



OBSERVER CORPS REPORT
Daytona Beach City Commission
Reported by Cindy Wakeland

March 18, 2026

Police Chief Jakari Young addressed the Commission regarding activity at the beach last weekend (March 13–15). The event received national attention, and the Volusia County Sheriff's Office and the Daytona Beach Police Department responded. The Sheriff's Office is the primary agency responsible for the beach area, but local law enforcement agencies support one another during major events. Chief Young noted that the department's response was further challenged because the entire department had been on alert for the previous ten days due to Bike Week, and the union contract limits how long officers can remain on extended alert.

The Commission decided to classify the beach area as a "High Impact Period" for the coming weekend. A "High Impact Period" occurs when there is a reasonable expectation that crowds associated with special events (sanctioned or unsanctioned) will significantly impact the city's resources and its ability to protect public safety.

"High Impact Periods" are:

- Defined and data-driven
- Limited in scope
- Announced in advance
- Include options for an emergency declaration

At the previous Commission meeting, Commissioner Strickland proposed submitting a recommendation to the Volusia County Council to prohibit introducing reclaimed water into the Volusia County water supply. A draft of the proposal was presented to the Commissioners during this meeting. Public speakers largely supported the action; however, one speaker asked the Commission to delay the vote until a report on the presence and levels of PFAS in the county water system becomes available.

The Commissioners proceeded with the vote, and the measure passed 7–0.

Under Administrative Items, Item 11.B, the Commission addressed a rebate program related to funds previously collected for permitting and licensing tied to earlier residential construction projects. One builder (Minto – Latitudes Margaritaville) previously sued the City, prevailed, and has collected approximately \$2 million in excess funds. This agenda



item established a “Building Rebate Reduction Program.” Under the program, “excess fees” that cannot be carried forward will be used for building permits and fee reductions. The program also provides an immediate waiver of fees charged for administration of the Florida Building Code for a six-month period ending September 10, 2026. The Commission approved the item by a 6–1 vote; Commissioner Paris cast the sole “no” vote.

The final administrative item was a vote to display flags to celebrate and recognize the 250th anniversary of the United States and the City of Daytona Beach’s 150th anniversary. The item passed 7–0.