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City Council Weekly Update - June 9, 2025

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From Bret Bell <bret.bell@cityoftybee.gov>  
Date Mon 6/9/2025 11:09 PM  
To #Council <#Council@cityoftybee.org>  
Cc #Dept Heads <#DeptHeads@cityoftybee.org>

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LiveOakFiber 05222025.pdf;

### **Greetings Mayor and Council,**

We are all still reeling from the loss of HR Director Jaime Spear over the weekend.

On Monday morning staff gathered over coffee and donuts at City Hall to share warm remembrances, offer shoulders to cry on, and just be with one another as we still grapple with this tragedy.

Pastor Sue Jackson led us in prayer and offered comforting words. Our EAP Counselor, John Capachione, discussed the stages of grief and then spent time one-on-one with those who wanted to talk. The presence and guidance of both professionals was extremely welcomed.

As of Monday evening, funeral arrangements had not been finalized. Lt. White of Tybee Police and Whitney Hooker with HR are working with Jaime's widow, Lori, on various details, including survivor benefits. They have both been amazing professionals as they simultaneously deal with their personal grief over the loss of a friend.



### **Community Development Monthly Report**

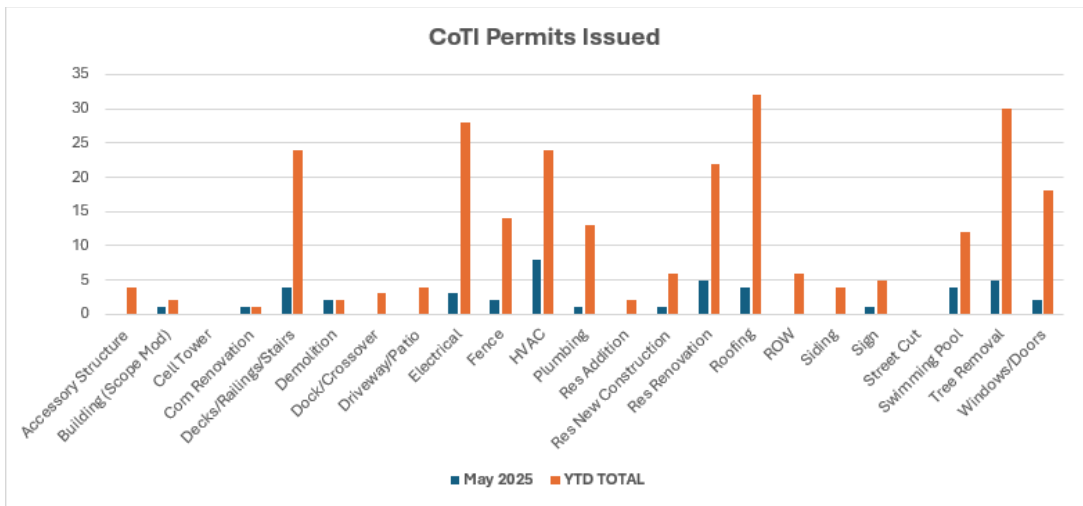
#### **Building Permit Activity (Issued)**

##### **May 2025: 44**

- New Residential Construction: 1
- New Swimming Pool: 4
- Other permits (fence, electrical, sign, tree removal, etc.): 39

##### **2025 YTD: 212**

- New Residential Construction: 6
- New Swimming Pool: 12
- Other permits (fence, electrical, sign, tree removal, etc.): 194



**Planning and Zoning Activity (YTD): 10**

- Site Plan: 2
- Site Plan with Variance: 1
- Variance: 3
- Administrative Variance: 0
- Special Review: 1
- Subdivision/Recombination: 1
- Administrative Subdivision: 0
- Map Amendment: 1
- Text Amendment: 0
- Tree Appeal: 1

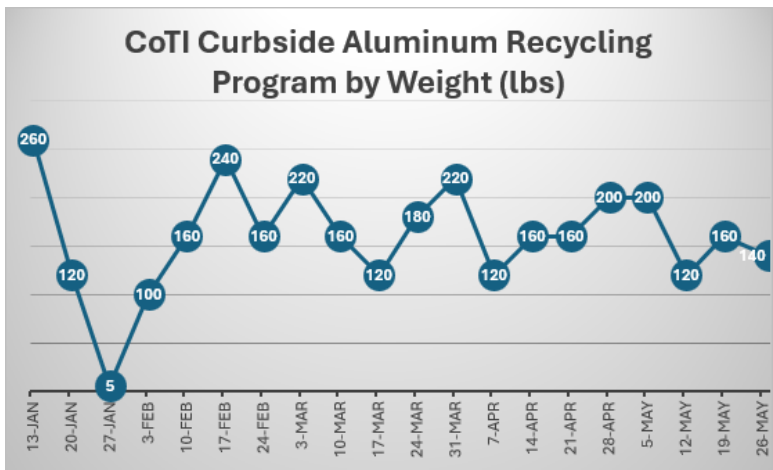
**Floodplain Management Update**

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) as it relates to the city's house elevation grants is currently in a holding pattern as FEMA is undergoing process and procedure changes. Staff received word the period of performance for the second grant, 4338-0004, has been extended to April 2026 for the Batch One participants. There is no update on possible Batch Two start dates or award dates. Staff is collecting updated cost estimates for those property owners who still want to participate.

**Sustainability Update**

**DNR Recycling Grant:** Staff is preparing the RFP for the purchase of 100 recycling containers for the first step of the grant.

**Aluminum Curbside Recycling Pilot Program:** As of the end of May, 3,205 pounds of aluminum have been recycled, with 12 businesses participating at some level since inception. Staff sent out a reminder email at the end of May to all participants and three businesses who had not started or paused participation contributed.



**Land Development Code Update**

The Land Development Code Update page is ready for dissemination on the City's Engagement HQ Page: [talktyb.org](http://talktyb.org). This is the first step of the public engagement process for the updates to Articles 1 through 7 of the LDC. Staff and consultant are working out a time for an Open House to received public feedback on possible changes.

**Live Oak Update**

- Last week, crews installed (4,569) linear feet of conduit and passed (89) homes.
  - No production Monday 5/26 (Memorial Day).

- Production crews paused 5/29 (afternoon) & 5/30 for cleanup and restoration.
- Total linear conduit placed to date: 64,740 ft (12.26 miles); (1,028) homes passed.
- Total right of way permits issued to date: 31
- Cabinet site (78 Van Horn): gravel placed, GA Power to complete release.
- Map of service area status attached.

## Municipal Court Monthly Report – May

### Year to Date

|                    | FY 2023       | FY 2024       | FY 2025       |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Court Fines</b> | \$ 202,396.50 | \$ 214,512.40 | \$ 205,107.30 |
| <b>Tech Fees</b>   | -             | -             | \$ 2,700.00   |
| <b>Court Costs</b> | \$ 73,436.45  | \$ 76,273.07  | \$ 57,838.33  |
| <b>Total</b>       | \$275,832.95  | \$ 290,785.47 | \$ 265,685.63 |

### Adjudicated Year to Date

|                  | FY 2023 | FY 2024 | FY 2025 |
|------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| <b>Cases</b>     | 2432    | 3550    | 1772    |
| <b>Citations</b> | 3163    | 4772    | 2700    |

### Zoom Video Arraignment Hearings

|                        | FY 2024 | FY 2025 |
|------------------------|---------|---------|
| <b># of Hearings</b>   | 5       | 0       |
| <b># of Defendants</b> | 6       | 0       |

### Caseload

|                 | # of Court Sessions | # of Cases |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------|
| <b>May 2023</b> | 2                   | 332        |
| <b>May 2024</b> | 2                   | 298        |
| <b>May 2025</b> | 2                   | 298        |

### Citations with Disposition Dates from May 01, 2025 – May 31, 2025

| Finding                      | Count      |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Bond Forfeiture              | 52         |
| Bound over to State Court    | 30         |
| Bound over to Superior Court | 23         |
| Dismissed                    | 5          |
| Guilty as Charged            | 55         |
| Merged                       | 14         |
| Nolo Contendre               | 2          |
| Nolle Prosequi               | 5          |
| Pre-Trial Diversion          | 3          |
| Warning                      | 213        |
| Retired from Docket          | 0          |
| Voided                       | 1          |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>403</b> |

### Projects:

Adjudication Study – Ongoing  
 Record Retention – Ongoing  
 Website Updating – Completed

## Around the Campground

- 130 Arrivals, 550 Site Nights, 75% Occupancy, Down 1% YoY
- YMCA Water Aerobics/Open Swim started Monday 6/2. Averaged 20 participants each day. The pool is provided to the YMCA at no cost.
- Columbia County Teen Adventure Camp stayed in the cabins this week while they took surf lessons, visited the lighthouse and enjoyed the beach.
- Updated our store “Flavor of the week” promotion: this week is cinnamon. Cookies, candy and other treats!
- May Revenue was down 10%, YTD down 7%

|     | FY25      | FY24      | Difference |
|-----|-----------|-----------|------------|
| JUL | \$233,413 | \$269,369 | (\$35,956) |
| AUG | \$149,539 | \$153,421 | (\$3,883)  |
| SEP | \$138,067 | \$184,830 | (\$46,763) |
| OCT | \$164,384 | \$172,274 | (\$7,890)  |
| NOV | \$128,573 | \$135,190 | (\$6,617)  |
| DEC | \$127,488 | \$115,564 | \$11,925   |
| JAN | \$121,497 | \$141,689 | (\$20,192) |
| FEB | \$147,278 | \$152,437 | (\$5,160)  |
| MAR | \$228,996 | \$245,649 | (\$16,652) |
| APR | \$233,059 | \$217,153 | \$15,906   |
| MAY | \$218,217 | \$243,793 | (\$25,576) |
| JUN |           |           |            |

|     |             |             |             |
|-----|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| YTD | \$1,890,511 | \$2,031,370 | (\$140,859) |
|-----|-------------|-------------|-------------|

## **The Week in Infrastructure**

### **Bat Houses!**

As you will recall, City Council adopted a resolution earlier this spring designating Tybee a Bee City USA. As part of this designation, we pledged to develop pollinator gardens and pursue natural alternatives to herbicides and pesticides. One way to help naturally control mosquitoes is to help develop bat populations. Last week DPW brought in a bat expert, Lydia Moore with the Wormsloe Institute, who helped locate ideal locations across the island to install bat houses. DPW installed two houses in Jaycee Park and two in Memorial Park. Lydia is planning future projects to monitor bat populations, which will help inform placement of additional bat houses.





**DPW**

- Emptied trash barrels and collected litter on beach
- Collected litter along the crossovers
- Performed outfall maintenance
- Cleared storm drains throughout the week
- Re-installed memorial bench in Jaycee Park and cleaned up site after installation
- Fixed broken boards on 7<sup>th</sup> Street Crossover
- Cleaned shop during rain events
- Installed pay to park signs in various locations
- Repaired fence at large dog park
- Swept streets on Monday and Friday
- Power-washed foot showers and changing rooms and south end compactor
- Ordered more American flags for Butler Avenue
- Re-adjusted the Historic Tybee banner across U.S. 80
- Cleared a clogged A/C drain line at the Police Department
- Began planning new location for the air handler unit at City Hall
- Cut and trimmed grass in ditch lines
- Cut and trimmed Jaycee Park
- Cut and trimmed grassy area of North Beach Parking Lot
- Blew parking lots from 14<sup>th</sup> Street to 18<sup>th</sup> Street
- Cleaned and supplied public restrooms daily
- Cleaned city owned facilities

**Recycling/Dump**

- Picked up and emptied recycling trailers from Memorial Park and Polk Street
- Baled cardboard
- Picked up litter on Bay Street
- Picked up recycling from South Annex Building and City Hall
- Picked up recycling from food pantry
- Called in trash containers and yard waste containers in DPW Yard
- Assisted residents in unloading trash, yard debris, and recycling brought to DPW yard
- Emptied aluminum recycling carts for business pilot recycling program
- Performed three tree assessments
- Issued five tree permits

A question was asked at the Council Budget Workshop about recycling rebates through the years. See below chart for annual totals.

| <b>RECYCLING YEARLY TOTAL REVENUES</b> |                       |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                    |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
|  | <b>2019 (OCT-DEC)</b> | <b>2020</b>         | <b>2021</b>         | <b>2022</b>         | <b>2023</b>         | <b>2024</b>         | <b>2025 YTD</b>    |
| CARDBOARD                              | \$ 116.80             | \$ 3,080.92         | \$ 17,941.64        | \$ 15,602.43        | \$ 5,546.60         | \$ 9,673.36         | \$ 2,213.18        |
| ALUMINUM                               | \$ 405.00             | \$ 5,444.82         | \$ 9,119.40         | \$ 8,165.60         | \$ 5,659.20         | \$ 8,329.00         | \$ 5,161.20        |
| TIN/WHITE GOODS                        | \$ 626.11             | \$ 3,815.30         | \$ 4,425.70         | \$ 3,278.20         | \$ 6,599.20         | \$ 5,834.10         | \$ 2,551.21        |
| PLASTICS                               | \$ 14.40              | \$ 156.30           | N/A                 | N/A                 | N/A                 | N/A                 | N/A                |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>                   | <b>\$ 1,162.31</b>    | <b>\$ 12,497.34</b> | <b>\$ 31,486.74</b> | <b>\$ 27,046.23</b> | <b>\$ 17,805.00</b> | <b>\$ 23,836.46</b> | <b>\$ 9,925.59</b> |

**Fleet**

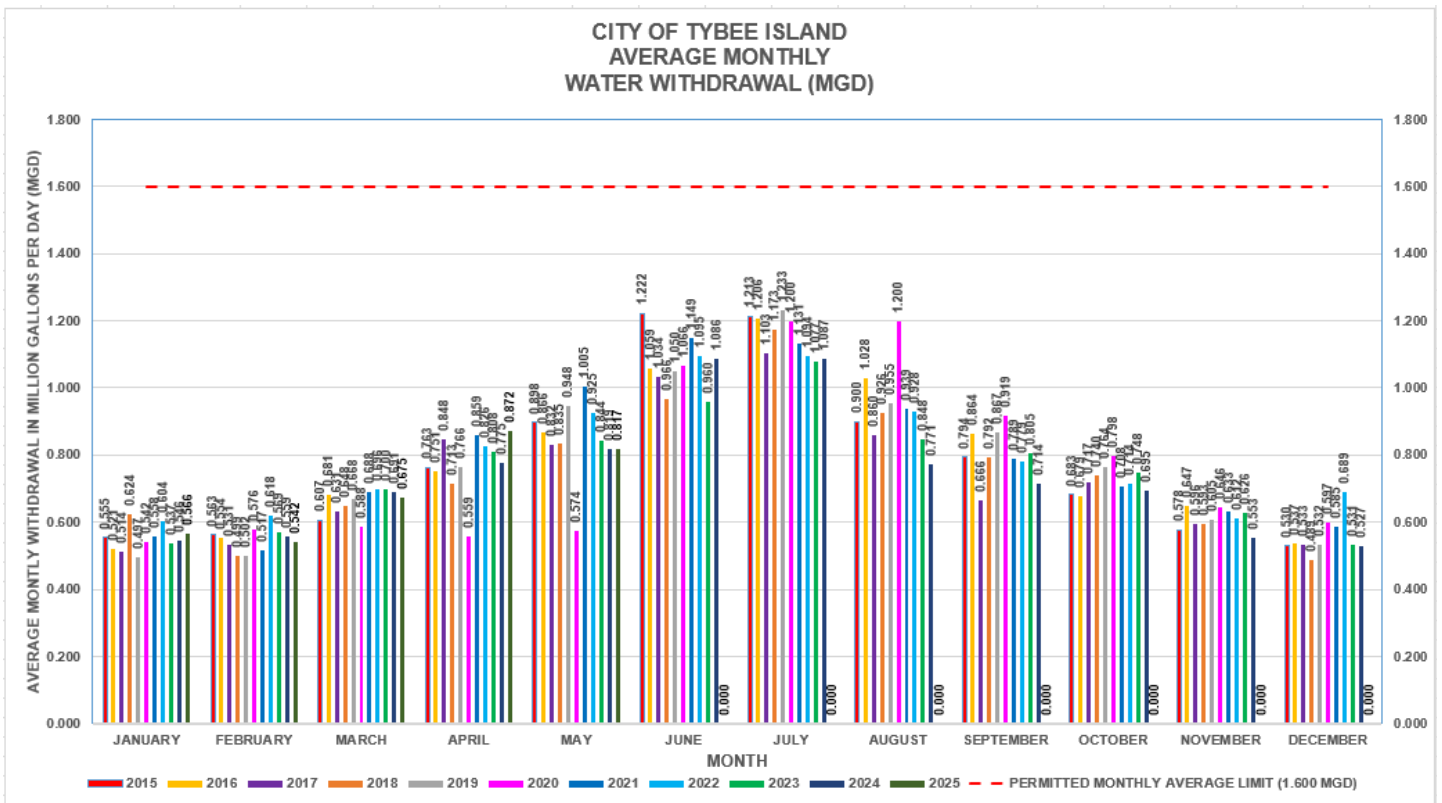
- Added hydraulic fluid to trash truck
- Inflated tires of various vehicles

- Changed oil on six vehicles
- Continued repair of mobile visitors center
- Repaired weed eater with new bumper head and plate
- Investigated issues with PD 188 charging system
- Picked up parts from the lawnmower store
- Repaired charging system of LE32
- Installed ignition switch on LE76
- Replaced battery on PD188
- Began repair of Code Enforcement mule
- Charged A/C on W/S409
- Currently four vehicles in shop waiting for parts

**Sewer/Water**

- Maintained daily operations and maintenance at the WWTP
- Performed routine maintenance on the water wells and lift stations
- Performed weekly sampling and testing
- Continued locates and review permits for Live Oak Fiber installation
- Fixed water leaks at 30 Solomon Avenue and behind the IGA
- Exercised 25 valves
- Cleaned sewer lines at the following locations:
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Cedarwood Avenue
  - Van Horn Avenue
- Cut and trimmed grass at the WWTP
- Cleaned the clarifiers and motors on the digesters

| Month of May Historic Avg. Withdrawals |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| YEAR                                   | Average Daily Withdrawal (MGD) |
| 2015                                   | 0.898                          |
| 2016                                   | 0.866                          |
| 2017                                   | 0.832                          |
| 2018                                   | 0.835                          |
| 2019                                   | 0.948                          |
| 2020                                   | 0.574                          |
| 2021                                   | 1.005                          |
| 2022                                   | 0.925                          |
| 2023                                   | 0.844                          |
| 2024                                   | 0.819                          |
| 2025                                   | 0.817                          |



**The Week with Police  
Accidents:**

This Week: 2 accidents, 0 injury  
 2025 YTD: 44 accidents, 3 injuries  
 2024 YTD: 47 accidents, 11 injuries  
 2024 TOTAL: 104 accidents, 18 injuries

**Arrests:**

This Week: 3 total – 3 DUIs / 1 Felony  
 2025 YTD: 180 arrests  
 2024 YTD: 278 arrests  
 2024 TOTAL: 504 arrests

**Calls For Service:**

This week: 314  
 2025 YTD: 6,685  
 2024 YTD: 7,058  
 2024 TOTAL: 14,588

**Citations:**

This week: 25  
 YTD: 666  
 2024 YTD: 1,120  
 2024 TOTAL: 1,792

| Part 1 Crimes |          |      |         |         |          |         |       |                     |              |
|---------------|----------|------|---------|---------|----------|---------|-------|---------------------|--------------|
| -             | Homicide | Rape | Robbery | Assault | Burglary | Larceny | Arson | Motor Vehicle Theft | Total Part 1 |
| 2025          | 1        | 0    | 0       | 1       | 1        | 13      | 0     | 0                   | 15           |
| 2024          | 0        | 3    | 0       | 10      | 3        | 51      | 0     | 0                   | 67           |
| 2023          | 0        | 0    | 3       | 8       | 2        | 37      | 0     | 0                   | 50           |
| 2022          | 0        | 0    | 0       | 2       | 1        | 17      | 2     | 1                   | 23           |

**Daily Information:**

**06/04:** Ofc. Crider, Ofc. Lawlor, Lt. Coreno, and Assistant Chief Whitley presented the first of several talks and presentations at the Fresh Air Home camp for kids.

**06/02:** Rocky and Capt. Randolph were asked to make an appearance at Camp Grace on Wilmington Island on Monday. They spoke to two different groups of summer campers about our Public Relations work for the police department and demonstrated a few tricks. The kids all got a chance to pet Rocky and were given gift bags of TIPD swag.

**Staffing:**

We are down three officers. We now have three cadets who recently started with the police department. They will attend the police academy beginning July 7. Their state physical agility test will be held on June 17. Until then, they will train at the police department. The police department currently has no open officer positions to advertise.

Communications is down one position. This opening is due to the communications officer transitioning to a police cadet.

**Upcoming Events:**

**06/12, 07/03, 08/28:** Next dates for Golf Cart Education and Enforcement.

**The Week with Fire**

**Lifeguard Hiring**

- 25 Lifeguards and 3 Lifeguard Dispatchers have been hired to date.
- 3 applicants are scheduled for the run/swim test on 6/14/25
- 2 new applications were received this week and sent to the Beach Manager for review

**Fire Incidents**

The department responded to **21 total calls for service** during the reporting period. All calls have been resolved and closed. Below is a summary of each incident, including location and type:

| Date  | Call Type  | Location                   |
|-------|--|----------------------------|
| 06/06 | Medical assist, assist EMS crew                  | 26 Van Horne Avenue        |
| 06/05 | False alarm or false call, other                 | Lewis Avenue & Hwy 80      |
| 06/05 | Assist invalid                                   | 7 11th Terrace             |
| 06/05 | False alarm or false call, other                 | 1409 Chatham Avenue        |
| 06/04 | No incident found on arrival                     | 1614 2nd Avenue            |
| 06/04 | Medical assist, assist EMS crew                  | 115 Jones Avenue           |
| 06/03 | EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury | Butler Avenue & 2nd Street |
| 06/03 | Lock-out   | 3rd Street & Butler Avenue |
| 06/03 | EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury | 1701 Butler Avenue         |
| 06/03 | EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury | 204 5th Street             |
| 06/03 | Assist invalid                                   | 1711 Chatham Avenue        |

|       |  |                       |
|-------|--|-----------------------|
| 06/02 | Assist invalid                                   | 303 10th Street       |
| 06/02 | Public service assistance, other                 | 303 10th Street       |
| 06/01 | Medical assist, assist EMS crew                  | Hwy 80 & Lewis Avenue |
| 06/01 | EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury | 16 12th Terrace       |
| 06/01 | Medical assist, assist EMS crew                  | 301 15th Street       |
| 05/31 | Medical assist, assist EMS crew                  | 1213 US Hwy 80        |
| 05/31 | Assist invalid                                   | 1609 Strand Avenue    |
| 05/31 | EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury | 26 Van Horne Avenue   |
| 05/31 | Medical assist, assist EMS crew                  | 7 Rosewood Avenue     |
| 05/31 | Assist invalid                                   | 7 11th Terrace        |

Most calls involved medical assistance or aid to invalids, which is consistent with our normal summer trend.

### Points of Interest

- **Emergency Response Plan Distribution:**

Copies of the Tybee Island Emergency Response Plan were distributed to the City Manager and department heads. These plans clearly define departmental responsibilities in a disaster. OPCON (Operational Condition) checklists were also provided to help guide each department's readiness before and during emergencies.

- **New Fire Software – First Due:**

Our first discovery meeting was held with First Due, our new all-in-one fire department management system. This software will help us manage response tracking, inspections, scheduling, payroll, and more. Since Chatham County Fire also uses First Due, we anticipate better information-sharing during mutual aid incidents.

- **Starlink Communication Backup:**

Chief McMillian and Sgt. Hatrich are exploring the acquisition of a **Starlink** satellite communication device. This system would provide internet and connectivity if all standard channels are lost during a disaster. More details will be shared as the project develops.

### Code Compliance This Week

#### Citations

|                      |   |          |
|----------------------|---|----------|
| Smoking on the Beach | 2 |          |
| Pets on the Beach    | 2 |          |
| Glass on the Beach   | 1 |          |
| <b>Total</b>         |   | <b>5</b> |

#### Warnings

|                      |   |   |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Obstruction on beach | 1 |   |
| Dog at Large         |   | 1 |

**Cart Inspections** 108

**Wheelchair Checkouts** 9

#### Incidents:

- On June 5 at 7:46 p.m. the City Marshal directed Code Compliance staff to 1113 Laurel Avenue after a notification that the demo crew tearing the house down at this address had exceeded the scope of their permit by removing several large trees. Staff arrived and took photos and advised there appeared to be three trees down. There were no workers on site at the time, so a Stop Work Order was posted. Follow up revealed there were only two trees down – a Sycamore Tree and a Laurel Oak. Both trees are on the significant list and were 12 inches or more in diameter at breast height. The trees had been pushed over with the large excavator used to demolish the house. A second Stop Work Order was left on the window of the excavator. Staff have been driving by regularly to determine when workers may be on site so a citation can be issued for the trees. City Marshal ran the tags associated with the truck and trailer that are on site and the registration status is cancelled on both vehicles. The cancelled registration will be dealt with separately from the trees as one is a State violation and the other a City ordinance.
- On June 5, Code Compliance assisted TIPD with a noise complaint at Fresh Air Home. Handled by TIPD. Follow-up conversation with staff at Fresh Air Home resulted in staff advising they fall under the definition of a school in the exempt section of our noise ordinance. This ordinance allows an exemption during normal operating hours and special events.
- Dispatched to the Beach at the Pier concerning an adult homeless male who had previously been approached on multiple occasions for camping / sleeping in public. The guest was issued a Verbal Warning for violation and directed to remove his belongings from the beach area. Once his items were removed, man was warned of the penalties for further camping anywhere on the island (Verbal Warning Issued / Report Taken).
- Dispatched to 409D Miller Lane regarding a complaint from a resident of 409 Miller Avenue where the resident stated that the owner of 409D Miller Lane was smoking food for hours, triggering health problems with his wife, who has breathing issues. Owner of 409D Miller Lane was cooking Pizza for a group of people he was hosting at his home, so no violations were noted. The complaint was contacted and advised of the situation (Unfounded / Report Taken).
- Dispatched to the Beach near Byers Street concerning a rattlesnake on the beach. The snake was removed from the beach and placed in the dunes for its own safety (Handled by Officer).
- Dog Bite which occurred on Little Tybee Island referred to City Marshal by dispatch after Chatham Dispatch sent the call to Tybee. The complaint was referred to the supervisor of Chatham Animal Services and Ga. Dept. of Health. City Marshal contacted both agencies and let them know about the situation.

#### Additional Activity:

- City Marshal issued 5 transferable parking passes to USCG staff for all area USCG to use. Staff were advised to send regular reports on usage.
- Monitoring of surveillance cameras
- Neighborhood Patrol

- Extra Patrol
- Open Business Checks
- Closed Business Checks
- Worked to process STR applications
- Beach Wheelchair duties Pick-ups/Deliveries/Maintenance
- Assisted Ocean Rescue twice with clearing the water due to lightning in the area.
- Removed a turtle from the roadway to a safer location.
- Responded to Rivers End Campground for a dog at large found at the campground. The dog was taken to the kennels and processed. The owner showed up shortly thereafter to reclaim the dog. The dog was released to the owner and a GPC Smart Tag was issued in lieu of a citation.
- While on neighborhood patrol a Code Compliance Officer observed a dog at large around 7th Street and Butler Avenue. The owner was on scene and was able to capture his dog that had accidentally gotten out. Verbal warning issued.
- Code Compliance responded to 1418 Miller Ave. regarding a report of a rope used to prevent parking in the yard being tied to a stop sign. The Officers spoke with the homeowners who agreed to remove the rope from the stop sign.
- Code Compliance was notified of a hit and run involving a Parking Compliance vehicle at the South Annex. Information was taken and TIPD was notified.
- Stop Work Issued at 20 Taylor for work without a permit.

### Parking Revenue Year to Date Comparison

| <u>MONTH</u>              | <u>FY2025</u>      | <u>FY2024</u>      | <u>GAIN/LOSS</u>  |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| JULY                      | \$1,070,704        | \$1,200,607        | -\$129,903        |
| AUG                       | \$679,586          | \$701,020          | -\$21,434         |
| SEPT                      | \$447,400          | \$630,213          | -\$182,813        |
| OCT                       | \$376,017          | \$416,828          | -\$40,811         |
| NOV                       | \$200,387          | \$210,757          | -\$10,370         |
| DEC                       | \$22,345           | \$77,354           | -\$55,009         |
| JAN                       | \$152,287          | \$146,744          | \$5,543           |
| FEB                       | \$286,795          | \$238,367          | \$48,428          |
| MARCH                     | \$542,160          | \$546,818          | -\$4,659          |
| APRIL                     | \$863,706          | \$685,106          | \$178,601         |
| MAY                       | \$976,406          | \$976,524          | -\$119            |
| <b>TOTAL THRU<br/>MAY</b> | <b>\$5,617,792</b> | <b>\$5,830,338</b> | <b>-\$212,546</b> |
| JUNE                      | #                  | \$1,165,611        | #                 |

Have a great week everyone.



www.cityoftybee.org

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City Manager

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