



OBSERVER CORPS REPORT
Daytona Beach City Commission
Reported by Cindy Wakeland

February 4, 2026

During the “Comments and Inquiries from the City Commission” segment of the meeting, Commissioner Strickland proposed a motion to send a letter to the Volusia County Commissioners. The purpose of this letter was to formally express the Daytona Beach Commission’s objections to the “Toilet-to-Tap” program.

Commissioners Cantu and May stated they would not sign the letter. Commissioner May expressed concern that sending such a letter could negatively affect future relations with the Volusia County Council. Commissioner Cantu did not address her reason(s) for objecting.

February 18, 2026

Environmental Concerns

1. Coastal Division Director Presentation

The meeting opened with a presentation by Jessica Fentress, Director of the Volusia County Coastal Division. Ms. Fentress provided an overview of shoreline assessments conducted throughout Volusia County.

She discussed sand placement initiatives, noting that the Inlet Shoals to Shore Project has identified approximately 1.75 million cubic yards of beach-compatible sand within the inlet. This material originated from the northern beaches and was naturally transported to the Ponce Inlet area during storm events. The re-apportionment of this sand is anticipated to begin in early 2027.

Ms. Fentress also presented a risk assessment analysis of Volusia County’s beach communities. The findings identified Daytona Beach and Daytona Beach Shores as the communities facing the highest level of risk.

In addition, she reviewed the economic significance of the beaches to Volusia County. She emphasized that Daytona Beach plays a central role in the county’s tourism economy, with beach access being the primary reason visitors travel to the area. An estimated 95–98% of visitors use the beaches, accounting for approximately 61 million day trips annually. Beach-related tourism contributes approximately \$5.3 billion per year to the county’s gross domestic product, representing 31% of annual sales tax revenue.



Beach-oriented tourism activity from 2021 to 2023 exceeded pre-pandemic levels by approximately 30%.

Her full presentation is available for viewing on the Daytona Beach City Commission website on the February 18th meeting.

2. Commissioner's action regarding Toilet-to-Tap proposals

Commissioner Strickland stated he was hoping to have a draft from the city's attorneys of a document to change the city's Charter to head off any Toilet-to-Tap proposals that may surface in the future. The attorney responded that they had looked into this idea and determined they could not use the same verbiage as the County due to differences in the set-up of the city is different from the county. He said they will continue to draft a document with the hopes of presenting it at the next Commission meeting.