



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Majority of Beachfront Parcel Owners in Walton County Take Action to Affirm Property Rights**

*More Than 600 Beachfront Property Owners Have Intervened;  
A Total of 4,500 Owners Involved in Challenging Walton County*

**Tallahassee, Fla.** – Florida Coastal Property Rights (FlaCPR), a coalition created by and consisting of Walton County beachfront property owners, today released updated numbers on filed interventions by beachfront property owners in Walton County’s case to affirm the existence of recreational customary use on all private property. **The current total is now over 600 total interventions from individuals, associations and condominiums, representing more than half (52%) of private beachfront parcel owners in the county.**

“The increase in total interventions is telling – a majority of private beachfront parcel owners in the county have now intervened,” said FlaCPR President Tammy Alford. “It’s clear that private beachfront property owners in Walton County wish to actively preserve their property rights. Fortunately, we have a fair and balanced process to follow in order to do so, and I hope that people on both sides of the issue will allow the process to work through the court.”

Based on Walton County’s publicly available records, the number of owners impacted by the county’s lawsuit now exceeds 4,500 owners. Owners include those who have intervened directly or through condos and associations.

In addition, the following facts are paramount to keep in mind while the court case regarding customary use moves forward:

- More than 50 percent of all the beaches in Walton County are actually owned by various public entities and are open to the public.
- False claims have been made that public beach was taken through quiet title actions, when in fact those portions were never public, have been private property all along, and there was simply a need to clarify ownership. These facts are recorded in Walton County’s court records.
- No recent Florida statute has closed the beaches, despite claims to the contrary.
- Many beachfront property owners have allowed, and continue to allow, the use of their private property by respectful visitors. This continues today, despite the lawsuit.

“In spite of narratives to the contrary tourism can co-exist with mutual respect for property rights. In fact, it has for many years,” said Landowner John Boushy. “It’s important to set the record straight that locals and visitors alike currently have a majority of beach throughout Walton County that they can visit close by, either because it is public or because many beachfront property owners continue to allow the respectful use of their beachfront property. I call on everyone, on both sides of the customary use debate, to deal in facts, rather than misinformation.”

(MORE)

The court has granted the county until April 19, 2019, to provide notice to any beachfront property owner that has not yet received notice or has not intervened. Recently, the county sent more than 1,200 notices, including notices to the owners of approximately 260 parcel owners who were not previously effectively noticed.

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.

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>. (Year 2018, Court Type CA, Sequence# 547).

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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. FlaCPR is neither affiliated with nor endorsed by any law firm. To learn more about FlaCPR, visit [flacpr.com](http://flacpr.com).