

Beaches Watch 2019 Duval Candidate Questions

Candidate Name: Terrance Freeman

Campaign web site: VoteTerranceFreeman.com

Email address: Terrance@VoteTerranceFreeman.com

Phone Number: 904-305-5292

1. Interlocal Agreement:

- a. What is your opinion of the interlocal agreements between Jacksonville and the three beaches municipalities

The three Inter-Local Agreements (as amended over the years) have governed the relationship between the three Beaches cities and the City of Jacksonville. While the relationships have been strong, especially during hurricanes, they can always be better. In particular, the City of Jacksonville needs to pay its fair share for beach cleanup, animal control, storm water management, street re-paving and the like. The City of Jacksonville has obligations to the three Beaches cities that it needs to fulfill and, as of today, it is falling short. Likewise, the Beaches are the center of Fourth of July celebrations and other big visitor weeks and both “host the party and pay the bill.” The City of Jacksonville needs to recognize the cost for being the most popular tourist attraction in Jacksonville and help shoulder the burden.

- b. Are there any changes to the agreements you would suggest?

More funding to the three Beaches cities for the items listed above.

2. Mayport Village:

- a. What is your vision for the future of Mayport Village?

Councilman Bill Gulliford has made re-energizing Mayport Village the centerpiece of this second term on Council representing the Beaches, and I can only marvel at his success! My vision is his vision: A return to a thriving working waterfront that attracts commercial fishermen, sport fishers, and visitors alike. I support Bill’s vision completely.

- b. What is your plan for bringing your vision to reality?

We need to continue Councilman Gulliford’s plan and continue the work he’s done by partnering with my good friend and incoming Councilman Rory Diamond.

- c. Are you willing to vote for additional funding for dock construction and/or development costs at the Village of Mayport?

Yes.

- 3. Penman Road:** Penman Road is a heavily utilized roadway by all the beaches communities and has a myriad of problems from traffic flow to pedestrian and bicycle safety. What is your plan to ensure that adequate planning and resources are dedicated to Penman Road?

Penman Road runs right through the heart of Jacksonville and Neptune Beaches. Just about every Beaches resident uses Penman, and we all see the same thing, a dilapidated failing road that is dangerous to drive and even more dangerous for our kids to try and cross (as many of them must get to school). Several years ago the City of Jacksonville Beach did a study and design for a dramatic

improvement to Penman Road. This redesign wouldn't widen Penman, but would cover the ditches and replace them with safe sidewalks, add security medians, ensure the safe and consistent flow of traffic and otherwise make Penman a beautiful boulevard in the heart of the Beaches. We need to work out exactly where water retention might go and listen closely to the communities along Penman Road, but I support the basics of the Jacksonville Beach plan. In order to have a safe and beautiful Beaches community, we need to address Penman in a thoughtful way.

4. **Dredging the St. Johns River:** Both the St. Johns Riverkeeper and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have stated that dredging the St. Johns River will increase storm surge and flooding at the beaches and Jacksonville without a mitigation plan in place. What mitigation plan, if any, would you support to protect the beaches communities and Jacksonville?

The world's most skilled and trained Engineers in Water management have studied, modeled, and generated reports on risks that are there with dredging. I have complete confidence with the Army Corps of Engineers and they have spent ten of thousands of hours performing due diligence on studying the deepening project. There is risk management money within the project and if circumstances show more is needed, I support that but it must be documented by scientific data.

5. **Resiliency:**

- a. How would you support the beaches communities in their efforts to address resiliency and sea level rise?

Hurricanes Matthew and Irma hit the Beaches hard, and we saw firsthand the dangers of "what could have been" if we ever have a direct hit. The Beaches are a small barrier island and are at great risk. The Sanctuary neighborhood in Jax Beach saw several homes under water during the last storms, the Neptune Beach waste-treatment plant is right next to the Ditch, and Atlantic Beach has several streets and communities that repeatedly flood. I would support the efforts of the three Beaches communities to become more resilient. We simply have no choice.

- b. Would you support City of Jacksonville continued funding of beach renourishment and, as a result of a disaster, City of Jacksonville funding of dune restoration?

Yes.

6. **Communication:** What, if anything, would you do to improve the City of Jacksonville's communication and relationship with the beaches municipalities?

Every four years during elections all of the county-wide politicians make their way out to the Beaches and make lots of promises. When they get elected, and you never see them again. I can assure you, that's not me. I'm at the Beaches all the time, I was married in Neptune Beach, my four little girls love to play in the ocean. The Beaches are a home in so many ways. I haven't disappeared, I will be there, I love the Beaches too much.

7. **Beach Visitors:** Spring and Summer holidays, especially July 4th, bring a great number of people to the Beaches, straining the resources of all three communities. What suggestions do you have for Jacksonville to assist the communities in shouldering that burden?

In addition to what I outlined in question 1, JSO must continue to assist the beaches during the spring and summer holidays.

8. **July 4th Fireworks:** Will you support continued funding assistance of \$25,000. By the City of Jacksonville for the July 4th fireworks at Jacksonville Beach
Yes.

9. **Other issues:** What other specific issues that affect the beach communities top your priority list?

There are several things, including but not limited to ensuring the long term sustainability of the St. Johns River Ferry, working with St. Johns County to address traffic piling up on A1A and JTB, and working to represent Beaches residents just as much as any other resident in Duval County.