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East Haven Increases Beach Parking Fines to \$100 Dollars Ahead of 2015 Beach Season

Mayor Joseph Maturo, Jr. announced today that the Town Council recently approved an ordinance which imposes a fine of \$100 dollars for those who violate parking regulations at the beach and across Town, which the Mayor expects will significantly cut down on parking woes at the beach during the summer months.

Maturo explained, "In response to concerns raised by residents, I directed our Police Commission to review and amend the regulations regarding beach parking. In addition to strategically relocating no-parking signs, the Commission and Town Council have now increased the fine for parking in designated no-parking zones from \$10 dollars to \$100 dollars."

The revision enacted at the Town Council Meeting on February 3rd constitutes the first revision to the original fine structure since 1985, when the ordinance was first enacted.

Maturo noted, "Last beach season, our police officers wrote so many parking tickets that they actually ran out of ticket books. This year, we're hoping that by relocating signs and increasing parking fines, we'll deter people from violating the parking regulations in the first place."

In the Fall of 2014, a "Joint-Subcommittee on Parking" composed of Police Commission Chairman Bill Illingworth, Commissioner Eduardo Torrealba, Town Councilman Joseph Santino, and resident Richard Poulton made site visits to the beach area and developed a plan to relocate no-parking signs to the south-side of Cosey Beach Avenue to prohibit parking in front of homes and driveways. After meeting on several occasions, the plan of the joint subcommittee was approved by the Board of Police Commissioners.

Maturo continued, "Phase one of addressing parking congestion was to strategically relocate and replace no-parking signs. With that task complete, I directed our Police Commission to address the issue of the Town's outdated parking fine structure. The thought was that increasing penalties for violating the parking regulations would deter individuals from parking where they are not supposed to."

Accordingly, the new parking ordinance was developed over the winter by a subcommittee of the Police Commission consisting of Chairman Bill Illingworth and Commissioner Eduardo Torrealba, who were assisted by the Chief of Police, Deputy Chief, and Town legal counsel. The ordinance was reviewed at the December 30th meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners and a unanimous vote paved the way for presentment to the Town Council in February.

Maturo continued, "While the ordinance was updated primarily to combat a specific problem we've experienced at the beach, the revisions actually apply town-wide. The ordinance now specifies five classes of offenses pertaining to 'stopping, standing, and parking' ranging in severity from improperly parking in a handicapped zone to exceeding posted time limits for parking. In amending the fines related to beach parking, we seized the opportunity to update Town-wide regulations as well."

Maturo concluded, "We listened to the residents at the shore and have taken concrete steps to curb the parking woes at the beach during the summer months. In addition to vigorously enforcing our new parking ordinance, we'll be closely scrutinizing the use of Town-issued parking passes to ensure they're issued and used properly and fairly."

For more information, contact Frank Gentilesco at 203-468-3204.