

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**  
**(Consideration for Future Agenda)**



① 8:51

The Board of County Commissioners welcomes your comments. Your presentation must be limited to three (3) minutes per item or matter. If appropriate, the matter(s) you present will be placed on a future commission agenda.

It is requested that you complete this form and return it to the receptionist prior to the beginning of the Citizens' Comments portion of the agenda.

Name: RANDY COOPER, Commissioner of West Manatee Fire District  
Address: 1820 76th ST W, Bradenton 34209  
Phone: (Home) 941-465-8535 (Work) \_\_\_\_\_  
*cell*

Brief description of problem or concern:  
Advanced Life Support Fire Engines  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

② 8:55 ✓

### CITIZENS' COMMENTS (Consideration for Future Agenda)

The Board of County Commissioners welcomes your comments. Your presentation must be limited to three (3) minutes per item or matter. If appropriate, the matter(s) you present will be placed on a future commission agenda.

It is requested that you complete this form and return it to the receptionist prior to the beginning of the Citizens' Comments portion of the agenda.

Name: Brian Reilly  
Address: 200 Bridge Street  
Phone: (Home) 941-448-7924 (Work) 941-961-2065

Brief description of problem or concern:  
Boat ramp/cauway businesses.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\* Mr Reilly couldn't stay for Citizen Comments \*



## Marianne Lopata

---

**From:** Brian Reilly <bbparasail@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 1:24 PM  
**To:** Priscilla WhisenantTrace; Charles Smith; Stephen R Jonsson; Robin DiSabatino; Vanessa Baugh; Carol Whitmore; Betsy Benac  
**Subject:** Business conducted from Public Places ie boat ramps

To whom it may concern;

As legitimate Holmes beach and Bradenton Beach watersports business owners, myself and other captains, business owners, and residents believe that something needs to be done about businesses operating illegally from our public boat ramps.

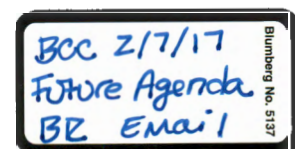
These entities are advertising prime location as a competing business while operating from a public place. With no documentation, business tax license, assigned parking, lease, insurance, captains license, drug consortium, etc. with no enforcement. While legitimate companies are losing out and losing business. We who are truly operating on the island are having to pay a very high premium for all of these things. While also being imposed limits due to limited parking on the island and we all must lease parking spots to satisfy parking needs, to even receive a business license anywhere on the island. Our Island economy is very seasonal, and we therefore very much rely on the business we get

These businesses are not only operating from, but have Kingfish and Coquina boat ramp listed as their operating location on google, yelp, trip advisor, Bing, rack cards, business cards, websites, etc. And intentionally do so to draw business away from companies that have a legitimate operating location on the island. These companies contribute nothing to the community or economy here on the island and only take away. And have even caused businesses to struggle and go under. There are now paddle board/kayak rentals, fishing charters, dolphin tours, boat and jet ski rentals, flyboarding, horseback riding, hotdog/food vendors, and merchandise sales between the causeway and boat ramps. On any given summer weekend, it looks like the carnival is in town on the causeway with everyone operating, and with all the illegitimate charter boats and boat rentals now at the boat ramps, there is very little parking left for recreational boaters. The causeway has even recently been deemed unsafe for swimming, coincidentally in the area of palma sola where the horses are ridden.

We have brought this to the attention of the citizens actions, Alan, who is in charge of boat ramps within the county, Zack with county code enforcement, Holmes Beach chief of police as well as Holmes Beach code enforcement, and commissioners. and the FWC. Any of us business owners, residents, and employees, who can attend commission meeting with the county on Tuesday Feb 7<sup>th</sup> will be there to voice our opinion/ concern. With our busy season fast approaching a swift if even only temporary solution, is crucial.

Sincerely, Brian Reilly

AMI Watersports



Fish AMI

Bradenton Beach Parasail

Holmes Beach Residents

And other Island Business owners

1

**Marianne Lopata**

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**From:** Karen Windon  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2017 1:58 PM  
**To:** Betsy Benac  
**Subject:** FW: Business conducted from Public Places ie boat ramps  
**Attachments:** googlemap.gif; ami\_charters.gif; blue\_discoveries.gif; Concessionaires and Vendors Conducting Business in Public Areas.docx

Commissioner,

This is in response to the concern voiced by Mr. Reilly (below) and the call to action to come to tomorrow's BCC meeting. Wanted you to see the staff input. I will be forwarding another shortly.

Karen

Karen Windon, Deputy County Administrator  
941-745-3799

**From:** Melissa Nell  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2017 9:56 AM  
**To:** Karen Windon; Alan LaiHipp  
**Cc:** Ed Hunzeker; Dan Schlandt  
**Subject:** RE: Business conducted from Public Places ie boat ramps

Good morning Karen,

Please find attached a few notes regarding past challenges of a similar nature at Robinson Preserve and research into this issue. I've also included screenshot examples of businesses claiming these sites. When we had the issues with Robinson, Rob E advised us that, legally, there was very little we could do (there is actually a robinsonpreserve.com run by a private vendor operating at the "Robinson Preserve Aquatic Entrance," something we have never coined, and yet they marked on Google map...so, yes. We've had these sorts of frustrations before). However \*Google\* does not take this sort of thing lightly, and there's a way to handle it through them. I've outlined this in the attached brief notes. If you need any further explanation or clarification just let me know. I'm happy to help!

PS – please forgive me not getting this to you on Friday. I was off that day for birthday fun!

Thanks,

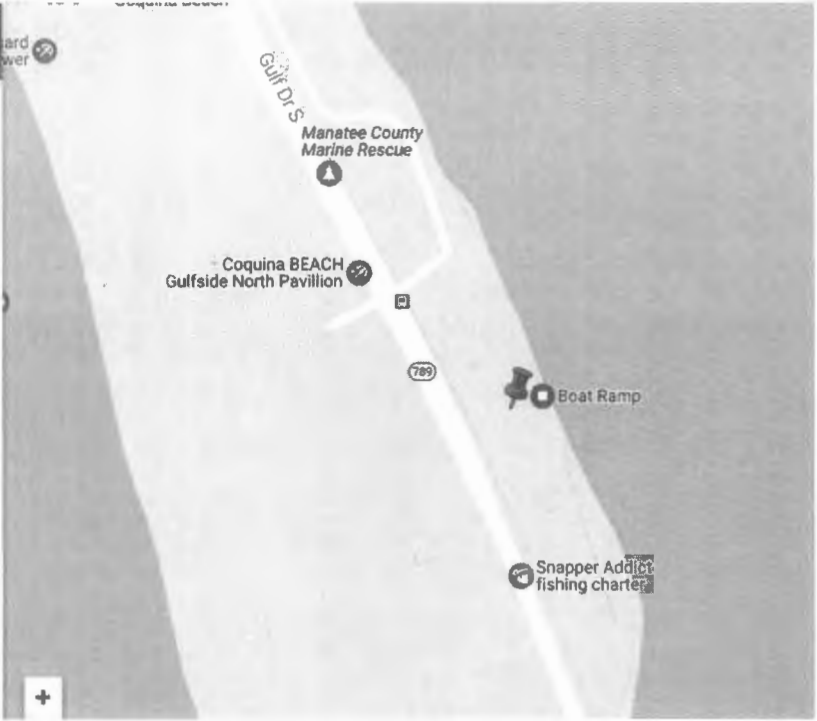
*Melissa Nell, M.S.*  
Division Manager, Programming/Education/Volunteer Division  
Parks and Natural Resources Department  
Manatee County Government  
5502 33rd Avenue Drive West  
Bradenton, FL 34209  
Phone: 941-748-4501 ext. 6042; Fax: 941-742-5972

9,270 views

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☑ **Untitled layer**

📌 Coquina Bayside South Boat Ramp





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### ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFO

http://annamariacharters.net/

### MORE INFO



**Blue Discoveries Family/ Fishing Charters**

Like Page

added 2 new photos

January 6 at 10 16pm

Hey everyone! Come join us on an awesome family charter for you and your kids ! Or a fun but nice tour of the area, make some sea friends on the way! This is where we are located. On the south end of Coquina Beach, right before the Longboat Key bridge is the south coquina boat ramp where we can pick you up at! Only 15 per person per hour, kids under 3 are free!





## Concessionaires and Vendors Conducting Business in Public Areas

- Regarding Facebook pages: In researching this one, it does not appear that a business specifically set up a page for Kingfish or Coquina. Rather, it looks like people have checked in here and whenever that happens Facebook will auto-create a page. This has happened at other locations, and we know how to “capture” the page, so I can have Aedan do that this week. Coquina does not appear to have a Facebook page yet.
  - Kingfish Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Kingfish-Boat-Ramp/144070938958561>
- Regarding businesses listing these locations as their sites: Unfortunately, yes, it does look like places are doing this. Please see the screen caps below.
  - Anna Maria Island Charters lists their location as Kingfish Boat Ramp on Facebook, but does not do so on their email <https://www.facebook.com/annamariacharters.net/about/>
  - Blue Discoveries lists Coquina South as their location, although the map appears wrong. But they have made posts directing folks to go to Coquina Boat Ramp south for pick ups etc. <https://www.facebook.com/bluediscoverycharters/about/>
- Regarding Businesses claiming on Google: No businesses have claimed Kingfish *on Google* from what I can find. If they do, we can contact Google and also the business to remind them that they cannot operate there without concessionaire’s agreement. We had to do this with the Robinson Preserve issue. In that case, the vendor (Surfer Bus) has found a loophole – namely he is operating on DOT right of way and as per Rob E we cannot do much about it. However, the vendor was falsely claiming Robinson Preserve as his place of business, so we were able to contact Google and have that removed.
  - For Coquina, it appears “Snapper Addict Fishing Charters” claimed it as their business, however their website and Facebook both have a different location: [https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1uOrPRW\\_bhlm1Duhx9DEUOfIpCiw&hl=en\\_US&ll=27.447912000000013%2C-82.688988&z=17](https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1uOrPRW_bhlm1Duhx9DEUOfIpCiw&hl=en_US&ll=27.447912000000013%2C-82.688988&z=17)
- Regarding Yelp claims: I looked but could not find much here. This would probably be a case of us needing some evidence. I believe if it does turn out that people are doing this we can contact Yelp and request for them to be removed.

I suspect there are many more operating, because we have similar issues at Robinson and other preserves. However, a quick Google search didn’t yield too many results (which is good). When we encountered Surfer Bus operating on the causeway, identifying themselves as the County (via [robinsonpreserve.com](http://robinsonpreserve.com)), conducting after hours tours without permission at Robinson, and identifying themselves as Robinson on Google Rob E basically advised us that there was little we could do. I believe part of that was because they were on DOT right of way. But in the case of the website, for instance, he advised us that basically fell under the “freedom of speech” act and they technically were not misrepresenting us – it was more of a fan page so to speak. Rob also noted that unless we have code enforcement officers on site, there’s little we can do about asking them to leave. Another suggestion he made was to have these vendors sign contracts with the County. We considered having a program created where people could be sort of blessed by the County – official vendors would go through a

training program, pay a yearly or monthly fee to have the privilege to use the site, receive a certificate/branding to be called "endorsed" by the County or "an official vendor of Manatee County". However we did not pursue it as multiple vendors complained that it was unfair to do this.



**Marianne Lopata**

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**From:** Karen Windon  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2017 1:58 PM  
**To:** Betsy Benac  
**Subject:** FW: Business conducted from Public Places ie boat ramps

Commissioner,

Second of two.

Karen

Karen Windon, Deputy County Administrator  
941-745-3799

**From:** Alan LaiHipp  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2017 11:33 AM  
**To:** Karen Windon  
**Cc:** Ed Hunzeker; Dan Schlandt  
**Subject:** RE: Business conducted from Public Places ie boat ramps

Good morning Karen,

We have noticed an increasing number of water access dependent businesses beginning to utilize County properties to provide these services. Charter fishing has always been a primary "commercial" type use (although even that has greatly increased over the last 10 years). Kayak, jet-ski and boat rentals taking place at County owned boat ramps are also on the increase.

One individual uses their truck and trailer as a sort of a billboard to advertise kayak rentals at our Kingfish boat ramp by parking at the ramp along State Road 64. The MSO marine unit advised me that once they encountered an exhausted paddler near the northern tip of Anna Maria Island who had rented a kayak from this individual and was having trouble making it back to Kingfish due to the weather conditions. MSO loaded the paddler and kayak into their patrol vessel and returned them to the ramp. It is a concern that such an operation may be putting someone who is totally unfamiliar with the marine environment out onto the water.

Chapter 2-24 of the Code of Ordinances does state prohibitions against offering goods or services for sale but I believe further examination is necessary to clarify the extent of these prohibitions and whether these types of activities pose liability risks beyond what is currently covered by 2-24.

We have examined the idea of a permitting/vetting system for these types of commercial uses but determined that the necessary administrative/enforcement commitment would require additional staff.

Even if such a system existed, and every service or goods provider were permitted and vetted – there still exists the question of capacity; which is very limited at our ramps. One concern would be that an increasing number of "permitted" commercial users would begin to overwhelm the limited space at our boat ramps and displace the very users that the facilities were constructed for in the first place- private recreational boaters.

If you have any questions or need any further information please let me know.

Thanks

*Alan Lai Hipp*  
Environmental Program Manager, Marine Resources  
Manatee County Parks and Natural Resources Department  
5502 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Dr. W.  
Bradenton, FL 34209  
Office: (941) 748-4501 x 6008  
Cell: (941) 737-0251

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**From:** Melissa Nell  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2017 9:56 AM  
**To:** Karen Windon; Alan LaiHipp  
**Cc:** Ed Hunzeker; Dan Schlandt  
**Subject:** RE: Business conducted from Public Places ie boat ramps

Good morning Karen,

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PS – please forgive me not getting this to you on Friday. I was off that day for birthday fun!

Thanks,

*Melissa Nell, M.S.*

Division Manager, Programming/Education/Volunteer Division  
Parks and Natural Resources Department  
Manatee County Government  
5502 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Drive West  
Bradenton, FL 34209  
Phone: 941-748-4501 ext. 6042; Fax: 941-742-5972



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**From:** Karen Windon  
**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 6:22 AM  
**To:** Alan LaiHipp; Melissa Nell  
**Cc:** Ed Hunzeker; Dan Schlandt  
**Subject:** Fwd: Business conducted from Public Places ie boat ramps

FYI. Insight? If we could get some information on this before Tuesday's meeting that would be helpful. I know Charlie was copied but hopefully he will enjoy his vacation and not read emails!

Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone - please excuse the brevity and any errors!

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Ed Hunzeker <[ed.hunzeker@mymanatee.org](mailto:ed.hunzeker@mymanatee.org)>  
**Date:** February 2, 2017 at 9:22:34 PM EST  
**To:** Karen Windon<[karen.windon@mymanatee.org](mailto:karen.windon@mymanatee.org)>, Dan Schlandt <[dan.schlandt@mymanatee.org](mailto:dan.schlandt@mymanatee.org)>  
**Subject:** FW: Business conducted from Public Places ie boat ramps

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**From:** Betsy Benac  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 9:22:33 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** Ed Hunzeker; Charlie Hunsicker  
**Cc:** Sheri Smith  
**Subject:** Fwd: Business conducted from Public Places ie boat ramps

FYI, perhaps CAC although appears already an issue, thanks.

Betsy Benac  
Manatee County Commissioner , District 7  
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Brian Reilly <[bbparasail@gmail.com](mailto:bbparasail@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** February 2, 2017 at 1:23:47 PM EST  
**To:** [priscilla.trace@mymanatee.org](mailto:priscilla.trace@mymanatee.org),  
[charles.smith@mymanatee.org](mailto:charles.smith@mymanatee.org), [steve.jonsson@mymanatee.org](mailto:steve.jonsson@mymanatee.org),  
[robin.disabatino@mymanatee.org](mailto:robin.disabatino@mymanatee.org), [vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org),  
[carol.whitmore@mymanatee.org](mailto:carol.whitmore@mymanatee.org), [betsy.benac@mymanatee.org](mailto:betsy.benac@mymanatee.org)  
**Subject:** Business conducted from Public Places ie boat ramps

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