

# Public Comment For City Meetings

**Name**

Mr BJ Bowen

**Address**

3609 Waterway Blvd, IOP, South Carolina 29451

**Comments for Council Meeting**

I wrote to Council and spoke with several members previously regarding my 4 year old daughter being attacked twice by dogs in a two month period this Spring. I also noted the case of Rebecca Kovalich, who was viciously attacked by two dogs during the same timeframe, and her story documented in the Island Eye News. Just today I saw a dog at 11:01 AM dragging a leash wandering the beach, its owner 50 feet away. Just today, there is a new social media post regarding an incident on IOP last Thursday of a pitbull attacking a dog and its resident owner, both of which were bloodied. Post here:

[https://www.reddit.com/r/Charleston/comments/hmb628/mt\\_pleasant\\_has\\_a\\_racism\\_problem/](https://www.reddit.com/r/Charleston/comments/hmb628/mt_pleasant_has_a_racism_problem/) and quote from the post: "pit bull attack this precious dog Sammie... and I sprint over to help. The dog unlatched and Sammie and the female owner are bleeding."

Administrator Fragoso had the following comment in the packet presented to Council today in regards to the current off leash situation: "Difficult to know that handler is not "in control" of the dog until something happens". This is precisely what I have observed, many people believe that off leash hours do not require them to have their dog under voice control, despite that being very clear in the law. Many view off leash time as a free for all dog park, not a time for responsible owners with under control dogs.

I support the following proposal put forward to Council today: "Dogs registered with IOPPD that hold a dog obedience certificate". This would allow people with well behaved dogs, that care enough about having them off leash to go to necessary steps to allow them to be off leash, to still have their dogs off leash. It would keep poorly behaved or dangerous dogs from being off leash. It would also prevent people with merely a casual interest in having their dog off leash, as people only casually interested are likely only casually interested in having their dog under voice control.

IOP has a dog problem on our beach. The constant stream of dog attacks and injuries, presented in the press and in social media, do not look good for IOP, for our residents, or our vacationers. I am a dog owner and my family loves dogs. I have heard from people on Council that there are some that want IOP to be considered the most "dog friendly" beach. I say no, we should strive to be the most "family friendly" beach. This would best meet the needs of our residents, most of whom have children or grand children that they want to safely enjoy the beach. It would best meet the needs of our visitors who bring their families to rent and eat on the island. And a family friendly beach would allow dogs to safely use the beach on leash or under control, while eliminating out of control dogs that continuously harm adults, dog owners, other dogs, and children.

Thank you

**Meeting This Comment is Intended For:**  
Public Safety Committee

**Email Address**

# Public Comment For City Meetings

**Name**

Ellen P Oblow

**Address**

229 Forest Trail, Isle of Palms, South Carolina 29451

**Comments for Council Meeting**

I understand the existing rules for dogs on the beach are to be discussed at the 07.06.20 meeting. Please do not punish the many for the ineptitude and lack of consideration of the few. IOP dogs are for the most part well behaved. They, like their owners, treasure the privilege of their leash free hours. Please do not take this away from us!!! Perhaps you should reconsider having all dogs registered, including guests' dogs. This would reduce both people and dog traffic immediately and provide the police department with a means of tracking the dog owner should the need arise. I would prefer this over losing these rights. Due to the different rules SI has versus IOP, our beaches are more crowded with dog walkers than they might otherwise be. Please do not take this privilege away. This is one of the reasons I moved here.

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# Public Comment For City Meetings

**Name**

karen Jones

**Address**

27 24th avenue, Isle of Palms, South Carolina 29451

**Comments for Council Meeting**

Committee Members,

My name was submitted for input from an island resident but I was not contacted, so I am reaching out to you now. One of the greatest joys of living on IOP (resident since 1992) has been the ability to take my dog off leash on the beach. I realize the dog population has increased dramatically over the last couple of years, but that is primarily due to the increase of visitors from off island. Those of us who walk our dogs know who are residents and also the folks from Mt. Pleasant. Regulating specific areas for off leash will cause confusion and once again be difficult to enforce. The only way to make dog walking- either off or on leash is to follow the lead of our Sullivan's Island neighbors and require an identifiable collar for ALL dogs on the beach. Any dog, whether a day tripper, resident or renter for a week or more should be wearing an IOP collar. This way, we will share the burden with Sullivans in hosting dogs.

Island residents would gladly pay their share in response to not losing their right to have their dog off leash during posted hours. Please leave the current regulations in place and require all dogs to have a collar. It will generate income for the town and provide the only enforceable solution. Rental companies can handle the communication and provide the collars for visitors to their properties.

Multiple mornings a week I walk the beach with Ollie and pick up the trash that our visitors have left behind. I am always amazed at the people who watch me pick up a piece of a broken plastic bucket that they are sitting right next to. I feel a responsibility to maintain this beautiful island that I don't feel is shared by many of our visitors. We can't regulate responsibility or integrity but we can at least preserve the rights for those that do.

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# Public Comment For City Meetings

**Name**

Cindy Lee

**Address**

23 25th Avenue, Isle of Palms, South Carolina 29451

**Comments for Council Meeting**

I am in favor of eliminating or dramatically reducing parking on the land side of Palm Blvd until such time as we can get blinking signals at the crosswalks with buttons for pedestrians to control for a stop signal. I would also like to see the return of the weekly police report of crime statistics on IOP.net.

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# Public Comment For City Meetings

**Name**

Rusty Williamson

**Address**

605 Carolina Blvd, Isle Of Palms, South Carolina 29451

**Comments for Council Meeting**

Good morning all. I would like to express my concerns regarding the staffing situation with the BSO program for the IOP. We currently have no real experience with the current staff. No one over the age of 25. I realize that every one needs a chance to start somewhere, however we currently have no lead BSO officer. We have lost experienced people to other municipalities and we have lost personnel due to strife in the workplace. It is my hope that the IOPPD find a way to bring a in seasoned individual to help guide the newcomers in the program.

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# Public Comment For City Meetings

**Name**

none James W Smiley

**Address**

16 44th Ave, Isle of Palms, South Carolina 29451

**Comments for Council Meeting**

Dear Public Safety Committee,

For me one of the best things about the Isle of Palms is that it is a dog friendly community. My daily routine has always involved a daily early morning off leash walk (or run) on the beach with my dog(s). I do not want to lose that privilege or have it in any way restricted or abridged. However, I do realize that recently there have been problems associated with loose dogs on the public beach who were not under the control of their owners. I also understand that not all beach goers share my love for dogs and some would prefer to ban dogs on the beach altogether. I don't have a solution for satisfying the latter group of beach goers, but I would like to suggest a plan that might satisfy almost all of the rest of us. This plan of action would not restrict or change in any way dogs on leashes from being on the beach with their owners, but it would make being off leash a privilege to be earned by both pet and owners. To earn this privilege the dog would be required to hold the Canine Good Citizen certificate (CGC) from the American Kennel Club (AKC).

If you are unfamiliar with the CGC certificate, take a few minutes to read this blurb from the AKC:  
<https://www.akc.org/products-services/training-programs/canine-good-citizen/what-is-canine-good-citizen/#who>

The mechanics of being off leash only with the CGC certificate would require some small changes in the way dogs are registered with the city, but nothing major. I would suggest that all owners who want to have their dogs off leash on the beach during the prescribed off leash hours would need to register their dogs with the City, showing not only proof of rabies vaccination, but also proof of AKC certification of the CDC designation. The owner would then be issued a bright yellow (or some other easily seen color) collar tag which would be required to be worn by the dog. Since presently we do not require registration of dogs with the City, only those owners who wish their dogs to be allowed off leash on the beach would be affected. This registration would be required for all off leash dogs on the beach whether the dog is locally owned by a resident or owned by a visitor to the island.

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# Public Comment For City Meetings

**Name**

Mrs Madelaine T Hairrell

**Address**

2701 Cameron Blvd, Isle Of Palms, South Carolina 29451

**Comments for Council Meeting**

Please mandate mask wearing! I know several people on IOP who have Covid. Everyone I know is boycotting Harris Teeter because customers not wearing masks. Stop the irresponsibility and protect our islanders - PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING THIS TIME!

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# Public Comment For City Meetings

**Name**

Mrs Erth S Murphy

**Address**

2 20th Ave, Isle of Palms, South Carolina 29451

**Comments for Council Meeting**

We continue to have great concern about the curve on Palm Blvd after the church and the speed of traffic that often refuses to stop for the golf carts, bikes and walkers at the crosswalk on 20th. Once the road opens to two lanes and cars pick up speed it is just dangerous. Last week a car ran off the road, jumped the curb and ended up next to our fence. If someone had been walking on the sidewalk they would be dead now. Golf cars and bikers and walkers pulling beach buggies get halfway across the road and cars refuse to stop, or one stops and the second lane guns it. We need a blinking light and a mandatory stop for pedestrians at the 20th crosswalk. The second lane needs to open up after 20th, make the existing lane go down 21st. and that would cut down on the speed so that cars would stop. There are exponentially more golf cars this year and bikers and now there are renters walking to the beach from 20th. This issue must be addressed before there is a serious accident. We watch near misses happen everyday from our porch.

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# Public Comment For City Meetings

**Name**

ms Kathleen Elizabeth Fitzgerald

**Address**

11 Driftwood Lane, Isle of Palms, South Carolina 29451

**Comments for Council Meeting**

Please vote for IOP to enforce people wearing face masks. Thank you!

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