



For Immediate Release

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**Landowners Begin to Intervene in Walton County's
Suit Seeking Affirmation of Customary Use**

102 Individual Landowners, 23 Condominium & Homeowners' Associations Have Filed Interventions

Walton County, Fla. – Florida Coastal Property Rights (FlaCPR), a coalition created by and consisting of Walton County beachfront property owners, today announced that 102 individual landowners, as well as 23 condominium and homeowners' associations that represent hundreds of property owners, have filed interventions in the suit filed by Walton County requesting a declaration to affirm the existence of recreational customary use on all private beachfront property in the county.

"It is no surprise that so many private beachfront property owners have chosen to intervene in the county's suit requesting a declaration to affirm customary use," said Tammy Alford, president of FlaCPR. "On behalf of landowners, FlaCPR is dedicated to preserving private property rights and ensuring due process is maintained throughout any legal proceeding. As a coalition, we'll continually update landowners on actions taken by the county that could impact property rights and offer educational resources so that landowners understand how they can defend their property."

If Walton County is successful in affirming customary use on all private beachfront property in the county, the action will remove private property owners' legal rights to decide who can use their property and provides Walton County the right to decide who can use the dry sand portion of all privately owned beachfront property.

"Today, I filed interventions on behalf of 58 clients, as they understand the importance of the judicial process that is now moving forward in Walton County," said Attorney Kent Safriet. "It's vital that each landowner understand and defend their private property rights, as the county is seeking to establish customary use on individual parcels that could result in a ruling that the public has the right to use one property, but not the one next to it."

Walton County filed its case on December 11, 2018. On January 11, 2019, Walton County mailed registered notices, return receipt requested to owners of 1,194 beachfront parcels in Walton County. According to Walton County's publicly available mailing list, the total letters mailed were expected to number more than 4,600. By Florida statute, owners have 45 days from receipt of notice to intervene.

“We are pleased to see Walton County following the process outlined under the Florida statutes that Florida legislators felt was important to protect the rights of all – the public and property owners alike,” said Alford. “We fully expect the number of interventions currently filed to increase substantially as we approach the end of the notice period. We encourage every beachfront property owner to actively decide whether they wish to intervene within the notice period.”

The court docket in the case, *Affirming Existence of Recreational Customary Use on 1,194 Private Properties Located in Walton County, Florida*, can be accessed at

<https://www.civitekflorida.com/ocrs/county/66/disclaimer.xhtml>.

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Florida Coastal Property Rights (FlaCPR) is an independent not-for-profit corporation, operated by a coalition of Walton County beachfront property owners, who are committed to preserving their property rights. FlaCPR is dedicated to providing beachfront property owners with accurate and timely information about actions impacting their property rights and the actions they can take to protect those rights. To learn more about FlaCPR, visit flacpr.com.