.com/news/news/local/why-lake-worth-is-going-to-regulate-outdoor-balloon/nsHFx/>

<http://balloonsblow.org/ban-helium-filled-foil-balloons-california/> This California website has links that contain valuable information regarding the risks to sea life and to electrical lines posed by helium balloons, See "B2709 Factsheet" and "History of , , ,"



LOGGERHEAD
MARINELIFE CENTER

Balloon Ban

Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center
14200 US Highway One, Juno Beach, FL 33408
561-627-8280 | marinelife.org



<u>Table of Contents</u>	
Sample Ordinance.....	3
Flyer.....	5
Signage Options.....	6
Sample Webpage.....	8

Florida’s East Coast is home to some of the most densely utilized sea turtle nesting beaches in the country. At Loggerhead Marinelife Center (LMC), a non-profit organization located in Juno Beach, Florida, hospital staff regularly treat turtles with complications due to marine debris ingestion.

Balloons are often released, purposefully or by accident, and end up littering the ocean. The deflated balloons resemble jellies, a common prey item for sea turtle species. In an effort to promote the safety and protection of marine life, LMC staff wish to form a partnership to prohibit the use of balloons in designated locations along the coast.

LMC Contacts

Tommy Cutt, Chief Conservation Officer – tcutt@marinelife.org
Demi Fox, Outreach Coordinator – dfox@marinelife.org

Sample Ordinance

Below is a sample ordinance that may be added to the City, Town, Village, or County Code.

ORDINANCE NO. XXXX

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE (TOWN NAME), FLORIDA, ENTITLED "BALLOON BAN," PROVIDING FOR THE PROHIBITION OF BALLOON USAGE AND BALLOON RELEASES IN (LOCATION(S)); AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS balloons are often released, contributing to marine debris. The deflated balloons resemble jellies, a common prey item for sea turtle species as seen in Exhibit "A"; and

WHEREAS Florida's East Coast is home to some of the most densely utilized sea turtle nesting beaches in the country.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE (TOWN NAME), FLORIDA:

Section 1. In an effort to promote the safety and protection of sea turtles, no person shall display, release, or distribute balloons of any kind in (location(s)).

Section 2. The (Property Name – civic centers, park pavilions, etc.) lease shall include a notice of the prohibition of balloon usage as well as a link to educational information regarding the effect of balloons on sea turtles and marine life.

Section 3. The party responsible for (Property Name) reservations is hereby directed to supply prospective renters with educational information explaining the prohibition of balloon usage and the Town's reason for the restriction.

Section 4. Effective date. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Exhibit "A"

The below pictured green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), being treated at Loggerhead Marinelife Center, ingested a plastic balloon.



Town
Logo

Balloon Ban



Deflated balloons resemble jelly fish, a common prey item for sea turtles. In an effort to promote the safety and protection of sea turtles, (Town Name) has prohibited the use of balloons in (location(s)).



Former LMC patient, Lil' Nugget, swallowed a balloon.



Hundreds of balloons are collected on Florida beaches.

You can also help protect sea turtles in the following ways:

- Remove any lounge chairs, umbrellas, and other beach furniture from the beach overnight.
- Knock down sand castles and fill in holes in the sand when leaving the beach.
- Turn off outdoor lights at night and close curtains after sunset to keep light pollution off the beach.
- Dispose of all trash and clean up any debris found on the beach.
- If you see a nesting turtle, try not to disrupt her. Do not use any bright lights or flash photography and avoid creating loud noises.
- If you see healthy hatchlings, allow them to crawl to the ocean on their own.

Signage Option 1

Below is an example of signage that may be displayed in appropriate locations. All colors, text, and logos are fully customizable and may be edited to best suit the needs of each location.

Town
Logo

Notice: Balloons Prohibited

Deflated balloons resemble jelly fish, a common prey item for sea turtles. In an effort to promote the safety and protection of sea turtles, (Town Name) has prohibited the use of balloons in (location(s)).

For more information,
visit marinelife.org

 **PROJECT SHIELD**
LOGGERHEAD MARINELIFE CENTER

Signage Option 2

Below is a mock-up of the signage that was recently installed in Loggerhead Park in collaboration with Palm Beach County. Similar signage could be produced for any town location. All colors, text, and logos are fully customizable and may be edited to best suit the needs of each location.

24 in

3.2 in

.95 in

.5 in

30 in

.431 in

NOTICE



BALLOONS ARE PROHIBITED

Deflated balloons resemble jelly fish, a common prey item for sea turtles.
At Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center hospital staff are regularly treating turtles that have eaten balloons.



In an effort to promote the safety and protection of sea turtles,
Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center and **Your Name Here** have partnered to
prohibit the use of balloons at **Your Location**.

**YOUR LOGO
HERE**

To learn more visit
<http://www.marinelife.org/>



Sample Webpage

Below is the notice that is currently displayed on the Loggerhead Park webpage.

www.pbcgov.com/parks/locations/loggerhead.htm#VyuZiQrKUI

Palm Beach County: Home | Jobs | Links | Publications | FAQs | Site Index | Site Info | Contact PBC

Select Language

Parks & Recreation
We create opportunities for healthy, happy living!

Advanced Search
Search Site...
Search Tips

Parks & Recreation Home | Find Parks/Amenities | Calendar of Events | Things to Do | General Information | Contact Us

You are here: Palm Beach County » Parks » Locations » Loggerhead Park

North Parks

- o Bert Winters
- o Burt Reynolds
- o Cabana Colony
- o Carlin
- o Coral Cove
- o County Pines Rec Complex at Samuel Friedland
- o DuBois
- o Dyer
- o Fullerton Island
- o Gramercy
- o Jim Barry Light Harbor
- o Juno
- o Juno Beach
- o Jupiter Beach
- o Jupiter Farms
- o Kennedy Estates
- o Limestone Creek
- o Loggerhead
- o Loxahatchee River Battlefield
- o North County Aquatic Complex
- o Ocean Cay
- o Ocean Reef
- o Peanut Island
- o Phil Foster
- o Riverbend
- o West Jupiter Recreation Center

315

Loggerhead Park

NOTICE: The use of balloons is now prohibited at Loggerhead Park. Loggerhead Marinelife Center and Palm Beach County have committed to the prohibition of balloons at the park in an effort to promote the safety and protection of sea turtles. Visit Loggerhead Marinelife Center online to learn more about the dangers balloons pose to marine wildlife.

ENTRANCE: 14200 U.S. Highway 1, Juno Beach, Florida 33408
[Google Maps](#)

HOURS: Sunrise - Sunset

CLASS: Beach

ACREAGE: 17.26 acres

AMENITIES

- o activity building
- o beach frontage, guarded (900 feet)
- o beach surf wheelchair is available; contact a lifeguard to arrange for use.
- o saltwater fishing and surfing not permitted in guarded swimming area
- o fishing (saltwater)
- o nature trail
- o parking
- o picnic areas with grills, single table
- o picnic pavilion, reserved group (1)
- o picnic shelters, family (7)
- o playground, including
 - o playground safety
 - o play structure (ages 2-12 years)
 - o play structure (ages 5-12 years)
- o restroom facilities
- o showers, outdoor

LOCATION OF

- o Celestial Railroad historical marker




Loggerhead Park
Location Map

View Loggerhead Park in a larger map

Contact Information

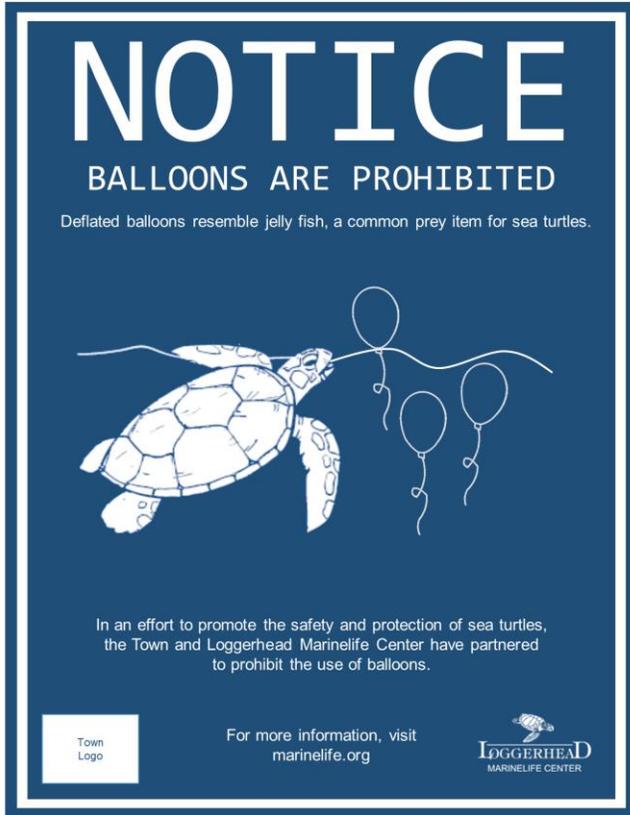
- o **Daily Beach Conditions**
 - o North County: (561) 624-0065
 - o South County: (561) 629-8775
- o **Ocean Rescue Headquarters**
 - o **North District:** (561) 694-7480
Juno Beach Park, 14775 U.S. Highway 1, Juno Beach, Florida 33408
 - o **South District:** (561) 629-8770
Ocean Inlet Park, 6990 N. Ocean Boulevard, Ocean Ridge, Florida 33435
- o **Webcams**
- o **Contact Us:** If you have questions, comments, or would like to be notified by email about upcoming activities at an aquatic facility

Beach Cleanups

Interested in Beach Clean Ups?

10:11 AM
3/3/2016

Signage



Educational Materials



Balloon Ban



Deflated balloons resemble jelly fish, a common prey item for sea turtles. In an effort to promote the safety and protection of sea turtles, (Town Name) has prohibited the use of balloons in (location(s)).




Former LMC patient, Lf Nugget, swallowed a balloon. Hundreds of balloons are collected on Florida beaches.

You can also help protect sea turtles in the following ways:

- Remove any lounge chairs, umbrellas, and other beach furniture from the beach overnight.
- Knock down sand castles and fill in holes in the sand when leaving the beach.
- Turn off outdoor lights at night and close curtains after sunset to keep light pollution off the beach.
- Dispose of all trash and clean up any debris found on the beach.
- If you see a nesting turtle, try not to disrupt her. Do not use any bright lights or flash photography and avoid creating loud noises.
- If you see healthy hatchlings, allow them to crawl to the ocean on their own.



Towns may choose to participate in the Balloon Ban in any capacity listed below. Additional participation may include [town webpage notices](#) and [press releases](#).

Level 1

- Signage installed or educational materials distributed

Level 2

- Signage installed
- Educational materials distributed

Level 3

- Signage installed
- Educational materials distributed
- Town ordinance adopted

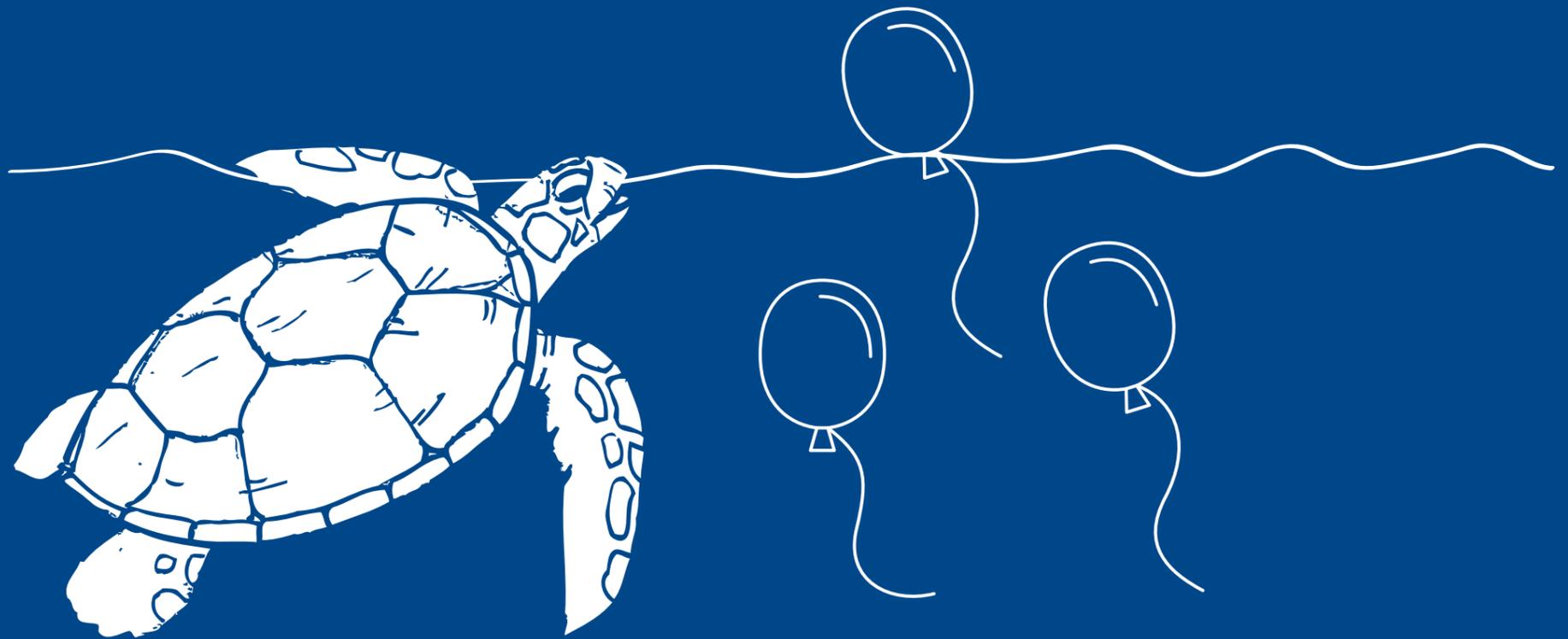
Benefits Available to Partners

- Sea turtle seminars led by Loggerhead Marineline Center staff, on site or at the center
- Private guided tours of Loggerhead Marineline Center
- Featured on Loggerhead Marineline Center Conservation webpage
- Partnership announced on Loggerhead Marineline Center social media accounts

NOTICE

BALLOONS ARE PROHIBITED

Deflated balloons resemble jelly fish, a common prey item for sea turtles.



In an effort to promote the safety and protection of sea turtles, the City of Dania Beach and Loggerhead Marineline Center have partnered to prohibit the use of balloons.



For more information, visit
marinelife.org



ORDINANCE NO. O-10-2016

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LANTANA, FLORIDA. AMENDING CHAPTER 13. OFFENSES. AT ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL. BY ADOPTING SECTION 13-7. ENTITLED BALLOONS AND SKY LANTERNS RELEASE. IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THE REGULATION OF BALLOONS AND SKY LANTERNS WITHIN THE TOWN AND PROVIDE DEFINITIONS REGARDING THE SAME; PROVIDING THAT EACH AND EVERY SECTION AND SUBSECTION OF CHAPTER 13. OFFENSES. SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT AS PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED; PROVIDING A CONFLICTS CLAUSE, A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE AND AUTHORITY TO CODIFY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Lantana, Florida, has determined that balloons and sky lanterns released into the atmosphere return to the earth as litter; and,

WHEREAS, the Town Council believes that the release (accidental or intentional) of balloons and sky lanterns into the atmosphere pose a danger and nuisance to the environment and wildlife who may ingest this debris; and,

WHEREAS, Florida's East Coast is home to some of the most densely utilized sea turtle nesting beaches in the country; and

WHEREAS, marine animals, such as sea turtles, mistake the remains from balloons as food which may potentially damage their digestive systems, lead to starvation and/or death; and,

WHEREAS, even biodegradable balloons do not degrade quickly enough to avoid ingestion of the same by marine wildlife; and,

WHEREAS, to limit the number of released balloons and sky lanterns within the Town, the Town Council wishes to prohibit the same on Town-owned property; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Lantana finds that these revisions to the Town's code will preserve, promote and protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LANTANA, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1: Chapter 13. Offenses. of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Lantana is hereby amended at Article I. In General. by adopting Section 13-7. Balloons and Sky Lanterns release. which shall hereafter read as follows:

Sec. 13-7. – Balloons and Sky Lanterns Release.

In addition to the regulations contained in this article, the following regulations shall apply to all parks and recreation facilities, public property, and private property.

Balloons and sky lanterns.

- (1) Within any park, recreational facility area, municipal beach, municipal beach area, or other public property and private property, as these terms are defined in this chapter:
 - a. No person shall display, possess or release one or more balloons inflated with a gas that is lighter than air; and
 - b. No person shall display, possess or release one or more sky lanterns.
- (2) This subsection does not prohibit the following:
 - a. Possession of balloons or sky lanterns where such items are moved from a vehicle or structure to another structure and where the resulting exposure of such items to the outdoors is de minimis;
 - b. Display, possession or release of balloons indoors;
 - c. Display or possession of sky lanterns indoors; or
 - d. Display, possession or release of balloons by a governmental agency for scientific or meteorological purposes.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Park, park grounds or recreation facility or recreational facility area shall mean a park, playground, gymnasium, athletic field or court, recreation center or any other area in the city owned by the city and devoted to active or passive recreation.

Public property and public property grounds shall mean all property owned by the city that has a zoning designation of "Public".

Private Property and private property grounds shall mean all property owned by an individual or group of individuals.

Sky lantern shall mean a device that requires a flame which produces heated air trapped in a balloon-type covering allowing the device to float in the air. Sky lanterns shall not include hot-air balloons used for transporting persons.

Section 2: Each and every other Section and Subsection of Chapter 13. Offenses. shall remain in full force and effect as previously enacted.

Section 3: All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict be and the same hereby repealed.

Section 4: Should any section or provision of this Ordinance or any portion thereof, any paragraph, sentence, or word be declared by a Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this Ordinance.

Section 5: Specific authority is hereby given to codify this Ordinance.

Section 6: This Ordinance shall take effective immediately upon reading passage.

[The remainder of this page left intentionally blank.]

FIRST READING this 8th day of August, 2016.

SECOND AND FINAL READING this 22nd day of August, 2016.

TOWN OF LANTANA

✓
Aye Nay

David J. Stewart
Mayor David J. Stewart

✓
Aye Nay

Philip J. Aridas
Vice Mayor Philip J. Aridas

✓
Aye Nay

Malcolm Balfour
Councilmember Malcolm Balfour

✓
Aye Nay

Tom Deringer
Councilmember Tom Deringer

✓
Aye Nay

Lynn J. Moorhouse
Councilmember Lynn J. Moorhouse

ATTEST:
Heidi A. Ditz
TOWN CLERK



(Seal)

Approved as to form and
legal sufficiency.

[Signature]
TOWN ATTORNEY