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For Immediate Release

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**North Myrtle Beach bans the use of shading devices
other than umbrellas along its nine miles of ocean beach
from May 15 to September 15 annually**

North Myrtle Beach, SC – The city of North Myrtle Beach, SC, a popular summer vacation destination for millions, has banned the use of shading devices other than umbrellas from May 15 to September 15 annually along its nine miles of beach. Tents, tarps, cabanas, pavilions, sport-brellas or devices similar to sport-brellas or any material mounted on supports are banned from the beach during the May 15-September 15 time frame.

The creation of the new law was driven by public safety concerns. Over the past several years, the proliferation of tents on the beach grew to the point where it became increasingly difficult for public safety officials to respond in a timely manner to medical and other emergencies.

“Tents certainly are popular among some beach-goers,” said North Myrtle Beach Public Information Officer Patrick Dowling. “However, when their collective presence on the beach significantly undermines the ability of public safety personnel to respond quickly to medical and other emergencies, then public safety concerns have to outweigh convenience.”

The new law describes an acceptable beach umbrella as having “...a center pole no greater than 7 feet 6 inches in height, and with a circular shade no greater than 9 feet in diameter.” The law also describes an umbrella as being “...a collapsible circular shade consisting of a natural or synthetic fabric shade stretched over hinged ribs radiating from a central pole without grounding lines or ropes.”

For additional information, please contact Public Information Officer Patrick Dowling at pcdowling@nmb.us or call (843) 280-5612.

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