

E. Patrick Kiley, President
Riviera Beach Community Improvement Association
P.O. Box 474
Pasadena, MD 21122

March 30, 2008

Dear Resident,

When I took office in January 2006, I stated that I wanted to leave a legacy. I had two goals. The first goal, to increase member participation in the community, has been accomplished. Participation in RCIA has increased. Board and community members repeatedly work side by side to clean up the beach and park and increase the safety of the boat ramp area. Special events like the Halloween, Christmas, and Easter parties hosted by the Board enjoy the participation of residents both young and old alike.

Board members worked diligently to improve the quality of life for members of our community. We attended monthly Pasadena Council and Police Council meetings and personally deliver welcome packets to new residents in the community. We kept residents informed by distributing newsletters and scheduling guest speakers at our monthly meetings.

We applied for and received 501C3 non-profit tax status, so that residents who became members of RCIA could deduct their donation from their taxes. This status resulted in residents making donations in addition to their annual dues.

My second goal was to restore the Patapsco River beachfront to its original state. In the 47 years I have lived in this community, I have watched what was once a focal point of the community, where families and friends could enjoy the beach and water, deteriorate to a piece of land that was virtually unusable. The tidal pond, once a great place for kids to learn about nature and fish had become a stagnant pool, devoid of life.

After several years of meetings with engineers, representatives from The Department of Natural Resources, Anne Arundel County Representatives, the MDE, and the Army Corp of Engineers the project is finally coming to pass. Work began in November 2007. Unfortunately, work was recently halted, due to complaints from a resident. The county auditor investigated, and to date, the only part of the budget that the county disallowed was the construction of a footbridge over the entrance to the tidal pond. This area is one of the few areas that non-waterfront residents can enjoy the benefits of living in a waterfront community.

In addition, we participated in the waterfront restoration of Sledge's Point, the Surfside Improvement Project, and the Carroll Road Project, all of which have been completed.

At Tuesday's RCIA meeting, a group calling themselves "Save the Beach" distributed a packet that contained misleading, inaccurate, and unverifiable information. When Board members were unable to provide instant answers to the issues detailed in this lengthy packet, Board members were accused of being evasive or secretive. Had we received this packet prior to the meeting, a meaningful dialogue regarding its contents would have ensued. Accurate information could have been provided to the membership so that individuals could make educated and informed decisions about their community.

Prior to Tuesday's RCIA Community meeting, that group hosted a meeting the previous week. Riverbea Board members John Robbins and Bob Snyder were denied entrance to the meeting. I myself was told by meeting host Robynn Squires that I "was not welcome and to get out." A police officer was called to physically remove me from the premises.

Feedback from many residents after these meetings indicate that this group does not speak for the whole of the community, and many did not approve of the hostile and attacking manner in which leaders of this group presented their concerns. Members of both boards are volunteers have spent countless hours of

their personal time working toward the betterment of our community. Several persons, including myself, are lifelong residents who have consistently worked on behalf of Riviera Beach for many years. These volunteers have the right to be treated civilly and to be addressed in a respectful manner, despite any differences of opinion.

The divisive nature exhibited by members of "Save the Beach" will only serve to erode our sense of community that has always been the hallmark of Riviera Beach. This neighborhood deserves better.

Over the last several months, I have found that the amount of time that I find necessary to devote to Riviera Beach community issues has increased dramatically, to the point it is becoming all consuming. After great reflection, I have concluded that it is time to reorder my priorities and recommit myself to my family, my health and my other obligations and interests. Therefore, effective April 1, 2008, I resign my position as President of RCIA.

Henrik Ibsen once said "a community is like a ship, everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm." As I hand over the helm, I am confident that those who follow me will continue to build upon the foundation which I and my fellow board members have laid. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve our community. See you on the golf course!

Sincerely,

E. Patrick Kiley

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