

the rehoboth beach reporter

Newsletter published by THE REHOBOTH BEACH HOME OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

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....For the benefit of Rehoboth Beach taxpayers, and interested friends in surrounding communities, we relate herein additional information which we feel is pertinent to the pending legislation governing a BEACH USER'S FEE in the City Of Rehoboth Beach.

1. The City Of Rehoboth Beach is a small incorporated community, whose residents and property owners pay -- not only a County Tax -- but also substantial Rehoboth Beach City Taxes, plus Sewer and Water charges. This is unlike any of the nearby communities (that are not incorporated) where the residents pay the County Tax, only.
2. One thing which the dwellers of the entire area have in common is their affection for the Atlantic Ocean beaches in this region; and, in particular, the beach which is protected and maintained during the Season in the City Of Rehoboth Beach.
3. Accordingly, the pending BEACH USER'S FEE ordinance, if enacted, would require each and every user of our beach (except children under 12) to pay a very nominal Beach Fee during the Season. This Fee would apply equally to resident as well as non-resident. Of course, anyone that doesn't use the beach (in Rehoboth Beach) during the Season, would not pay this Beach User's Fee. We feel this proposal is most equitable in spreading the cost among all of us who use the beach...rather than just the Rehoboth Beach taxpayer.
4. In the early Fall of 1975 a contingent of local people took the initiative to visit several New Jersey beach municipalities and discuss the existing Beach Fee in those communities...with the merchants and the municipal authorities. It is our understanding that this delegation (composed of both business and non-business representatives) were pleasantly surprised at the favorable attitude (toward the Beach User Fee) which they encountered in these towns across the Delaware Bay.
5. At this writing, we are informed there are now a total of eighteen (18) New Jersey beach municipalities that have enacted a Beach User Fee ordinance; from Long Branch and Asbury Park (in North Jersey) down to Sea Isle City, Avalon, and Stone Harbor (in South Jersey). We suggest the time is opportune NOW to give it a fair trial here in Rehoboth Beach.
6. We would be remiss if we didn't comment and reply to some of the local critics of this proposed Rehoboth Beach legislation:

We noted adverse criticism from Realtor Daniel Anderson (in his letter...reportedly sent to the Mayor and City Council of Rehoboth Beach and shown in the 1/14/76 issue of THE WHALE). We quote from Mr. Anderson's letter..."The financial results are at best questionable. I recall that when the City imposed a 1% Real Estate Transfer Tax it projected an annual return of \$50,000. a year. I suspect this estimate was greatly miscalculated. The net results of a Beach User Fee could be similar."

Our rebuttal to Mr. Anderson: During former Mayor Reed A. Booth's

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Administration, the hopeful projection was a return of \$50,000. per fiscal year. We are pleased to report that in the fiscal year ending 6/30/75 the return from this "greatly miscalculated" tax was \$51,589. For the first half of the current fiscal year the return netted the City \$37,355. Our compliments to former Mayor Booth, and his Administration, for their accurate projection in this instance!

In both the COAST PRESS and THE WHALE (last week's issue) we read with interest a letter from KAY MAGEE, 15 Tidewaters, Rehoboth Beach.

Our rebuttal to Ms. Magee: Thru accident or design your letter indicated you were, and are, a resident or property owner of the City Of Rehoboth Beach. For the record, we wish to point out that your street address tells us you live in the incorporated village of Henlopen Acres (not Rehoboth Beach)...and, according to our research, you are not listed as a current Rehoboth Beach taxpayer. If our information is inaccurate, you have our apologies, Ms. Magee.

We respectfully suggest to both Realtor Daniel Anderson and Ms. Magee that in the instance of the Rehoboth Beach Real Estate Transfer Tax this legislation was voted on, at the polls, on 10/27/73 and the vote was 433 For The Tax and 390 Against. In the Fall of 1975...thru the medium of a mail (post card) vote, the property owners of the City Of Rehoboth Beach voted on the advisability of instituting a Beach User's Fee and the vote was 956 FOR THE FEE and 723 AGAINST. In neither case could we say it was a "mandate",but it was the MAJORITY, and that is still, generally, the democratic and popular way of doing things in this country!

THANKS TO ALL RBHOA MEMBERS, AND FRIENDS, FOR YOUR KIND INTEREST IN THIS COMMUNITY ISSUE.

PLEASE NOTE: The next Rehoboth Beach City Commissioners meeting will be on Friday evening at 8 P. M., February 13, 1976, in the Municipal Building. We ask that all Rehoboth Beach taxpayers mark their calendar now, and plan to attend this meeting, and thereby show our Commissioners your support for the BEACH USER'S FEE pending legislation. **PLEASE ATTEND!**