

ORDINANCE NO. 48-2020

AN ORDINANCE TO TEMPORARILY RESTRICT ATTENDANCE AT NICKERSON BEACH TO NASSAU COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY AND SUNSETTING SUCH RESTRICTION UPON THE REOPENING OF NEW YORK CITY OWNED AND OPERATED BEACHES

WHEREAS, Nassau County announced that as permitted by New York State and subject to strict social distancing and density guidelines, Nickerson Beach will be open Friday, May 22nd and throughout the Memorial Day weekend and thereafter; and

WHEREAS, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio has announced that ocean access at New York City beaches will be prohibited to its eight million residents during this time period; and

WHEREAS, Nassau County borders New York City to its east, and as a result of the City beach restrictions, a potential influx of additional beachgoers from New York City threatens to overwhelm the safe operational capacity at Nickerson Beach and crowd out access to Nassau County residents; and

WHEREAS, this potential influx of additional beachgoers may negatively impact the Nassau County residents, as vehicular and pedestrian traffic will overload roadways, preventing residents and first responders from navigating the County freely and prevent Nassau residents from accessing Nickerson Beach; and

WHEREAS, as a result of New York City's beach restrictions and its resulting negative impact on Nassau County, it is necessary for the Nassau County Legislature to allow only Nassau County residents to visit Nickerson Beach; and

WHEREAS, this action is necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of Nassau County residents; NOW THEREFORE

BE IT ORDAINED by the County Legislature of the County of Nassau as follows:

Section 1. Notwithstanding any other law or rule, in order to protect Nassau County residents, access to Nickerson Beach shall be restricted to Nassau County residents only. This Ordinance shall cease to have any effect upon the restoration of resident and nonresident access to New York City beaches consistent with the minimum standards set by New York State.

§2. It is hereby determined by the Nassau County Legislature, the lead agency, and pursuant to the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”), 8 NYECL section 0101 et seq. and its implementing regulations, Part 617 of 6 NYCRR, and Section 1611 of the County Government Law of Nassau County, that this Ordinance will not have a significant impact on the environment and that no further environmental review or action is required.

§3. This ordinance shall take effect immediately.