
From: Simmons, Cyndi M
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 3:15 PM
To: BoardRecords,
Subject: 10/22/19 BCC agenda item #41 opposed to ordinance changes
Attachments: Online Customer Service Contact Us Form Result #16549567; Petition to NOT ban Horses on the Skyway Bridge Causeway; Proposed Horse Ban in the Bay; Keep the Ponies in St. Pete Bay!

Cyndi Simmons, Executive Aide
Office of Karen Williams Seel, Chair
Pinellas County Commission
315 Court Street, 5th floor
Clearwater, FL 33756
727-464-3278
www.pinellascounty.org

All government correspondence is subject to the public records law.



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From: form_engine@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of campabca at yahoo.com
<form_engine@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 1:35 PM
To: Seel, Karen
Subject: Online Customer Service Contact Us Form Result #16549567

This information is a result of a Pinellas County Online Customer Service form submission from the Pinellas County web site.

Direction of inquiry General Information
Report a Problem
Commissioner Janet C. Long - District 1
Commissioner Pat Gerard - District 2 (2019 Vice Chair)
Commissioner Charlie Justice - District 3
Commissioner Dave Eggers - District 4
Commissioner Karen Williams Seel - District 5 (2019 Chair)
Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
Commissioner Kenneth T. Welch - District 7
County Administrator
Webmaster

Subject Horses

Message **Save the horseback riding in the bay!** The American Horse Council conducted a study on horseback riding and the equine industry. The study showed there is a \$6.8 billion annual economic impact in Florida and is up 33% since the last study over a decade ago. We are part of that growth.

About the seagrass, thankfully there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our seagrass.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach and license responsible, experienced Horseman Guides.

Your Name Carrie Auer
Your Street Address Dartmouth ave
City/Unincorporated County St pete
ZIP Code 33710
Your Email Address campabca@yahoo.com

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From: Germaine Pacini <gpacini0414@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 1:06 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Petition to NOT ban Horses on the Skyway Bridge Causeway

Dear Commissioners
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay.

Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of sea grass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves.

Are you aware in Miami Kite surfers are not allowed in any seagrass and must travel through channels to get 200 yards out from shore to surf? This is because their boards large fins cause scars in the sea grass, yet you allow so many to cause severe damage at the same location where the horses ride. This is absolutely not fair!

I and many others love the Cponies and enjoying having activities like this that aren't "powered" by gas, fuel and pounds of garbage like most of the activities offered here in our area - you can't tell me that ANY of those are LESS damaging?

This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete / Clearwater has to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there many beaches to choose from in our state. People come to St. Pete / Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities and venues. There is so much to enjoy here, like horseback riding in the Bay. In fact, Cponies is the number one attraction in this area according to travel sites. Read their reviews on Trip Advisor. For many people riding in the Bay is a once in a lifetime experience. Horses have profoundly therapeutic, calming effects as well as being fun.

I have personally experienced the horse ride with Cponies and the horses are well taken care of. I have witnessed first hand the hired employees for Cponies clean up (scoop up the poop floating in the water) after the horses, once they leave the shoreline and when they return from the excursion. Whatever horse poop drifts back to shore is also cleaned up.

About the sea grass, thankfully there is more sea grass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our sea grass.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach and license responsible, experienced Horseman Guides. Don't take the rights of us away!

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From: Tara Rutland <cowgirl.kaleight@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 11:44 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Proposed Horse Ban in the Bay

Dear Commisioners
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay. This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater has to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there many beaches to choose from in our state. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities and venues. There is so much to enjoy here, like horseback riding in the Bay. In fact, Cponies is the number one attraction in this area according to travel sites. Read our reviews. For many people riding in the Bay is a once in a lifetime experience. Horses have profoundly therapeutc, calming effects as well as being fun.

The American Horse Council conducted a study on horseback riding and the equine industry. The study showed there is a \$6.8 billion annual economic impact in Florida and is up 33% since the last study over a decade ago. We are part of that growth.

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Sincerely.

RECEIVED
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From: Lori G <lorig55@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 11:35 AM
To: Long, Janet C
Cc: Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Keep the Cponies in St. Pete Bay!

Dear Commisioners
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay.

Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of seagrass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves.

Are you aware in Miami Kite surfers are not allowed in any seagrass and must travel through channels to get 200 yards out from shore to surf? This is because their boards large fins cause scars in the seagrass, yet you allow so many to cause severe damage at the same location where the horses ride. This is absolutely not fair!

I and many others love the Cponies and enjoying having activities like this that aren't "powered" by gas, fuel and pounds of garbage like most of the activities offered here in our area - you can't tell me that ANY of those are LESS damaging?

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About the seagrass, thankfully there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our seagrass.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach and license responsible, experienced Horseman Guides. Don't take the rights of us away!

I have thoroughly enjoyed my rides on the Cponies and traveled to St. Pete just for this experience!

Thank you,
Lori Giuggio

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From: Simmons, Cyndi M
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 10:09 AM
To: BoardRecords,
Subject: 10/22/19 #41 against amending the ordinance
Attachments: Re: Cponies; Fair justice; Horseback riding in the bay; Keep the ponies pease ; Don't ban the horses!!; Horses in the Bay and SeaGrass ; Cponies ; Fwd: Cponies need your help; [BULK] C ponies save the horse back riding near Pinellas skyway; C Ponies; C Ponies in the Gulf; CPonies; Do not ban horses from the Bay; horse ban; [BULK] ; CPonies; Do Not ban horses from the beach

Cyndi Simmons, Executive Aide
Office of Karen Williams Seel, Chair
Pinellas County Commission
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From: Bette J. Brown <bbrown@centerstatebank.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 9:42 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Re: Cponies

Dear Commissioners Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the bay. Horses in the bay are wonderful and cause very few problems for the bay. I and many others especially love the Cponies and enjoying having activities like this. These are rescue horses and this activity not only supports these rescues, it is fun and therapeutic.

Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of seagrass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves.

Are you aware in Miami Kite surfers are not allowed in any seagrass and must travel through channels to get 200 yards out from shore to surf? This is because their boards large fins cause scars in the seagrass, yet you allow so many to cause severe damage at the same location where the horses ride. This is absolutely not fair!

This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater has to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there many beaches to choose from in our state. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities and venues. There is so much to enjoy here, like horseback riding in the bay. I have actually ridden with Cponies three times. Cponies is the number one attraction in this area according to travel sites. I would advise you to read their reviews on Trip Advisor. For many people riding in the Bay is a once in a lifetime experience. Horses have profoundly therapeutic, calming effects as well as being fun.

About the seagrass, thankfully there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our bay. Boat props - not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our seagrass.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach and license responsible, experienced horseman guides. Don't take our lovely horses away!



BETTE J. BROWN

AREA EXECUTIVE – DADE/MONROE

28801 S.W. 157th Ave.
Homestead, Fl. 33033
OFFICE 305-245-2211
MOBILE 305-394-5852
FAX 305-245-2997
NMLS # 812462
CenterStateBank.com

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From: LaKisha Erwin <sslakishaharvey@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 6:40 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Keep the ponies please

Dear Commisioners
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay.

I have had some great experiences with the ponies and as a mental health provider there are so many benefits.

Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of seagrass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves.

Are you aware in Miami Kite surfers are not allowed in any seagrass and must travel through channels to get 200 yards out from shore to surf? This is because their boards large fins cause scars in the seagrass, yet you allow so many to cause severe damage at the same location where the horses ride. This is absolutely not fair!

I and many others love the Cponies and enjoying having activities like this that aren't "powered" by gas, fuel and pounds of garbage like most of the activities offered here in our area - you can't tell me that ANY of those are LESS damaging?

This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater has to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there many beaches to choose from in our state. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities and venues. There is so much to enjoy here, like horseback riding in the Bay. In fact, Cponies is the number one attraction in this area according to travel sites. Read their reviews on Trip Advisor. For many people riding in the Bay is a once in a lifetime experience. Horses have profoundly theraputic, calming effects as well as being fun.

About the seagrass, thankfully there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our seagrass.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach and license responsible, experienced Horseman Guides. Don't take the rights of us away!

LaKisha Erwin
772-633-5350

Sent from Kisha's iPhone

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PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Kassandra Harrison <harrisonkassandra@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 9:24 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Cponies

Dear Commissioners
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay. Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of sea grass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves. You also have several Dog beaches in the same preserve. Dog feces has many more dangerous bacteria than horse manure. I don't want to see those getting banned either.

Are you aware in Miami Kite surfers are not allowed in any sea grass and must travel through channels to get 200 yards out from shore to surf? This is because their boards large fins cause scars in the sea grass, yet you allow so many to cause severe damage at the same location where the horses ride. This is absolutely not fair!

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About the sea grass, thankfully there is more sea grass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our sea grass.

The maps that you are showing where the horses ride clearly show many boat scars. The scars you are showing isn't even the path most of the horses take. I think you need to compare your maps with other areas where horses aren't riding and you will see the same types of scars.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach, if you are concerned about the areas with heavier sea grass areas, why not just make the causeway the only area that can have horses. Signage in the sea grass would help keep everyone out of that restricted area.

Please do not focus just on the equestrian community, focus on the bigger culprits. Don't take our rights of us away!

JanetCLong@pinellascounty.org, pgerard@pinellascounty.org, cjustice@pinellascounty.org, deggers@pinellascounty.org, kseel@pinellascounty.org, kseel@pinellascounty.org, kpeters@pinellascounty.org, Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov, Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov, kwelch@pinellascounty.org,

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PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: York Baker <yorkbaker@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 6:58 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: C Ponies

Dear Commissioners
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay. Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of sea grass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves. You also have several Dog beaches in the same preserve. Dog feces has many more dangerous bacteria than horse manure. I don't want to see those getting banned either.

Are you aware in Miami Kite surfers are not allowed in any sea grass and must travel through channels to get 200 yards out from shore to surf? This is because their boards large fins cause scars in the sea grass, yet you allow so many to cause severe damage at the same location where the horses ride. This is absolutely not fair!

I and many others love the Cponies and enjoying having activities like this that aren't "powered" by gas, fuel and pounds of garbage like most of the activities offered here in our area - you can't tell me that ANY of those are LESS damaging?

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The maps that you are showing where the horses ride clearly show many boat scars. The scars you are showing isn't even the path most of the horses take. I think you need to compare your maps with other areas where horses aren't riding and you will see the same types of scars.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach, if you are concerned about the areas with heavier sea grass areas, why not just make the causeway the only area that can have horses. Signage in the sea grass would help keep everyone out of that restricted area.

Please do not focus just on the equestrian community, focus on the bigger culprits. Don't take our rights of us away!

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From: burt allen <burtallen12@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 7:41 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Fair justice

Dear Commissioners

Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay.

Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of sea grass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves. You also have several Dog beaches in the same preserve. Dog feces has many more dangerous bacteria than horse manure. I don't want to see those getting banned either.

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RECEIVED
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PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Joyce Coufal <jcoufal46@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 11:06 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Don't ban the horses!!

Dear Commisioners

Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters, I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay. . This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater has to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there's many beaches to choose from in our state. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities and venues. There is so much to enjoy here, like horseback riding in the Bay. In fact, Cponies is the number one attraction in this area according to travel sites. Read our reviews. For many people riding in the Bay is a once in a lifetime experience. Horses have profoundly theraputic, calming effects as well as being fun.

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Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach and license responsible, experienced Horseman Guides.

2. Copy and paste these addresses in your To header. This will send your email to all commissioners.

Sent from my iPhone

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From: Catherine Sherman <casherman65@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 9:15 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Fwd: Cponies need your help

Dear Commisioners
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay.

Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of seagrass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves.

Are you aware in Miami Kite surfers are not allowed in any seagrass and must travel through channels to get 200 yards out from shore to surf? This is because their boards large fins cause scars in the seagrass, yet you allow so many to cause severe damage at the same location where the horses ride. This is absolutely not fair!

I and many others love the Cponies and enjoying having activities like this that aren't "powered" by gas, fuel and pounds of garbage like most of the activities offered here in our area - you can't tell me that ANY of those are LESS damaging?

This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater has to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there many beaches to choose from in our state. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities and venues. There is so much to enjoy here, like horseback riding in the Bay. In fact, Cponies is the number one attraction in this area according to travel sites. Read their reviews on Trip Advisor. For many people riding in the Bay is a once in a lifetime experience. Horses have profoundly theraputic, calming effects as well as being fun.

About the seagrass, thankfully there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our seagrass.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach and license responsible, experienced Horseman Guides. Don't take the rights of us away!

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 16 AM 11:32
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Gloria Rothenbueler <grothenbueler@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 6:14 PM
To: Long, Janet C; pgerard@pinellas.county.org; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen
Subject: C Ponies in the Gulf

My family and I enjoyed riding the CPonies under the Sunshine Bridge earlier in 2019. It was a tremendous experience and a very different way to enjoy the beauty of Florida that we came to celebrate during our vacation time.

The CPonies staff were careful and conscientious. They picked up horse droppings that floated to shore and kept horses out of the water as long as possible prior to and after the ride. They do a good job of telling customers of the ecology of the area.

We appreciated having this once in a lifetime opportunity to enjoy this activity.

Gloria Rothenbueler
grothenbueler@gmail.com

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 16 AM 11:32
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Trisha Tillery <dahlongacrittersitter@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 7:23 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Horseback riding in the bay

Hello,

I received notification that Pinella County is considering banning horses in the bay.

I typically do not get involved in petitions. However, I vacationed in Tampa this past summer for the very reason to ride the horses. As mentioned, previously, this is considered one of the top attractions for the area.

Instead of banning all together, put guidelines into place to monitor. As we were riding the owners had horse duty people to pick up any poo the horses were leaving.

Please do not take this away. It was a wonderful natural experience for my daughter and me. We looked forward to bringing my son in the future.

Trisha Tillery
706.809.7663

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 16 AM 11:32
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: R Sheive <rsheive24@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 10:59 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Cc: Carmen Hanson
Subject: Horses in the Bay and SeaGrass

Dear Commisioners
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay due to the possibility of damaging SeaGrass...

I believe the EPA claims daily horse back riding in the bay is damaging Sea Grass.. I can personally contest that this claim is false. The " Sea Grass" is doing great!

This whole situation reminds me of the wild horses the that roam free on the beaches of NC Carolina which is now a HUGE tourist attraction. Hundreds of horses in NC bays are not effecting the sea grass there and the few horses here will not as well.

As leaders of our community, I charge you with this:

- I would like see evidence of sea grass growth actually being a concern.
- A study from a credible university of the true causes of damaging seagrass (boats, water sports, cruise ships, pollution)
- Go horse back riding with "C'Ponies" and see what it is you're proposing to shut down and explain your thoughts
- realize the rare and unique opportunity that we have, not many cities has an organization that offers this experience.... sets St. Pete apart
- realize deployed members of Macdill AFB find serenity in activities such as horse back riding with C'Ponies as do many others and their families

I know you are all very busy, and I appreciate your time. I request a response before the Oct 22nd meeting over this matter.

Thank you

V/R
Ryan Sheive

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 16 AM 11:33
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Beth Hudson <bethgators@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 7:30 PM
To: Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Long, Janet C; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Peters, Kathleen; Seel, Karen; Welch, Kenneth; Gerard, Pat
Subject: [BULK] C ponies save the horse back riding near Pinellas skyway
Importance: Low

Dear Commisioners
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay. . This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater has to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there many beaches to choose fromin our state. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities and venues. There is so much to enjoy here, like horseback riding in the Bay. In fact, Cponies is the number one attraction in this area according to travel sites. Read our reviews. For many people riding in the Bay is a once in a lifetime experience. Horses have profoundly therapeutc, calming effects as well as being fun.

The American Horse Council conducted a study on horseback riding and the equine industry. The study showed there is a \$6.8 billion annual economic impact in Florida and is up 33% since the last study over a decade ago. We are part of that growth.

About the seagrass, thankfully there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our seagrass.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach and license responsible, experienced Horseman Guides.

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 16 AM 11:33
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: LARRY KINDER <n81lk@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 6:04 PM
To: Seel, Karen
Subject: CPonies

Dear Commissioner,

I urge you not to ban horseback riding in the Bay. Horses cause very little problems in the bay. The runoffs, trash, and constant sewer dumping from the city cause more damage. This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater have to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there are beaches surrounding the state. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities there are to do, like horseback riding in the Bay.

Furthermore, The American Horse Council conducted a study on horseback riding and the equine industry. The study showed there is a \$6.8 billion annual economic impact in Florida and is up 33% since the last study over a decade ago. Not to mention St. Petersburg dumps million of gallons of sewage into the Bay regularly. Regarding seagrass, there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have noticeable damaging effect on our Bay. It is proven that the scars from boat props cause 85% of damage to seagrass, not horses.

Finally, I find it appalling that our regional planning agency is laser focused on banning a few horses from Tampa Bay. Sure there must be more pressing issues our regional planning agency should be focused on; something that actually matters. This makes our regional planning committee look like a joke. This is not how I want my tax dollars spent and I urge you to not ban horseback riding in the Bay. Debbie Pinz-Kinder Sent from my iPhone

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 16 AM 11:33
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: peigi.jeanblanc@erws.net
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 5:54 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Do not ban horses from the Bay

Dear Commissioners

Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay. Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of sea grass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves. You also have several Dog beaches in the same preserve. Dog feces has many more dangerous bacteria than horse manure. I don't want to see those getting banned either.

Are you aware in Miami Kite surfers are not allowed in any sea grass and must travel through channels to get 200 yards out from shore to surf? This is because their boards large fins cause scars in the sea grass, yet you allow so many to cause severe damage at the same location where the horses ride. This is absolutely not fair!

I and many others love the Cponies and enjoying having activities like this that aren't "powered" by gas, fuel and pounds of garbage like most of the activities offered here in our area - you can't tell me that ANY of those are LESS damaging?

This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater has to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there many beaches to choose from in our state. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities and venues. There is so much to enjoy here, like horseback riding in the Bay. In fact, Cponies is the number one attraction in this area according to travel sites. Read their reviews on TripAdvisor. For many people riding in the Bay is a once in a lifetime experience. Horses have profoundly therapeutic, calming effects as well as being fun.

About the sea grass, thankfully there is more sea grass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our sea grass.

The maps that you are showing where the horses ride clearly show many boat scars. The scars you are showing isn't even the path most of the horses take. I think you need to compare your maps with other areas where horses aren't riding and you will see the same types of scars.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach, if you are concerned about the areas with heavier sea grass areas, why not just make the causeway the only area that can have horses. Signage in the sea grass would help keep everyone out of that restricted area.

Please do not focus just on the equestrian community, focus on the bigger culprits. Don't take our rights of us away!

Sincerely,

Margaret Jeanblanc
6051 Sun Blvd
St Petersburg, Florida 33715

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 16 AM 11:33
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Beth Ahern <bahern81@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 3:45 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: CPonies

Dear Commisioners

Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

CPonies is great PR for your County and proof should be proven that they are causing this issue before they are ban.

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay.

Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of seagrass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves.

Are you aware in Miami Kite surfers are not allowed in any seagrass and must travel through channels to get 200 yards out from shore to surf? This is because their boards large fins cause scars in the seagrass, yet you allow so many to cause severe damage at the same location where the horses ride. This is absolutely not fair!

I and many others love the Cponies and enjoying having activities like this that aren't "powered" by gas, fuel and pounds of garbage like most of the activities offered here in our area - you can't tell me that ANY of those are LESS damaging?

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About the seagrass, thankfully there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our seagrass.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach and license responsible, experienced Horseman Guides. Don't take the rights of us away!

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 16 AM 11:33
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

RECEIVED
BOARD OF

From: merve sireilles <m.sireilles@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 4:53 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: horse ban

2019 OCT 16 AM 11:34
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

Dear Commissioners

Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay. Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of sea grass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves. You also have several Dog beaches in the same preserve. Dog feces has many more dangerous bacteria than horse manure. I don't want to see those getting banned either.

Are you aware in Miami Kite surfers are not allowed in any sea grass and must travel through channels to get 200 yards out from shore to surf? This is because their boards large fins cause scars in the sea grass, yet you allow so many to cause severe damage at the same location where the horses ride. This is absolutely not fair!

I and many others love the Cponies and enjoying having activities like this that aren't "powered" by gas, fuel and pounds of garbage like most of the activities offered here in our area - you can't tell me that ANY of those are LESS damaging?

This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater has to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there many beaches to choose from in our state. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities and venues. There is so much to enjoy here, like horseback riding in the Bay. In fact, Cponies is the number one attraction in this area according to travel sites. Read their reviews on Trip Advisor. For many people riding in the Bay is a once in a lifetime experience. Horses have profoundly therapeutic, calming effects as well as being fun.

About the sea grass, thankfully there is more sea grass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our sea grass.

The maps that you are showing where the horses ride clearly show many boat scars. The scars you are showing isn't even the path most of the horses take. I think you need to compare your maps with other areas where horses aren't riding and you will see the same types of scars.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach, if you are concerned about the areas with heavier sea grass areas, why not just make the causeway the only area that can have horses. Signage in the sea grass would help keep everyone out of that restricted area.

Please do not focus just on the equestrian community, focus on the bigger culprits. Don't take our rights of us away!

--

Mervé Sireilles

From: ROBERT ROGERS <maddenrogers@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 3:31 PM
To: anetCLong@pinellascounty.org; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Do Not ban horses from the beach

Dear Commissioners Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters:

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay. This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater has to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there many beaches to choose from in our state. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities and venues. There is so much to enjoy here, like horseback riding in the Bay. In fact, Cponies is the number one attraction in this area according to travel sites. Read the reviews. For many people riding in the Bay is a once in a lifetime experience. Horses have profoundly therapeutic, calming effects as well as being fun. Many of these horses have been rescued and have found useful new lives supporting these tours.

The American Horse Council conducted a study on horseback riding and the equine industry. The study showed there is a \$6.8 billion annual economic impact in Florida and is up 33% since the last study over a decade ago. We are part of that growth.

About the seagrass, thankfully there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props, not horse hooves, cause 85% of damage to our seagrass.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach and license responsible, experienced Horseman Guides.

I thoroughly enjoyed my first ride and plan to take another. Please do not shut down this very special activity.

Thank you.

Barbara Madden-Rogers

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 16 AM 11:34
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Mallibis Fernandez <mallyfer11@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 4:27 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov
Subject: [BULK]
Importance: Low

Dear Commisioners
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay. . This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater has to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there many beaches to choose fromin our state. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities and venues. There is so much to enjoy here, like horseback riding in the Bay. In fact, Cponies is the number one attraction in this area according to travel sites. Read our reviews. For many people riding in the Bay is a once in a lifetime experience. Horses have profoundly theraputic, calming effects as well as being fun.

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Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach and license responsible, experienced Horseman Guides.

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 16 AM 11:35
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Simmons, Cyndi M
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 9:50 AM
To: BoardRecords,
Subject: 10/22/19 #41 opposed to amending the ordinance
Attachments: This is not copied off of an email. My original words.; Request; Horse Lovers Unite; C Ponies Vote; Please don't shut down the CPonies!; Cponies; CPonies Rights; Horses at the Skyway; Don't Ban the Beautiful Horses; Please keep our CPonies!

Cyndi Simmons, Executive Aide
Office of Karen Williams Seel, Chair
Pinellas County Commission
315 Court Street, 5th floor
Clearwater, FL 33756
727-464-3278
www.pinellascounty.org

All government correspondence is subject to the public records law.



Please consider the environment: Before printing this email, ask yourself if you need a hard copy.

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 17 AM 10:02
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Where Women Wander 2 <wherewomenwander2@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 12:01 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: This is not copied off of an email. My original words.

I have heard for a while you are trying to stop C Ponies from being in the water. Let me take a minute of your time and tell you about one of my experiences with them.

My mom was 73 and on a portable oxygen machine before she passed. She wanted to swim with the horses. It was on her bucket list. She didn't think it would be feasible to do but I called anyhow to as because I have been there before and I thought they may just help her get her wish. They did. Carmen went out of her way and they took me and my Mother out by ourselves just so she could do this. She passed on 6 mts later. This is one company that cares.

I just don't understand how you can take things away from people like this. I have been there 3 times since then and I have seen them take young kids out with their parents and have the time of their lives.

When my family or friends come down from Tennessee they don't want to go to Disney, They want to book a spot with C-ponies again.

This country will lose quite a lot of revenue if they are shut down. Not including the good times you will be taking from people and ME!

I don't know if any of you have ever been out there and swam in the water with them but you should before you go any farther.

I will even pay for one of you that haven't been on this adventure. I am not joking. You can give me a call Rae Lynn Adams 423-392-0008. It won't cost you a dime, I am not related to the company, or work there. I am just one of the citizens who live in Pinellas County and I would like to show you exactly what you will be taking away from me and many others.

There has got to be a way to work this out without closing them down. i have been to Bradenton Beach also but it doesn't compare to ours at the Skyway.

I do a lot of fishing off the Skyway bridge and also where the horses are. The fishing has not changed much in the area, actually it is slightly better on some days than it was 5 years ago. That is not being affected. I see a lot more things like speeding boats, windsurfers with their fins digging in the grasses etc. It is not like the horses are taking up every inch of the area. My gosh even the dolphins come in and play with them.

O my closing I do hope one of you take me up on my offer so that you can see for yourself. You have my word that I will not tell them who you are so that everything is the same. You may even have a Ah-Ha moment and a great time.

Sincerely,

Rae Adams

5710 12th Ave South

Gulfport, Fl 33707

phone 423 392-0008



Virus-free. www.avast.com

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 17 AM 10:03
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Kelly Jewell <jewellabradors@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 9:37 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Request

Dear Commisioners
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

As someone that is very concerned about and aware of the need for protection of our natural resources and waterways I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay.

Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of seagrass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves.

Are you aware in Miami Kite surfers are not allowed in any seagrass and must travel through channels to get 200 yards out from shore to surf? This is because their boards large fins cause scars in the seagrass, yet you allow so many to cause severe damage at the same location where the horses ride. This is absolutely not fair!

I and many others love the Cponies and enjoying having activities like this that aren't "powered" by gas, fuel and pounds of garbage like most of the activities offered here in our area - you can't tell me that ANY of those are LESS damaging?

This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater has to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there many beaches to choose from in our state. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities and venues. There is so much to enjoy here, like horseback riding in the Bay. In fact, Cponies is the number one attraction in this area according to travel sites. Read their reviews on Trip Advisor. For many people riding in the Bay is a once in a lifetime experience. Horses have profoundly theraputic, calming effects as well as being fun.

About the seagrass, thankfully there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our seagrass.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach and license responsible, experienced Horseman Guides. Don't take the rights of these groups please.

Sincerely,

Kelly Jewell
Fellow environmentalist!

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 17 AM 10:04
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Heather Walsh <hisirishbabydoll@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 6:49 PM
To: Long, Janet C; pgrnard@pinellascounty.org; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Welch, Kenneth; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Web@floridahouse.gov
Subject: Horse Lovers Unite

Dear Commisioners

Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay. . This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater has to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there's many beaches to choose from in our state. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities and venues. There is so much to enjoy here, like horseback riding in the Bay. In fact, Cponies is the number one attraction in this area according to travel sites. Read our reviews. For many people riding in the Bay is a once in a lifetime experience. Horses have profoundly theraputic, calming effects as well as being fun.

The American Horse Council conducted a study on horseback riding and the equine industry. The study showed there is a \$6.8 billion annual economic impact in Florida and is up 33% since the last study over a decade ago. We are part of that growth.

About the seagrass, thankfully there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hooves cause 85% of damage to our seagrass.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach and license responsible, experienced Horseman Guides.

Respectfully,
A Concerned Horse Lover

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 17 AM 10:04
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Matthew Paulk <mrp08c@my.fsu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 5:41 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: C Ponies Vote

Please hear all sides in order to make an informed decision. Thank you - Matthew Paulk

Dear Commissioners
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay. Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of sea grass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves. You also have several Dog beaches in the same preserve. Dog feces has many more dangerous bacteria than horse manure. I don't want to see those getting banned either.

Are you aware in Miami Kite surfers are not allowed in any sea grass and must travel through channels to get 200 yards out from shore to surf? This is because their boards large fins cause scars in the sea grass, yet you allow so many to cause severe damage at the same location where the horses ride. This is absolutely not fair!

I and many others love the Cponies and enjoying having activities like this that aren't "powered" by gas, fuel and pounds of garbage like most of the activities offered here in our area - you can't tell me that ANY of those are LESS damaging?

This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater has to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there many beaches to choose from in our state. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities and venues. There is so much to enjoy here, like horseback riding in the Bay. In fact, Cponies is the number one attraction in this area according to travel sites. Read their reviews on Trip Advisor. For many people riding in the Bay is a once in a lifetime experience. Horses have profoundly therapeutic, calming effects as well as being fun.

About the sea grass, thankfully there is more sea grass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our sea grass.

The maps that you are showing where the horses ride clearly show many boat scars. The scars you are showing isn't even the path most of the horses take. I think you need to compare your maps with other areas where horses aren't riding and you will see the same types of scars.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach, if you are concerned about the areas with heavier sea grass areas, why not just make the causeway the only area that can have horses. Signage in the sea grass would help keep everyone out of that restricted area.

Please do not focus just on the equestrian community, focus on the bigger culprits. Don't take our rights of us away!

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 17 AM 10:04
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Hannah Morton <hannah.morton@ymail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 4:38 PM
To: JanetCLong@pinlascounty.org; Gerard, Pat; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov
Subject: Please don't shut down the CPonies!

Dear Commisioners

Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

My husband and I went and rode with CPonies in Florida in early August of this year. I've been riding horses for 20 years and had an absolute blast. Riding a draft horse was one thing to cross off my bucket list and I was so happy to do it with their organization and their horses. It was an experience I will never forget and I hope you will let others be able to enjoy this unforgettable experience (including yourself)!

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay.

Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of seagrass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves.

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About the seagrass, thankfully there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our seagrass.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach and license responsible, experienced Horseman Guides. Don't take the rights of us away!

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 17 AM 10:05
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Billie Chaney <jchaney40@att.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 4:30 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Cponies

Dear Commissioners

Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

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About the sea grass, thankfully there is more sea grass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our sea grass.

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Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach, if you are concerned about the areas with heavier sea grass areas, why not just make the causeway the only area that can have horses. Signage in the sea grass would help keep everyone out of that restricted area.

Please do not focus just on the equestrian community, focus on the bigger culprits. Don't take our rights of us away!

One year ago I came to Florida and rode the Cponies which was one of my bucket list items. I really did enjoy it and hope to do it again. I am 76 yrs. old and that is an activity I can still do.

Thank you,
Billie Chaney

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 17 AM 10:05
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Rebecca Simpson <zoey659@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 1:53 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Horses at the Skyway

Dear Commisioners

Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

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The American Horse Council conducted a study on horseback riding and the equine industry. The study showed there is a \$6.8 billion annual economic impact in Florida and is up 33% since the last study over a decade ago. We are part of that growth.

About the seagrass, thankfully there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our seagrass.

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As a local horse owner and equine business owner, when we travel to the beach to enjoy it with our equines we always leave it cleaner than when we arrived. Horses and riders are not the issue here. I am unable to attend the Tuesday meeting so please take this email as my attendance.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Rebecca Simpson

Owner and Operator of Simpson Equestrian

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 17 AM 10:07
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Haley Liston <hnliston16@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 2:37 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Walters, Kenneth
Subject: CPonies Rights

RECEIVED
BOARD OF

2019 OCT 17 AM 10:07

BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

Dear Commissioners

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The maps that you are showing where the horses ride clearly show many boat scars. The scars you are showing isn't even the path most of the horses take. I think you need to compare your maps with other areas where horses aren't riding and you will see the same types of scars.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach if you are concerned about the areas with heavier seagrass areas, why not just make the causeway the only area that can have horses. Signage in the seagrass would help keep everyone out of that restricted area.

Please do not focus just on the equestrian community, focus on the bigger culprits. Don't take our rights of us away!

From: Victoria Dygert <toridygert@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 1:43 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Gerard, Pat
Subject: Don't Ban the Beautiful Horses

Dear Commissioners

Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

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Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of sea grass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves. You also have several Dog beaches in the same preserve. Dog feces has many more dangerous bacteria than horse manure. I don't want to see those getting banned either.

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RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 17 AM 10:07
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Holly Whalen <happilyeverharrison@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 1:20 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Please keep our CPonies!

Dear Commissioners

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I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay.

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Thank you,
Holly C. Harrison

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 17 AM 10:07
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Simmons, Cyndi M
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2019 2:10 PM
To: BoardRecords,
Subject: 10/22/19 #43 in opposition to the proposed amended ordinance
Attachments: CPonies; Regarding October 22 hearing on ban proposal on Horses on the Sky Bridge; [BULK] Horses and Seagrass; Horse ban; Save our horse riding beaches; [BULK] St Pete and Tampa Bay; Cponies; Banning Horses From The Bay; Ban Horses In The Bay; Ban of horses on the bay; cponies1@gmail.com; Banning Horses from the Bay; Pinellas County Skyway Bridge; Horses at the Bay; Horses in the Bay, specifically C Ponies; Skyway horses ; Re: Keep the ponies pease ; Horseback riding near the sunshine skyway bridge; Horses on the bay; C-Ponies must stay; Horses in the Bay; Horses near Skyway Bridge Causeway; [BULK] ; [BULK] ; [BULK]

Please note the agenda item changed from #41 to #43. Thanks.

Cyndi Simmons, Executive Aide
Office of Karen Williams Seel, Chair
Pinellas County Commission
315 Court Street, 5th floor
Clearwater, FL 33756
727-464-3278
www.pinellascounty.org

All government correspondence is subject to the public records law.



Please consider the environment: Before printing this email, ask yourself if you need a hard copy.

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 AM 9:18
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Jack O'Brien <jack.obrien99@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2019 12:07 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: CPonies

Dear Commisioners
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay.

This is a 'bucket list' type experience. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and hope it stays around for many more to enjoy.

Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of seagrass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves.

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Sincerely,

Jack O'Brien

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 AM 9:18
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Steve Gibbs <emailus.gibbs@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2019 11:12 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Regarding October 22 hearing on ban proposal on Horses on the Sky Bridge

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 AM 9:19
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
HONORABLE CLERK

Dear Commissioners
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

Personal Message and experience:

My wife and I first visited Saint Petersburg Beach for our anniversary in March of 2018 and we absolutely fell in love with the area. This is an area that we are now talking about retiring to in the future. During this trip I surprised my wife with a experience of a life time which was being able to ride these beautiful horses (CPonies) in your beautiful bay. I can't express enough that the highlight of our anniversary trip in March was the Riding CPonies in the bay. She still talks about this experience to everyone when we talk about going to a beach.

We re-visited this past September at the same resort for a 7 day stay, but we didn't have any plans for this trip. However, we still talked about riding the horses and we decided visited the Sky Bridge area hoping to at least see the horses. It was sad to hear about the proposal to ban this awesome experience from everyone.

I understand that you need to protect your bay, but I urge you to ensure that you all have gathered all the facts of what might be causing your issues prior to deciding on banning the horses in the bay. I understand that as a politician you feel like you must decide when issues arises. Sometimes people in leadership roles may even feel pressure in making rash decision without having clear evidence or facts over the mater presented to them. However, deciding without all the true facts is irresponsible. Don't forget that you can table an issue such as this until all facts have been presented. If you have been presented with facts and there are other factures that may be causing the issue with the seagrass in your bay, then I along with many others urge you to act upon those factors.

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay.

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Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach and license responsible, experienced Horseman Guides. Don't take the rights of us away!

From: Jennifer L. Morris <jennifer.morris@verusresearch.net>
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2019 10:18 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: [BULK] Horses and Seagrass
Importance: Low

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Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach and license responsible, experienced Horseman Guides. Don't take the rights of us away!

Regards,

Jennifer

Jennifer Morris
Government Property Manager
Verus Research



verus[®]
RESEARCH

Direct 505-338-2171
Cell 505-980-6250

6100 Uptown Blvd NE, Suite 260
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
verusresearch.net

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 AM 9:20
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA
BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

From: Kelly <kellycat77@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2019 8:34 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Horse ban

Dear Commisioners

Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay.

Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of seagrass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves.

Are you aware in Miami Kite surfers are not allowed in any seagrass and must travel through channels to get 200 yards out from shore to surf? This is because their boards large fins cause scars in the seagrass, yet you allow so many to cause severe damage at the same location where the horses ride. This is absolutely not fair!

I and many others love the Cponies and enjoying having activities like this that aren't "powered" by gas, fuel and pounds of garbage like most of the activities offered here in our area - you can't tell me that ANY of those are LESS damaging?

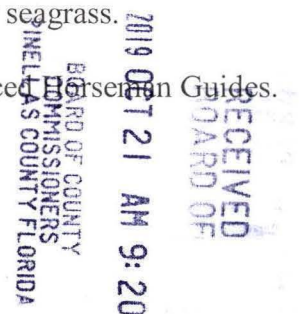
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Kelly Chirikas

Sent from my iPhone



From: Sheri Mayor <sherimayor@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2019 1:06 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen
Subject: Save our horse riding beaches

Dear Commissioners

Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay and are a unique way to enjoy the areas Natural Beauty.

Why not focus on all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of sea grass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves. You also have several Dog beaches in the same preserve. Dog feces has many more dangerous bacteria than horse manure. I don't want to see those getting banned either.

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Please do not focus on the equestrian community but help us and visitors that love the bay continue to enjoy this experince. Please focus on the bigger culprits. Don't take our rights away!

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 AM 9:21
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Crista Swier <cristamarie80@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 10:37 PM
To: Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Long, Janet C; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Peters, Kathleen; Seel, Karen; Welch, Kenneth; Gerard, Pat
Subject: [BULK] St Pete and Tampa Bay
Importance: Low

Dear Commisioners

Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

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Crista Swier
512.626.2788

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Crista Swier, LCSW
512.626.2788 (NEW CELL PHONE)
www.cristaswier.com

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 AM 9:21
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Tina Raiford <bodina444@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 8:23 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Cponies

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Thank you,
Tina Raiford

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 AM 9:21
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: William Fisher <wrfisher@mail.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 8:01 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen
Subject: Banning Horses From The Bay

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 AM 9:22
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

Dear Commissioners

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Please do not focus on the equestrian community but help us and visitors that love the bay continue to enjoy this experince. Please focus on the bigger culprits. Don't take our rights away!

From: Renee Hogan <1114speedy@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 7:18 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen
Subject: Ban Horses In The Bay

Dear Commissioners

Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay and are a unique way to enjoy the areas Natural Beauty.

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Please do not focus on the equestrian community but help us and visitors that love the bay continue to enjoy this experince. Please focus on the bigger culprits. Don't take our rights away!

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 AM 9:22
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Sandra Urban <sandra.urban7@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 5:47 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen
Subject: Ban of horses on the bay

Dear Commissioners,

Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

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Sincerely,
Sandra Urban

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 AM 9:23
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Karin Webb <kwebb@amtelecom.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 5:34 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: cponies1@gmail.com

Dear Commisioners
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

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Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of seagrass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves.

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Regards
Karin

Sent from my iPad

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 AM 9:23
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: jaskot <adjaskot@optonline.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 4:55 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Banning Horses from the Bay

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 AM 9:23
CLERK OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

Dear Commissioners:

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About the seagrass, thankfully there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our seagrass.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach and license responsible, experienced Horseman Guides. Don't take the rights of us away!

Diane Jaskot

From: Samantha Daugherty <samantha@baymulch.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 1:13 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen
Subject: Pinellas County Skyway Bridge

Dear Commissioners

Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay and a unique way to enjoy the areas Natural Beauty.

Why not focus on all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of sea grass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves. You also have several Dog beaches in the same preserve. Dog feces have many more dangerous bacteria's than horse manure. I don't want to see those getting banned either.

Are you aware in Miami Kite surfers are not allowed in any sea grass and must travel through channels to get 200 yards out from shore to surf? This is because their boards large fins cause scars in the sea grass, yet you allow so many to cause severe damage at the same location where the horses ride. This is absolutely not fair!

I and many others love the Cypress Breeze Farm beach rides and enjoying having activities like this that aren't "powered" by gas are quite and connect you with nature. The horses do not impact the wildlife the way others activities do Fish swim around the horses and birds relax as they ride by. The riders get a chance to go back in time and experience Florida the way it used to be and connect with nature on a deeper level. Horseback riding is defined by many as eco-tourism and many Local, State, National and International preserves and parks have found that the benefits out way the cons when it comes to including horseback riding as part of enjoying nature in protected eco. Studies have found them less damaging then motorized vehicles.

This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater has to offer. People come to Florida for their beaches; however, there are many beaches to choose from in our state and Pinellas County. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities and venues. There is so much to enjoy here, like horseback riding in the Bay. Which in fact many have on there "bucket list". Each week Cypress Breeze farm gets bookings for people choosing the area based on the opportunity to ride and swim with horse in the water. For many people riding in the Bay is a once in a lifetime experience. Horses have profoundly therapeutic, calming effects as well as being fun.

About the sea grass, thankfully there is more sea grass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our sea grass.

The maps that you show where the horses ride; clearly show many boat scars. The scars you are showing is not even the path most of the horses take. I think you need to compare your maps with other areas where horses aren't riding and you will see the same types of scars. The area By Seaside Point in Palm Harbor is a good example of impacts. You can also find similar marks some worse Around Mule Key on by the Pinellas Bay way

Causeway. Furthermore the area the horse riding is mostly much with very little sea grass which can be seen during extreme low tides which we have documentation of. Google Earth does not show this and there are many factors such as deeper water that be confused as sea grass in the images.

In addition the area we ride on is a shifting sand bar and has been deemed by researchers as an area where sea grass restoration effecters should not he focused fondue to the damage from waves and currents bringing in sediment and causing erosion depending on weather. Making it an Ideal area to allow for enjoyment of the bay. Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach, if you are concerned about the areas with heavier sea grass areas, why not just make the Sky way beach rest area by the causeway the only area that can have horses.

Please do not focus on the equestrian community but help us and visitors that love the bay continue to enjoy this experience. Please focus on the bigger culprits. Don't take our rights away!

**Thank you,
Samantha Daugherty
Bay Mulch, Inc.
11228 Bellamy Bros. Blvd.
San Antonio, Fl 33576
www.baymulchinc.com
(352) 588-5200**

samantha@baymulch.com



RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 AM 9:24
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Heather Schneider <windchasefarms@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 12:58 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen
Subject: Horses at the Bay

Dear Commissioners

Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay and are a unique way to enjoy the areas Natural Beauty.

Why not focus on all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of sea grass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves. You also have several Dog beaches in the same preserve. Dog feces has many more dangerous bacteria than horse manure. I don't want to see those getting banned either.

Are you aware in Miami Kite surfers are not allowed in any sea grass and must travel through channels to get 200 yards out from shore to surf? This is because their boards large fins cause scars in the sea grass, yet you allow so many to cause severe damage at the same location where the horses ride. This is absolutely not fair!

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Please do not focus on the equestrian community but help us and visitors that love the bay continue to enjoy this experience. Please focus on the bigger culprits. Don't take our rights away!

Heather B. Schneider
2015 Gold Medalist United States Equestrian Federation.
Wind Chase Farm Combined Driving, LLC
772-285-3480
www.WindChase.Farm

				
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From: Kerry Wright <kerrywr@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 11:44 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Horses in the Bay, specifically C Ponies

Dear Commissioners
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay. Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of sea grass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves. You also have several Dog beaches in the same preserve. Dog feces has many more dangerous bacteria than horse manure. I don't want to see those getting banned either.

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I and many others love the Cponies and enjoying having activities like this that aren't "powered" by gas, fuel and pounds of garbage like most of the activities offered here in our area - you can't tell me that ANY of those are LESS damaging?

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About the sea grass, thankfully there is more sea grass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our sea grass.

The maps that you are showing where the horses ride clearly show many boat scars. The scars you are showing isn't even the path most of the horses take. I think you need to compare your maps with other areas where horses aren't riding and you will see the same types of scars.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach, if you are concerned about the areas with heavier sea grass areas, why not just make the causeway the only area that can have horses. Signage in the sea grass would help keep everyone out of that restricted area.

Please do not focus just on the equestrian community, focus on the bigger culprits. Don't take our rights of us away!

We come to this area specifically for C Ponies and frequent other businesses because of this. Without that draw, we would go elsewhere. I fear you would lose much more tourism than you realize by unfairly targeting this activity when so many other factors are much, much higher contributing factors; as environmentally conscientious as these folks are, I serious doubt they are a factor at all in your issue. Please do not ban C pony activities.

Thank you,
Kerry C Wright

Sent from my iPhone

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 AM 9:24
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Choyce LLC <choyceacres@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 11:23 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Skyway horses

Dear Commissioner,

I urge you not to ban horseback riding in the Bay. Horses cause very little problems in the bay. The runoffs, trash, and constant sewer dumping from the city cause more damage. This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater have to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there are beaches surrounding the state. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities there are to do, like horseback riding in the Bay.

Furthermore, The American Horse Council conducted a study on horseback riding and the equine industry. The study showed there is a \$6.8 billion annual economic impact in Florida and is up 33% since the last study over a decade ago. Not to mention St. Petersburg dumps million of gallons of sewage into the Bay regularly. Regarding seagrass, there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have noticeable damaging effect on our Bay. It is proven that the scars from boat props cause 85% of damage to seagrass, not horses.

Finally, I find it appalling that our regional planning agency is laser focused on banning a few horses from Tampa Bay. Sure there must be more pressing issues our regional planning agency should be focused on; something that actually matters. This makes our regional planning committee look like a joke. This is not how I want my tax dollars spent and I urge you to not ban horseback riding in the Bay.

Joyce Chartier

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 AM 9:24
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: LaKisha Erwin <sslakishaharvey@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 10:49 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Re: Keep the ponies please

Dear Commisioners
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay.

I have had some great experiences with the ponies and as a mental health provider there are so many benefits.

Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of seagrass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves.

Are you aware in Miami Kite surfers are not allowed in any seagrass and must travel through channels to get 200 yards out from shore to surf? This is because their boards large fins cause scars in the seagrass, yet you allow so many to cause severe damage at the same location where the horses ride. This is absolutely not fair!

I and many others love the Cponies and enjoying having activities like this that aren't "powered" by gas, fuel and pounds of garbage like most of the activities offered here in our area - you can't tell me that ANY of those are LESS damaging?

This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater has to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there many beaches to choose fromin our state. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities and venues. There is so much to enjoy here, like horseback riding in the Bay. In fact, Cponies is the number one attraction in this area according to travel sites. Read their reviews on Trip Advisor. For many people riding in the Bay is a once in a lifetime experience. Horses have profoundly theraputic, calming effects as well as being fun.

About the seagrass, thankfully there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our seagrass.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach and license responsible, experienced Horseman Guides. Don't take the rights of us away!

LaKisha Erwin
772-633-5350

Sent from Kisha's iPhone

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 AM 9:25
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Gayla <gaylalea123@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 10:50 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Horseback riding near the sunshine skyway bridge

Dear Commisioners
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay.

Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of seagrass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves.

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I and many others love the Cponies and enjoying having activities like this that aren't "powered" by gas, fuel and pounds of garbage like most of the activities offered here in our area - you can't tell me that ANY of those are LESS damaging?

This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater has to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there many beaches to choose from in our state. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities and venues. There is so much to enjoy here, like horseback riding in the Bay. In fact, Cponies is the number one attraction in this area according to travel sites. Read their reviews on Trip Advisor. For many people riding in the Bay is a once in a lifetime experience. Horses have profoundly theraputic, calming effects as well as being fun.

About the seagrass, thankfully there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our seagrass.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach and license responsible, experienced Horseman Guides. Don't take the rights of us away!

Sent from my iPhone

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 AM 9:25
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Taryn Bolea <bolea01@luther.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 10:40 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Horses on the bay

Dear Commisioners
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay.

Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of seagrass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves.

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About the seagrass, thankfully there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our seagrass.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach and license responsible, experienced Horseman Guides. Don't take the rights of us away!

Sent from my iPhone

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 AM 9:25
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Nicki Haines <nlh714@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 10:29 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: C-Ponies must stay

Dear Commissioners
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay.

Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean...like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of seagrass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so-called damage done by horse hooves.

Are you aware Miami Kite surfers are not allowed in any seagrass and must travel through channels to get 200 yards out from shore to surf? This is because their boards large fins cause scars in the seagrass, yet you allow so many to cause severe damage at the same location where the horses ride. This is absolutely not fair!

I and many others love the Cponies and enjoy having activities like this that aren't "powered" by gas, fuel, and pounds of garbage like most of the activities offered here in our area - you can't tell me that ANY of those are LESS damaging?

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About the seagrass, thankfully there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props, not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our seagrass.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach and license responsible, experienced Horseman Guides. Don't take the rights of us away!

I lived in the Bay Area for most of my life. I now reside in Indiana but return often. Riding horses in the bay is a unique experience a person does not have access too in most places. I often encourage others to participate in riding horses in the Bay while visiting the area. The owners of C-Ponies are rehabbing these horses while offering a service to the tourism industry. I truly hope to see these majestic horses in the water when I return on my visits.

Sincerely,
Nicole Haines

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 AM 9:25
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: William Morgan <doug@wdmorgan.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 10:28 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Horses in the Bay

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 AM 9:26
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA
COMMISSIONERS

Dear Commissioners

Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay.

Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean-like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of seagrass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so-called damage done by horse hooves.

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Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach and license responsible, experienced Horseman Guides. Don't take the rights of us away!

Regards,
William Douglas Morgan (Saint Petersburg Resident)
(727) 871-8555

From: Wendy Flowers <wflowers@maine.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 10:23 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Horses near Skyway Bridge Causeway

Dear Commisioners

Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay.

Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of seagrass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves.

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Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach and license responsible, experienced Horseman Guides. Don't take the rights of us away!

Sincerely, a concerned visitor
Wendy Flowers
110 Totten Rd.
Gray, ME 04039
Wflowers@maine.rr.com

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 AM 9:26
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Vikki Cibotti <cibotti19@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 10:18 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: [BULK]
Importance: Low

Dear Commisioners
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay.

Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of seagrass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves.

Are you aware in Miami Kite surfers are not allowed in any seagrass and must travel through channels to get 200 yards out from shore to surf? This is because their boards large fins cause scars in the seagrass, yet you allow so many to cause severe damage at the same location where the horses ride.

I and many others love the Cponies and enjoying having activities like this that aren't "powered" by gas, fuel and pounds of garbage like most of the activities offered here in our area - you can't tell me that ANY of those are LESS damaging?

This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater has to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there many beaches to choose from in our state. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities and venues. There is so much to enjoy here, like horseback riding in the Bay. In fact, Cponies is the number one attraction in this area according to travel sites. Read their reviews on Trip Advisor. For many people riding in the Bay is a once in a lifetime experience. Horses have profoundly therapeutic, calming effects as well as being fun.

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RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 AM 9:26
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Dawn Steffes <free2bdawn68@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 9:52 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: [BULK]
Importance: Low

Dear Commissioners

Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay. Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of sea grass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves. You also have several Dog beaches in the same preserve. Dog feces has many more dangerous bacteria than horse manure. I don't want to see those getting banned either.

Are you aware in Miami Kite surfers are not allowed in any sea grass and must travel through channels to get 200 yards out from shore to surf? This is because their boards large fins cause scars in the sea grass, yet you allow so many to cause severe damage at the same location where the horses ride. This is absolutely not fair!

I and many others love the Cponies and enjoying having activities like this that aren't "powered" by gas, fuel and pounds of garbage like most of the activities offered here in our area - you can't tell me that ANY of those are LESS damaging?

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The maps that you are showing where the horses ride clearly show many boat scars. The scars you are showing isn't even the path most of the horses take. I think you need to compare your maps with other areas where horses aren't riding and you will see the same types of scars.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach, if you are concerned about the areas with heavier sea grass areas, why not just make the causeway the only area that can have horses. Signage in the sea grass would help keep everyone out of that restricted area.

Please do not focus just on the equestrian community, focus on the bigger culprits. Don't take our rights of us away!

P.S. We spend 2 vacations a year in St. Pete and I'm looking for a place to retire there. One of our favorite activities is riding these horses in the ocean,

RECEIVED
BOARD OF

2019 OCT 21 AM 9:27

BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Heather Kittle <skittlesnbits@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 9:43 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: [BULK]
Importance: Low

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The American Horse Council conducted a study on horseback riding and the equine industry. The study showed there is a \$6.8 billion annual economic impact in Florida and is up 33% since the last study over a decade ago. We are part of that growth.

About the seagrass, thankfully there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our seagrass.

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RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 AM 9:27
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Simmons, Cyndi M
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2019 1:57 PM
To: BoardRecords,
Subject: 10/22/19 #43 opposed to amending the ordinance
Attachments: CPonies; Do not ban the horses please!!!!; HORSEBACK RIDING.; SEAGRASS AND HORSES IN THE BAY; Cponnies; Request to Ban Horseback Riding in Tampa Bay; [BULK] Horses in the Bay; C ponies ; Please Don't Take Away The Horses!

Cyndi Simmons, Executive Aide
Office of Karen Williams Seel, Chair
Pinellas County Commission
315 Court Street, 5th floor
Clearwater, FL 33756
727-464-3278
www.pinellascounty.org

All government correspondence is subject to the public records law.



Please consider the environment: Before printing this email, ask yourself if you need a hard copy.

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 PM 3:06
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Marsha Cordell <marshacordell@tampabay.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2019 1:10 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: CPonies

Dear Commissioners,

My friends & I rode the CPonies in the summer & it was one of the greatest thing that I ever done. It's an experience for all ages. Our group was from 54 years to 80 years old & we all loved it.

As for the seagrass there were so much of it around my legs that it was annoying so, don't see it as being destroyed.

Please don't vote to eliminate this great adventure for all. I go over the SkyWay daily & love to see all the people & horses in the water. Since the horses are rescues it is healthy & therapeutic for them & the fee for riding provide them a place to live & not be abused.

Thank You for your consideration

Marsha Cordell
727-455-0427

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 PM 3:07
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

RECEIVED
BOARD OF

From: Juley Shappell <lightningjuley@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 20, 2019 12:42 PM
To: Seel, Karen
Subject: Cponnies

2019 OCT 21 PM 3:07

BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

Hi,

Please see below information regarding Cponnies.

Pinellas county is trying to ban horses on the Skyway bridge causeway. They are trying to blame horses on killing the seagrass. This is absolutely not true or proven. Feel free to Google seagrass in FL. Please send this email to the county commissioners and include any personal experiences you have had. If possible please send it daily. The hearing is [Oct.22](#)
Thank you so much
Kindest regards,
Carmen

1. **Copy and paste this portion to your email.**

Dear Commisioners
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay.

Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of seagrass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves.

Are you aware in Miami Kite surfers are not allowed in any seagrass and must travel through channels to get 200 yards out from shore to surf? This is because their boards large fins cause scars in the seagrass, yet you allow so many to cause severe damage at the same location where the horses ride. This is absolutely not fair!

I and many others love the Cponies and enjoying having activities like this that aren't "powered" by gas, fuel and pounds of garbage like most of the activities offered here in our area - you can't tell me that ANY of those are LESS damaging?

This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater has to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there many beaches to choose from in our state. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities and venues. There is so much to enjoy here, like horseback riding in the Bay. In fact, Cponies is the number one attraction in this area according to travel sites. Read their reviews on Trip Advisor. For many people riding in the Bay is a once in a lifetime experience. Horses have profoundly theraputic, calming effects as well as being fun.

About the seagrass, thankfully there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our seagrass.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach and license responsible, experienced Horseman Guides. Don't take the rights of us away!

2. **Copy and paste these addresses in your To header. This will send your email to all**

From: Rachel <rmmeier2@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2019 8:27 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Please Don't Take Away The Horses!

Dear Commissioner,

I urge you not to ban horseback riding in the Bay. Horses cause very little problems in the bay. The runoffs, trash, and constant sewer dumping from the city cause more damage. This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater have to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there are beaches surrounding the state. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities there are to do, like horseback riding in the Bay.

Furthermore, The American Horse Council conducted a study on horseback riding and the equine industry. The study showed there is a \$6.8 billion annual economic impact in Florida and is up 33% since the last study over a decade ago. Not to mention St. Petersburg dumps million of gallons of sewage into the Bay regularly. Regarding seagrass, there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have noticeable damaging effect on our Bay. It is proven that the scars from boat props cause 85% of damage to seagrass, not horses.

I would ask that the regional planning agency is less focused on banning a few horses from Tampa Bay. Sure there must be more pressing issues that your regional planning agency could be focusing your valuable time on.

My Mom and I went riding together earlier this year with C Ponies. We were tourists from Minneapolis and that was the one excursion we were looking forward to the most. And it was well worth the anticipation! We agreed that we will want to do this many more times in the future, and we are recommending going riding to all our friends til this day! I would hope you would recognize the amount of money that comes into the area because of what C Ponies bring in for revenue.

Thank you for your time and attention to this. I truly appreciate your consideration on this matter.

All the Best,

Rachel Meyer

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 PM 3:07
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Ann Scoggins <thescogginsgroup@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2019 12:15 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Do not ban the horses please!!!!

Dear Commissioners
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay. Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of sea grass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves. You also have several Dog beaches in the same preserve. Dog feces has many more dangerous bacteria than horse manure. I don't want to see those getting banned either.

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The maps that you are showing where the horses ride clearly show many boat scars. The scars you are showing isn't even the path most of the horses take. I think you need to compare your maps with other areas where horses aren't riding and you will see the same types of scars.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach, if you are concerned about the areas with heavier sea grass areas, why not just make the causeway the only area that can have horses. Signage in the sea grass would help keep everyone out of that restricted area.

Please do not focus just on the equestrian community, focus on the bigger culprits. Don't take our rights of us away!

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 PM 3:08
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Jim Swayne <jim@saferhomeservices.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 19, 2019 2:30 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Request to Ban Horseback Riding in Tampa Bay

Dear Pinellas County Commissioners Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters:

As a resident of Tierra Verde for 24 years, an avid fisherman and conservationist who has spent thousands of hours on the Tampa Bay flats, and the owner of a business that over 20 families depend on for their paychecks and benefits, I urge you to carefully consider the facts before banning horses from Tampa Bay.

Fact: Since 1982 we have almost doubled the amount of seagrass coverage from around 21,500 acres to over 40,000 acres by bay-wide efforts to improve water quality, reduce commercial dredging, encouraging responsible boating, and seagrass restoration programs.

Fact: The majority of the damage that occurs to our seagrass in Tampa Bay is due recreational and commercial boat propeller scars and groundings.

Fact: According to Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute there are over 111,000 boats registered in Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Manatee counties.

Fact: Significant seagrass damage can and does occur from kiteboarding activities. Are you proposing to ban boating, swimming, dog parks, kiteboarding and surfing next?

Fact: The impact on water quality from the small number of horses is infinitesimal as compared to the thousands of recreational swimmers, beachgoers, and dogs that swim in Tampa Bay waters.

I have witnessed firsthand the care and caution the CPonies guides use with their horses, their guests, and the bay. The majority of our ride was purposely on the sandbars that extend out into the bay from their embarkment point. While I cannot speak for all the groups that may offer rides in the bay, all of the horses used by CPonies are rescued Gypsy Vanners that have been rehabilitated and now provide real joy to a growing number of local residents and area visitors. This is a real win-win-win situation and you should be applauding these folks rather than try to ban them.

I encourage you to reject the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's request to ban horseback riding in the bay.

Jim Swayne
President & CEO
SAFER Home Services, LLC
4190 112th Terrace North
Clearwater, Florida 33762
Local 727-800-2992
Toll Free 1-844-ONCEAYEAR (844-662-3293)
Mobile 813-714-0374
Visit Us on the Web at www.saferhomeservices.com

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 PM 3:08
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Savannah Bell <smbell1108@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2019 2:39 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: HORSEBACK RIDING.

Dear Commissioner,

I urge you not to ban horseback riding in the Bay. Horses cause very little problems in the bay. The runoffs, trash, and constant sewer dumping from the city cause more damage. This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater have to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there are beaches surrounding the state. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities there are to do, like horseback riding in the Bay.

Furthermore, The American Horse Council conducted a study on horseback riding and the equine industry. The study showed there is a \$6.8 billion annual economic impact in Florida and is up 33% since the last study over a decade ago. Not to mention St. Petersburg dumps million of gallons of sewage into the Bay regularly. Regarding seagrass, there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have noticeable damaging effect on our Bay. It is proven that the scars from boat props cause 85% of damage to seagrass, not horses.

Finally, I find it appalling that our regional planning agency is laser focused on banning a few horses from Tampa Bay. Sure there must be more pressing issues our regional planning agency should be focused on; something that actually matters. This makes our regional planning committee look like a joke. This is not how I want my tax dollars spent and I urge you to not ban horseback riding in the Bay.

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 PM 3:09
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Tammy Medeiros <tjm9424@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 19, 2019 9:22 AM
To: Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Long, Janet C; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Peters, Kathleen; Seel, Karen; Welch, Kenneth; Gerard, Pat
Subject: [BULK] Horses in the Bay
Importance: Low

Dear Commisioners

Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay.

Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of seagrass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves.

Are you aware in Miami Kite surfers are not allowed in any seagrass and must travel through channels to get 200 yards out from shore to surf? This is because their boards large fins cause scars in the seagrass, yet you allow so many to cause severe damage at the same location where the horses ride. This is absolutely not fair!

I and many others love the Cponies and enjoying having activities like this that aren't "powered" by gas, fuel and pounds of garbage like most of the activities offered here in our area - you can't tell me that ANY of those are LESS damaging?

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About the seagrass, thankfully there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our seagrass.

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Respectfully
Tammy Medeiros

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 PM 3:09
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Julianne Polston <juliannepolston@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 20, 2019 2:49 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Cc: cponies1@gmail.com
Subject: SEAGRASS AND HORSES IN THE BAY

Dear Commisioners
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay.
My time with Cponies was the most fun I have had at the beach in such a long time - it was such a joy and such a thrill. The fact that it benefits rescue horses makes the whole adventure so special.

Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of seagrass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves. **Horse poop is JUST hay (and a few veggies)!!!!**

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RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 PM 3:09
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Erin Henderson <e.henderson3783@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2019 10:29 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: C ponies

Dear Commisioners
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay.

Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of seagrass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves.

Are you aware in Miami Kite surfers are not allowed in any seagrass and must travel through channels to get 200 yards out from shore to surf? This is because their boards large fins cause scars in the seagrass, yet you allow so many to cause severe damage at the same location where the horses ride. This is absolutely not fair!

I and many others love the Cponies and enjoying having activities like this that aren't "powered" by gas, fuel and pounds of garbage like most of the activities offered here in our area - you can't tell me that ANY of those are LESS damaging?

This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater has to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there many beaches to choose from in our state. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities and venues. There is so much to enjoy here, like horseback riding in the Bay. In fact, Cponies is the number one attraction in this area according to travel sites. Read their reviews on Trip Advisor. For many people riding in the Bay is a once in a lifetime experience. Horses have profoundly theraputic, calming effects as well as being fun.

About the seagrass, thankfully there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our seagrass.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach and license responsible, experienced Horseman Guides. Don't take the rights of us away!

Sent from my iPhone

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 21 PM 3:09
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Simmons, Cyndi M
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 8:26 AM
To: BoardRecords,
Subject: 10/22/19 #43 opposed to amending ordinance
Attachments: [BULK] horses on the beach; Please do not ban horses from the skyway bridge causeway.

Cyndi Simmons, Executive Aide
Office of Karen Williams Seel, Chair
Pinellas County Commission
315 Court Street, 5th floor
Clearwater, FL 33756
727-464-3278
www.pinellascounty.org

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RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 22 AM 8:47
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Heidi <heidi@thenewyorkgroomer.com>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2019 9:10 PM
To: Seel, Karen
Subject: [BULK] horses on the beach

Importance: Low

Dear Commissioner,

I urge you not to ban horseback riding in the Bay. Horses cause very little problems in the bay. The runoffs, trash, and constant sewer dumping from the city cause more damage. This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater have to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there are beaches surrounding the state. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities there are to do, like horseback riding in the Bay.

Furthermore, The American Horse Council conducted a study on horseback riding and the equine industry. The study showed there is a \$6.8 billion annual economic impact in Florida and is up 33% since the last study over a decade ago. Not to mention St. Petersburg dumps million of gallons of sewage into the Bay regularly. Regarding seagrass, there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have noticeable damaging effect on our Bay. It is proven that the scars from boat props cause 85% of damage to seagrass, not horses.

Finally, I find it appalling that our regional planning agency is laser focused on banning a few horses from Tampa Bay. Sure there must be more pressing issues our regional planning agency should be focused on; something that actually matters. This makes our regional planning committee look like a joke. This is not how I want my tax dollars spent and I urge you to not ban horseback riding in the Bay

--

Thank you.

Best Regards,

Heidi Minihkeim, Owner



Virus-free. www.avast.com

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 22 AM 8:47
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COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Gina Delano <ginafmfl@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2019 3:40 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Please do not ban horses from the skyway bridge causeway.

Dear Commissioner,

I urge you not to ban horseback riding in the Bay. Horses cause very little problems in the bay. The runoffs, trash, and constant sewer dumping from the city cause more damage. This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater have to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there are beaches surrounding the state. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities there are to do, like horseback riding in the Bay.

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Thank you!

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 22 AM 8:47
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PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Simmons, Cyndi M
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 10:45 AM
To: BoardRecords,
Subject: 10/22/19 #43 opposed to amending the ordinance
Attachments: C-Ponies; CPonies; [BULK] ; Fwd: One more time please save our cponies. Your emails are helping; CPonies; C.Ponies; C Ponies should stay; horses on the Skyway bridge causeway

Cyndi Simmons, Executive Aide
Office of Karen Williams Seel, Chair
Pinellas County Commission
315 Court Street, 5th floor
Clearwater, FL 33756
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RECEIVED
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PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Michelle W <samscoolmom@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 10:11 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Fwd: One more time please save our cponies. Your emails are helping

Dear Pinellas County Commissioners,
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters:

I urge you to carefully consider the facts before banning horses from Tampa Bay.

1. Since 1982 we have almost doubled the amount of seagrass coverage from around 21,500 acres to over 40,000 acres by bay-wide efforts to improve water quality, reduce commercial dredging, encouraging responsible boating, and seagrass restoration programs.
2. The majority of the damage that occurs to our seagrass in Tampa Bay is due recreational and commercial boat propeller scars and groundings. There is no proof that the photo of Google showing scars are caused by horses. I have looked at several Google pictures of other areas that show the same and in fact worse scarring. Why aren't those areas banning boats?
3. According to Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute there are over 111,000 boats registered in Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Manatee counties.
4. Significant seagrass damage can and does occur from kiteboarding activities. Are you proposing to ban boating, swimming, dog parks, kiteboarding and surfing next?
5. The impact on water quality from the small number of horses is infinitesimal as compared to the thousands of recreational swimmers, beachgoers, and dogs that swim in Tampa Bay waters. I feel tax money could be better spent stopping the Millions of gallons of raw sewage spilled into Tampa Bay.

I have witnessed firsthand the care and caution the CPonies guides use with their horses, their guests, and the bay. The staff pick up trash around the beach before the rides start. They also do large cleanups after every holiday not only picking up the trash but also carrying it away. That is 100's of pounds of garbage that will not enter the bay to damage sea grass.

The majority of our ride was purposely on the sandbars that extend out into the bay from their embarkment point. This is a real win-win-win situation and you should be applauding these folks rather than

try to ban them. Do you realize this small company is rated #1 on TripAdvisor. How many visitors come to this area just to ride horses in the bay? These tourists spend money at the local hotels, museums, and restaurants.

I encourage you to reject the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's request to ban horseback riding in the bay. I feel there just isn't enough proven facts submitted to ban horses from an area that just a few years back was filled with homeless living in the mangroves, drug users and those big rave parties. The area is now clean and safe for many to enjoy.

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PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

!

From: Angela R <angelarothern@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 9:39 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: C Ponies should stay

Hello Pinellas County Commissioners,

Please allow the C Ponies to continue operations. I vacation in Pinellas county multiple times every year and have done the horse back riding in the Bay. It was wonderful experience and is a huge draw to the area. The owners and workers are very careful to clean up the little bits of waste that do occur. The small amount of waste these horses bring is a tiny fraction of the problem. Horse waste is nothing compared to dumping raw sewage into the Bay and Gulf, or cruise ships purging their waste in our oceans. Please focus your efforts on the big stuff that would help the environment, don't fret about the little guys with organic waste. Don't be penny wise and pound foolish with the environment.

Let the C Ponies stay.

Thank you.

Angela Rothen

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BOARD OF
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From: rrobiny@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 10:36 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: CPonies

Dear Pinellas County Commissioners,
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters:

I urge you to carefully consider the facts before banning horses from Tampa Bay.

1. Since 1982 we have almost doubled the amount of seagrass coverage from around 21,500 acres to over 40,000 acres by bay-wide efforts to improve water quality, reduce commercial dredging, encouraging responsible boating, and seagrass restoration programs.
2. The majority of the damage that occurs to our seagrass in Tampa Bay is due recreational and commercial boat propeller scars and groundings. There is no proof that the photo of Google showing scars are caused by horses. I have looked at several Google pictures of other areas that show the same and in fact worse scarring. Why aren't those areas banning boats?
3. According to Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute there are over 111,000 boats registered in Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Manatee counties.
4. Significant seagrass damage can and does occur from kiteboarding activities. Are you proposing to ban boating, swimming, dog parks, kiteboarding and surfing next?
5. The impact on water quality from the small number of horses is infinitesimal as compared to the thousands of recreational swimmers, beachgoers, and dogs that swim in Tampa Bay waters. I feel tax money could be better spent stopping the Millions of gallons of raw sewage spilled into Tampa Bay.

I have witnessed firsthand the care and caution the CPonies guides use with their horses, their guests, and the bay. The staff pick up trash around the beach before the rides start. They also do large cleanups after every holiday not only picking up the trash but also carrying it away. That is 100's of pounds of garbage that will not enter the bay to damage sea grass. Horseback rides in the bay are a completely natural environmentally friendly vacation activity which should be encouraged, not banned. I have recommended them to at least 5 friends who thoroughly enjoyed their ride and feel the same way.

The majority of our ride was purposely on the sandbars that extend out into the bay from their embarkment point. This is a real win-win-win situation and you should be applauding these folks rather than try to ban them. Do you realize this small company is rated #1 on TripAdvisor. How many visitors come to this area just to ride horses in the bay? These tourists spend money at the local hotels, museums, and restaurants.

I encourage you to reject the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's request to ban horseback riding in the bay. I feel there just isn't enough proven facts submitted to ban horses from an area that just a few years back was filled with homeless living in the mangroves, drug users and those big rave parties. The area is now clean and safe for many to enjoy.

Thank you for your time.

Robin Young

6032 Sneller Rd.

Brewerton, NY 13029

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2019 OCT 22 PM 12:05
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From: Karen Casabura <casabura@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 9:49 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: CPonies

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PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: tina bartholomew <bartholomew7@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 9:29 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: horses on the Skyway bridge causeway

Dear Commisioners

Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel,
and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay.

Why not focus all the other issues plaguing the bay and ocean like millions of gallons of raw sewage being dumped in the Bay, boat anchors and props damaging 100's of acres of seagrass and ALL the other issues plaguing our waters right now BEFORE focusing on such a tiny and natural "supposed" problem like horse poop or so called damage done by horse hooves.

Are you aware in Miami Kite surfers are not allowed in any seagrass and must travel through channels to get 200 yards out from shore to surf? This is because their boards large fins cause scars in the seagrass, yet you allow so many to cause severe damage at the same location where the horses ride. This is absolutely not fair!

I and many others love the Cponies and enjoying having activities like this that aren't "powered" by gas, fuel and pounds of garbage like most of the activities offered here in our area - you can't tell me that ANY of those are LESS damaging?

This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater has to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there many beaches to choose fromin our state. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities and venues. There is so much to enjoy here, like horseback riding in the Bay. In fact, Cponies is the number one attraction in this area according to travel sites. Read their reviews on Trip Advisor. For many people riding in the Bay is a once in a lifetime experience. Horses have profoundly theraputic, calming effects as well as being fun.

About the seagrass, thankfully there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our seagrass.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach and license responsible, experienced Horseman Guides. Don't take the rights of us away!

Thank you,

Tina Bartholomew

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 22 PM 12:06
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COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Heidi Calvin <watergirl139@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 10:38 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: C-Ponies

Dear Commissioners:

Instead of banning Cponies from Tampa Bay you should instead be applauding them. My husband and i had never been to Tampa/St Petersburg, even tho living on the east coast of florida since 2006.

All my life i have wanted to ride a horse in the ocean. Only been on a horse twice, in my 20's. Around the first of the year i saw a TV feature on C-ponies and immediately made a reservation for my husband & i to ride in May of this year to celebrate my 72nd birthday. We loved every minute of it! But more to your point of view - -- we spent 4 nights at the Vinoy Renaissance St. Petersburg, eating out every day and evening and taking two other tours.....we left a lot of money in Pinellas County.

We were both totally impressed with their operation...we are hoping to come back next year as well.

instead of banning horses from the bay, you should instead realize that they are a shining jewel of the Tampa Bay area.

--

ed & heidi calvin
1343 Florida A1A, #3A, Satellite Beach, FL 32937

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BOARD OF
2019 OCT 22 PM 12:06
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PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Heidi Calvin <watergirl139@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 10:19 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: [BULK]
Importance: Low

Dear Pinellas County Commissioners

I urge you to carefully consider the facts before banning horses from Tampa Bay.

1. Since 1982 we have almost doubled the amount of seagrass coverage from around 21,500 acres to over 40,000 acres by bay-wide efforts to improve water quality, reduce commercial dredging, encouraging responsible boating, and seagrass restoration programs.
2. The majority of the damage that occurs to our seagrass in Tampa Bay is due recreational and commercial boat propeller scars and groundings. There is no proof that the photo of Google showing scars are caused by horses. I have looked at several Google pictures of other areas that show the same and in fact worse scarring. Why aren't those areas banning boats?
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The majority of our ride was purposely on the sandbars that extend out into the bay from their embarkment point. This is a real win-win-win situation and you should be applauding these folks rather than try to ban them. Do you realize this small company is rated #1 on TripAdvisor. How many visitors come to this area just to ride horses in the bay? These tourists spend money at the local hotels, museums, and restaurants.

I encourage you to reject the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's request to ban horseback riding in the bay. I feel there just isn't enough proven facts submitted to ban horses from an area that just a few years back was filled with homeless living in the mangroves, drug users and those big rave parties. The area is now clean and safe for many to enjoy.--

ed & heidi calvin
1343 Hiway A1A #3A
Satellite Beach, Fl. 32937

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 22 PM 12:06
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COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Terry Broomfield <brmfld@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 9:41 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: C.Ponies

This is so important for the sake of the rehabilitated horses and their caring owners, for the humanitarian impact on people that can share in this joy that I cannot see does any harm, but only good. please read below.

Thank you,
Jacqueline Broomfield.

Dear Pinellas County Commissioners,
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters:

I urge you to carefully consider the facts before banning horses from Tampa Bay.

1. Since 1982 we have almost doubled the amount of seagrass coverage from around 21,500 acres to over 40,000 acres by bay-wide efforts to improve water quality, reduce commercial dredging, encouraging responsible boating, and seagrass restoration programs.
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JanetCLong@pinellascounty.org, pgerard@pinellascounty.org, cjustice@pinellascounty.org, deggers@pinellascounty.org, kseel@pinellascounty.org, kseel@pinellascounty.org, kpeters@pinellascounty.org, Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov, Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov, kwelch@pinellascounty.org,

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PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Simmons, Cyndi M
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 12:54 PM
To: BoardRecords,
Subject: 10/22/19 #43 opposed to amended ordinance
Attachments: Support for the Horses; Please save CPonies!; Horses in the Bay; Save CPonies ; Horses in the Bay; Don't Ban The Horses!; [BULK] ; Please do not ban horses from the bay

Cyndi Simmons, Executive Aide
Office of Karen Williams Seel, Chair
Pinellas County Commission
315 Court Street, 5th floor
Clearwater, FL 33756
727-464-3278
www.pinellascounty.org

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PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Andrea Eason <andrea.emanuel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 12:40 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen
Subject: Support for the Horses

Dear Commissioners,

I wanted to take a moment to voice my support for the horses and horseback riding companies at the Skyway Bridge. I live in St. Petersburg and am a 5th generation Pinellas County resident; I live on the water and I love our waters and our marine life. I try to do my part to protect them and speak for them on behalf of my son and future generations. **But** this is not what change needs to happen here; those horses do so little to the waters and so much for our tourism. I have followed the water testing reports and there's no evidence that their poop is negatively impacting the waters. I've seen the seagrass and the damaged areas are not done by the footprints of horses but by the props and anchors of boats, jet skis, and the like, and the fins of kite boards. Personally, I'm way more concerned about the issues we have with raw human sewage in a much, much larger scale. I'm more concerned with the ignorance that happens everyday on our waters: Have you ever seen around the piers-- How many birds are injured by fishing line and hooks? Have you ever seen how tourists and residents drive jet skis in the area, with no regard for the seagrass or marine life? I've watched kite boarders and jet skis pay no respect to the seagrass; the horse tour guides make an effort to limit contact with it. To ban this would be the same as closing down the dog beaches that we have, which I do NOT support doing either.

I hope you've taken the time to read the water reports and view the area yourself; if that is the case, I'm confident that you know the horses are not causing issues and are a quite beautiful scene. We live in a hot area where tourism is important; how lovely that the horses can be ridden in water and how lovely that St Pete and Pinellas County offer this unique experience. Please support the horses tonight. Dog beaches, fishing piers, kite surfers, boaters all impact our environment and I, again, have to say that these horses are the least of my worries for our waters.

Thank you in advance.

--

Andrea Emanuel Eason
33703

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BOARD OF
2019 OCT 22 PM 1:13
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PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Jen Fischer <jlfisch1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 12:10 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Horses in the Bay

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 22 PM 1:17
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

Dear Commissioners:

I currently live in South Dakota. However the rest of my family lives in Orlando Florida. When I visit Florida I like to spend my vacation dollars in the Bay Area from Tampa Bay south to Siesta Key. I enjoy doing activities I can not do back home. One of those I enjoy is horseback riding in the bay. Being able to ride horses in the bay is one of my top activities. When activities like this are banned I take my dollars elsewhere which I can easily do along with vacation recommendations.

I doubt that horses damage the ecosystem nearly as much as motorized vehicles that are everywhere. I urge you not to ban horseback riding in the Bay.

If I had to guess it's a few Individuals who feel they should not have to share trails, parks or anything else even though horse back riding is a multi million. Dollar industry.

Do not ban horseback riding because if a few complaints. I am sure there is room in the bay for many recreational activities.

Horses cause very little problems in the bay. The runoffs, trash, and constant sewer dumping from the city cause more damage. This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater have to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there are beaches surrounding the state. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities there are to do, like horseback riding in the Bay.

Furthermore, The American Horse Council conducted a study on horseback riding and the equine industry. The study showed there is a \$6.8 billion annual economic impact in Florida and is up 33% since the last study over a decade ago. However, Sean Sullivan, CEO of Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council blames these horses for fueling red tide. He said "That can certainly add to the potential of an algae bloom. We all remember what we went through last year along the shores of the Gulf in this region and we would like to avoid that." There is literally no scientific evidence that these horses contributed to red tide any more than the infinite amount of wildlife that defecates in our waterways naturally. No to mention St. Petersburg dumps million of gallons of sewage into the Bay regularly. Regarding seagrass, there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner that it has been in over 50 years. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have noticeable damaging effect on our Bay. It is proven that the scars from boat props cause 85% of damage to seagrass, not horses.

Finally, I find it appalling that our regional planning agency is laser focused on banning a few horses from Tampa Bay. Sure there must be more pressing issues our regional planning agency should be focused on; something that actually matters. This makes our regional planning committee look like a joke. This is not how I want my tax dollars spent and I urge you to not ban horseback riding in the Bay.

Sincerely
Jennifer Fischer
Sioux Falls South Dakota

From: Kelly DeLancett <kdelancett3@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 12:40 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Please save CPonies!

RECEIVED
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COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA
2019 OCT 22 PM 1:17

I urge you to carefully consider the facts before banning horses from Tampa Bay.

1. Since 1982 we have almost doubled the amount of seagrass coverage from around 21,500 acres to over 40,000 acres by bay-wide efforts to improve water quality, reduce commercial dredging, encouraging responsible boating, and seagrass restoration programs.
2. The majority of the damage that occurs to our seagrass in Tampa Bay is due recreational and commercial boat propeller scars and groundings. There is no proof that the photo of Google showing scars are caused by horses. I have looked at several Google pictures of other areas that show the same and in fact worse scarring. Why aren't those areas banning boats?
3. According to Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute there are over 111,000 boats registered in Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Manatee counties.
4. Significant seagrass damage can and does occur from kiteboarding activities. Are you proposing to ban boating, swimming, dog parks, kiteboarding and surfing next?
5. The impact on water quality from the small number of horses is infinitesimal as compared to the thousands of recreational swimmers, beachgoers, and dogs that swim in Tampa Bay waters. I feel tax money could be better spent stopping the Millions of gallons of raw sewage spilled into Tampa Bay.

I have witnessed firsthand the care and caution the CPonies guides use with their horses, their guests, and the bay. The staff pick up trash around the beach before the rides start. They also do large cleanups after every holiday not only picking up the trash but also carrying it away. That is 100's of pounds of garbage that will not enter the bay to damage sea grass.

The majority of our ride was purposely on the sandbars that extend out into the bay from their embarkment point. This is a real win-win-win situation and you should be applauding these folks rather than try to ban them. Do you realize this small company is rated #1 on TripAdvisor. How many visitors come to this area just to ride horses in the bay? These tourists spend money at the local hotels, museums, and restaurants.

I encourage you to reject the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's request to ban horseback riding in the bay. I feel there just isn't enough proven facts submitted to ban horses from an area that just a few years back was filled with homeless living in the mangroves, drug users and those big rave parties. The area is now clean and safe for many to enjoy.

From: Jessica Murphy <jskmurphy@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 11:29 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Don't Ban The Horses!

Dear Pinellas County Commissioners,
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters:

I urge you to carefully consider the facts before banning horses from Tampa Bay.

1. Since 1982 we have almost doubled the amount of seagrass coverage from around 21,500 acres to over 40,000 acres by bay-wide efforts to improve water quality, reduce commercial dredging, encouraging responsible boating, and seagrass restoration programs.
2. The majority of the damage that occurs to our seagrass in Tampa Bay is due recreational and commercial boat propeller scars and groundings. There is no proof that the photo of Google showing scars are caused by horses. I have looked at several Google pictures of other areas that show the same and in fact worse scarring. Why aren't those areas banning boats?
3. According to Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute there are over 111,000 boats registered in Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Manatee counties.
4. Significant seagrass damage can and does occur from kiteboarding activities. Are you proposing to ban boating, swimming, dog parks, kiteboarding and surfing next?
5. The impact on water quality from the small number of horses is infinitesimal as compared to the thousands of recreational swimmers, beachgoers, and dogs that swim in Tampa Bay waters. I feel tax money could be better spent stopping the Millions of gallons of raw sewage spilled into Tampa Bay.

I have witnessed firsthand the care and caution the CPonies guides use with their horses, their guests, and the bay. The staff pick up trash around the beach before the rides start. They also do large cleanups after every holiday not only picking up the trash but also carrying it away. That is 100's of pounds of garbage that will not enter the bay to damage sea grass.

The majority of our ride was purposely on the sandbars that extend out into the bay from their embarkment point. This is a real win-win-win situation and you should be applauding these folks rather than try to ban them. Do you realize this small company is rated #1 on TripAdvisor. How many visitors come to this area just to ride horses in the bay? These tourists spend money at the local hotels, museums, and restaurants.

I encourage you to reject the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's request to ban horseback riding in the bay. I feel there just isn't enough proven facts submitted to ban horses from an area that just a few years back was filled with homeless living in the mangroves, drug users and those big rave parties. The area is now clean and safe for many to enjoy.

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 22 PM 1:17
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Pam F <eightsocks@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 12:31 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Horses in the Bay

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
OCT 22 PM 1:19
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

Dear Pinellas County Commissioners,
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters:

I urge you to carefully consider the facts before banning horses from Tampa Bay.

1. Since 1982 we have almost doubled the amount of seagrass coverage from around 21,500 acres to over 40,000 acres by bay-wide efforts to improve water quality, reduce commercial dredging, encouraging responsible boating, and seagrass restoration programs.
2. The majority of the damage that occurs to our seagrass in Tampa Bay is due recreational and commercial boat propeller scars and groundings. There is no proof that the photo of Google showing scars are caused by horses. I have looked at several Google pictures of other areas that show the same and in fact worse scarring. Why aren't those areas banning boats?
3. According to Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute there are over 111,000 boats registered in Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Manatee counties.
4. Significant seagrass damage can and does occur from kiteboarding activities. Are you proposing to ban boating, swimming, dog parks, kiteboarding and surfing next?
5. The impact on water quality from the small number of horses is infinitesimal as compared to the thousands of recreational swimmers, beachgoers, and dogs that swim in Tampa Bay waters. I feel tax money could be better spent stopping the Millions of gallons of raw sewage spilled into Tampa Bay.

I have witnessed firsthand the care and caution the CPonies guides use with their horses, their guests, and the bay. The staff pick up trash around the beach before the rides start. They also do large cleanups after every holiday not only picking up the trash but also carrying it away. That is 100's of pounds of garbage that will not enter the bay to damage sea grass.

The majority of our ride was purposely on the sandbars that extend out into the bay from their embarkment point. This is a real win-win-win situation and you should be applauding these folks rather than try to ban them. Do you realize this small company is rated #1 on TripAdvisor. How many visitors come to this area just to ride horses in the bay? These tourists spend money at the local hotels, museums, and restaurants.

I encourage you to reject the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's request to ban horseback riding in the bay. I feel there just isn't enough proven facts submitted to ban horses from an area that just a few years back was filled with homeless living in the mangroves, drug users and those big rave parties. The area is now clean and safe for many to enjoy.

From: Linda Hansen <hansenpurplelady@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 10:53 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: [BULK]
Importance: Low

Dear Pinellas County Commissioners, Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters:

We had visitors this past winter and took them on a ride with CPonies. We all had an amazing time. I urge you to carefully consider the facts before banning horses from Tampa Bay.

1. Since 1982 this dedicated company has almost doubled the amount of seagrass coverage from around 21,500 acres to over 40,000 acres by bay-wide efforts to improve water quality, reduce commercial dredging, encouraging responsible boating, and seagrass restoration programs.
2. The majority of the damage that occurs to our seagrass in Tampa Bay is due to recreational and commercial boat propeller scars and groundings. There is no proof that the photo of Google showing scars is caused by horses. Several Google pictures of other areas show the same and in fact worse scarring. Why aren't those areas banning boats?
3. According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, there are over 111,000 boats registered in Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Manatee counties. Having been on boats, I have been appalled by how inconsiderate many boat drivers are, many of whom are tourists and don't care about the preservation of our land and water.
4. Significant seagrass damage can and does occur from kiteboarding activities. Are you planning to propose banning boating, swimming, dog parks, kiteboarding and surfing next?
5. The impact on water quality from the small number of horses is infinitesimal as compared to the thousands of recreational swimmers, beachgoers, and dogs that swim in Tampa Bay waters. Certainly, tax money could be better spent stopping the millions of gallons of raw sewage spilled into Tampa Bay.

On our trip with CPonies, I have witnessed firsthand the care and caution the CPonies guides use with their horses, their guests, and the bay. The staff picks up trash around the beach before the rides start. I understand they also do large cleanups after every holiday not only picking up the trash but also carrying it away. That is 100's of pounds of garbage that will not enter the bay to damage seagrass.

The majority of our ride was purposely on the sandbars that extend out into the bay from their embarkment point. This is a real win-win-win situation and you should be applauding these folks rather than try to ban them. Do you realize this small company is rated #1 on TripAdvisor? How many visitors come to this area just to ride horses in the bay? These tourists spend money at local hotels, museums, and restaurants.

I encourage you to reject the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's request to ban horseback riding in the bay. I feel there just aren't enough proven facts submitted to ban horses from an area that just a few years back was filled with homeless living in the mangroves, drug users and those big rave parties. The area is now clean and safe for many to enjoy.

LINDA HANSEN

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 22 PM 1:19
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: linda love <littleangelsmd@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 12:21 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Save CPonies

Dear Pinellas County Commissioners,
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters:

I urge you to carefully consider the facts before banning horses from Tampa Bay.

1. Since 1982 we have almost doubled the amount of seagrass coverage from around 21,500 acres to over 40,000 acres by bay-wide efforts to improve water quality, reduce commercial dredging, encouraging responsible boating, and seagrass restoration programs.
2. The majority of the damage that occurs to our seagrass in Tampa Bay is due recreational and commercial boat propeller scars and groundings. There is no proof that the photo of Google showing scars are caused by horses. I have looked at several Google pictures of other areas that show the same and in fact worse scarring. Why aren't those areas banning boats?
3. According to Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute there are over 111,000 boats registered in Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Manatee counties.
4. Significant seagrass damage can and does occur from kiteboarding activities. Are you proposing to ban boating, swimming, dog parks, kiteboarding and surfing next?
5. The impact on water quality from the small number of horses is infinitesimal as compared to the thousands of recreational swimmers, beachgoers, and dogs that swim in Tampa Bay waters. I feel tax money could be better spent stopping the Millions of gallons of raw sewage spilled into Tampa Bay.

I have witnessed firsthand the care and caution the CPonies guides use with their horses, their guests, and the bay. The staff pick up trash around the beach before the rides start. They also do large cleanups after every holiday not only picking up the trash but also carrying it away. That is 100's of pounds of garbage that will not enter the bay to damage sea grass.

The majority of our ride was purposely on the sandbars that extend out into the bay from their embarkment point. This is a real win-win-win situation and you should be applauding these folks rather than try to ban them. Do you realize this small company is rated #1 on TripAdvisor. How many visitors come to this area just to ride horses in the bay? These tourists spend money at the local hotels, museums, and restaurants.

I encourage you to reject the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's request to ban horseback riding in the bay. I feel there just isn't enough proven facts submitted to ban horses from an area that just a few years back was filled with homeless living in the mangroves, drug users and those big rave parties. The area is now clean and safe for many to enjoy.

Sincerely
Linda Love
Sent from my iPhone

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 22 PM 1:19
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: maria hennigan <mariahennigan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 10:47 AM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Please do not ban horses from the bay

Dear Commissioners
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

Please do not ban horses in the bay! My husband and I recently traveled to St Pete and had the most amazing experience. We can't wait to bring our 2 daughters back to the area to ride horses in the water! It will be the main reason we return rather than going to a different vacation spot.

The company we used was amazing and educational about the water and horses and took great care and pride in their environment.

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay. . This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater has to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there many beaches to choose from in our state. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities and venues. There is so much to enjoy here, like horseback riding in the Bay. In fact, Cponies is the number one attraction in this area according to travel sites. Read our reviews. For many people riding in the Bay is a once in a lifetime experience. Horses have profoundly theraputic, calming effects as well as being fun.

The American Horse Council conducted a study on horseback riding and the equine industry. The study showed there is a \$6.8 billion annual economic impact in Florida and is up 33% since the last study over a decade ago. We are part of that growth.

About the seagrass, thankfully there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our seagrass.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach and license responsible, experienced Horseman Guides.

Please consider another way!

Maria Hennigan

Sent from my iPhone

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 22 PM 1:19
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Simmons, Cyndi M
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 1:31 PM
To: BoardRecords,
Subject: 10/22/19 #43 opposed to amending the ordinance
Attachments: Please don't ban the horses

Cyndi Simmons, Executive Aide
Office of Karen Williams Seel, Chair
Pinellas County Commission
315 Court Street, 5th floor
Clearwater, FL 33756
727-464-3278
www.pinellascounty.org

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RECEIVED
BOARD OF
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PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Cindi Ellis <cindiellis007@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 1:17 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Please don't ban the horses

Dear Pinellas County Commissioners,
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters

I urge you to carefully consider the facts before banning horses from Tampa Bay.

1. Since 1982 we have almost doubled the amount of seagrass coverage from around 21,500 acres to over 40,000 acres by bay-wide efforts to improve water quality, reduce commercial dredging, encouraging responsible boating, and seagrass restoration programs.
2. The majority of the damage that occurs to our seagrass in Tampa Bay is due recreational and commercial boat propeller scars and groundings. There is no proof that the photo of Google showing scars are caused by horses. I have looked at several Google pictures of other areas that show the same and in fact worse scarring. Why aren't those areas banning boats?
3. According to Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute there are over 111,000 boats registered in Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Manatee counties.
4. Significant seagrass damage can and does occur from kiteboarding activities. Are you proposing to ban boating, swimming, dog parks, kiteboarding and surfing next?
5. The impact on water quality from the small number of horses is infinitesimal as compared to the thousands of recreational swimmers, beachgoers, and dogs that swim in Tampa Bay waters. I feel tax money could be better spent stopping the Millions of gallons of raw sewage spilled into Tampa Bay.

I have witnessed firsthand the care and caution the CPonies guides use with their horses, their guests, and the bay. The staff pick up trash around the beach before the rides start. They also do large cleanups after every holiday not only picking up the trash but also carrying it away. That is 100's of pounds of garbage that will not enter the bay to damage sea grass.

The majority of our ride was purposely on the sandbars that extend out into the bay from their embarkment point. This is a real win-win-win situation and you should be applauding these folks rather than try to ban them. Do you realize this small company is rated #1 on TripAdvisor. How many visitors come to this area just to ride horses in the bay? These tourists spend money at the local hotels, museums, and restaurants.

I encourage you to reject the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's request to ban horseback riding in the bay. I feel there just isn't enough proven facts submitted to ban horses from an area that just a few years back was filled with homeless living in the mangroves, drug users and those big rave parties. The area is now clean and safe for many to enjoy.

Thank you,

Cindi Ellis

Sent from my iPhone

RECEIVED
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2019 OCT 22 PM 1:42
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Simmons, Cyndi M
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 4:17 PM
To: BoardRecords,
Subject: 10/22/19 #43 opposed to the amended ordinance
Attachments: Please do not ban the C-Ponies; CPonies Do Not Harm Seagrass; Banning horses from Tampa Bay.; Save our cponies; C ponies; One more time please save our cponies. ; C Ponies; Online Customer Service Contact Us Form Result #16602149; Cponies & Seagrass; Please don't ban the horses

Cyndi Simmons, Executive Aide
Office of Karen Williams Seel, Chair
Pinellas County Commission
315 Court Street, 5th floor
Clearwater, FL 33756
727-464-3278
www.pinellascounty.org

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PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Cynthia Dominick <cindydominick@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 4:15 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Please do not ban the C-Ponies

Dear Pinellas County Commissioners,
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters:

C-Ponies has been on my bucket list for many years and I finally had the opportunity to go last month. They take very good care of their horses as well as the environment. Previously I was an Assistant Coach for the Special Olympics in the equestrian division as well as a volunteer for many years with Quantum Leap Farm in Odessa and Hanson Center back in Chicago.

I was diagnosed in 2017 with spinal stenosis due to a car accident and have not been on a horse until last month. I could not stop smiling. Riding the C-Ponies was therapeutic for my soul.

I am currently a Director of Sales for a Pinellas County hotel and currently serve on the board for Tampa Bay Women in Tourism. Please do not take this treasure away from our local community as well as our tourists that come to our area to check C-Ponies off their very own bucket list.

Below is a photo of me on one of their lead horse Monana. I cannot wait to go back and next time and I am bringing my friend who is a retired Pinellas firefighter who just had back surgery due to an on the job injury - she fell through a floor during a call. She needs this horse therapy just as much as I do.

Thank you for listening and I hope that you will support keeping the C-Ponies around for all of us to enjoy for decades to come.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Dominick

1009 S Bayshore Blvd Unit 201
Safety Harbor FL 34677
727-686-1582

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BOARD OF
2019 OCT 22 PM 4:51
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA



From: Isabel Garces <isa.ignacio@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 3:06 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Save our cponies

Dear Pinellas County Commissioners,
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters:

I urge you to carefully consider the facts before banning horses from Tampa Bay.

1. Since 1982 we have almost doubled the amount of seagrass coverage from around 21,500 acres to over 40,000 acres by bay-wide efforts to improve water quality, reduce commercial dredging, encouraging responsible boating, and seagrass restoration programs.
2. The majority of the damage that occurs to our seagrass in Tampa Bay is due recreational and commercial boat propeller scars and groundings. There is no proof that the photo of Google showing scars are caused by horses. I have looked at several Google pictures of other areas that show the same and in fact worse scarring. Why aren't those areas banning boats?
3. According to Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute there are over 111,000 boats registered in Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Manatee counties.
4. Significant seagrass damage can and does occur from kiteboarding activities. Are you proposing to ban boating, swimming, dog parks, kiteboarding and surfing next?
5. The impact on water quality from the small number of horses is infinitesimal as compared to the thousands of recreational swimmers, beachgoers, and dogs that swim in Tampa Bay waters. I feel tax money could be better spent stopping the Millions of gallons of raw sewage spilled into Tampa Bay.

I have witnessed firsthand the care and caution the CPonies guides use with their horses, their guests, and the bay. The staff pick up trash around the beach before the rides start. They also do large cleanups after every holiday not only picking up the trash but also carrying it away. That is 100's of pounds of garbage that will not enter the bay to damage sea grass.

The majority of our ride was purposely on the sandbars that extend out into the bay from their embarkment point. This is a real win-win-win situation and you should be applauding these folks rather than try to ban them. Do you realize this small company is rated #1 on TripAdvisor. How many visitors come to this area just to ride horses in the bay? These tourists spend money at the local hotels, museums, and restaurants.

I encourage you to reject the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's request to ban horseback riding in the bay. I feel there just isn't enough proven facts submitted to ban horses from an area that just a few years back was filled with homeless living in the mangroves, drug users and those big rave parties. The area is now clean and safe for many to enjoy.

Sent from my iPhone

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2019 OCT 22 PM 4:51
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COMMISSIONERS
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Kathy Faries <kathy.faries@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 2:34 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Cc: Kathy Faries
Subject: C Ponies

Dear Pinellas County Commissioners,
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters:

A friend and I recently enjoyed an hour ride on C Ponies. The experience was awesome and gave me a new appreciation for the beautiful waters of Tampa Bay. I have driven from my home in Sarasota to my office in Tampa for 20 years and prior to my ride with C Ponies, I had never once stopped to appreciate the beauty of the bay. The ride on the horses was one of the best experiences I've ever had and I've told several friends to sign up for a ride with C Ponies. The guide we had, Jen, was so respectful of the water and the beaches and of taking care of the beautiful paradise by the bay. Please continue to all C Ponies to conduct these rides.

Points of note:

1. Since 1982 we have almost doubled the amount of seagrass coverage from around 21,500 acres to over 40,000 acres by bay-wide efforts to improve water quality, reduce commercial dredging, encouraging responsible boating, and seagrass restoration programs.
2. The majority of the damage that occurs to our seagrass in Tampa Bay is due recreational and commercial boat propeller scars and groundings. There is no proof that the photo of Google showing scars are caused by horses. I have looked at several Google pictures of other areas that show the same and in fact worse scarring. Why aren't those areas banning boats?
3. According to Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute there are over 111,000 boats registered in Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Manatee counties.
4. Significant seagrass damage can and does occur from kiteboarding activities. Are you proposing to ban boating, swimming, dog parks, kiteboarding and surfing next?
5. The impact on water quality from the small number of horses is infinitesimal as compared to the thousands of recreational swimmers, beachgoers, and dogs that swim in Tampa Bay waters. I feel tax money could be better spent stopping the millions of gallons of raw sewage spilled into Tampa Bay.

As I mentioned above, I have witnessed firsthand the care and caution the C Ponies guides use with their horses, their guests, and the bay. The staff pick up trash around the beach before the rides start. They also do large cleanups after every holiday not only picking up the trash but also carrying it away. That is hundreds of pounds of garbage that will not enter the bay to damage sea grass.

The majority of our ride was purposely on the sandbars that extend out into the bay from their embarkation point. This is a real win-win-win situation and you should be applauding this company rather than try to ban them. This small company is rated #1 on TripAdvisor. Many visitors come to this area just to ride horses in the bay and these tourists spend money at the local hotels, museums, and restaurants. After our ride we stayed nearby and had lunch at a local restaurant-- this never would have happened if we'd not gone on the ride.

I encourage you to reject the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's request to ban horseback riding in the bay. I feel there just are not enough proven facts submitted to ban horses from an area that just a few years ago was filled with homeless living in the mangroves, as well as drug users and big rave parties. The area is now clean and safe for many to enjoy. Please, please, please allow this great company to continue their rides. I have plans to repeat my ride and to bring several out of town guests at Thanksgiving to join me.

Thank you for your time.

Kathye Faries
941-928-5594
Kathye.Faries@gmail.com

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BOARD OF
2019 OCT 22 PM 4:51
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PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Solomon, Jackie <Jackie.Solomon@aecom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 4:10 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: CPonies Do Not Harm Seagrass

Dear Pinellas County Commissioners,
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters:

I urge you to carefully consider the facts before banning horses from Tampa Bay.

1. Since 1982 we have almost doubled the amount of seagrass coverage from around 21,500 acres to over 40,000 acres by bay-wide efforts to improve water quality, reduce commercial dredging, encouraging responsible boating, and seagrass restoration programs.
2. The majority of the damage that occurs to our seagrass in Tampa Bay is due recreational and commercial boat propeller scars and groundings. There is no proof that the photo of Google showing scars are caused by horses. I have looked at several Google pictures of other areas that show the same and in fact worse scarring. Why aren't those areas banning boats?
3. According to Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute there are over 111,000 boats registered in Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Manatee counties.
4. Significant seagrass damage can and does occur from kiteboarding activities. Are you proposing to ban boating, swimming, dog parks, kiteboarding and surfing next?
5. The impact on water quality from the small number of horses is infinitesimal as compared to the thousands of recreational swimmers, beachgoers, and dogs that swim in Tampa Bay waters. I feel tax money could be better spent stopping the Millions of gallons of raw sewage spilled into Tampa Bay.

I have witnessed firsthand the care and caution the CPonies guides use with their horses, their guests, and the bay. The staff pick up trash around the beach before the rides start. They also do large cleanups after every holiday not only picking up the trash but also carrying it away. That is 100's of pounds of garbage that will not enter the bay to damage sea grass.

The majority of our ride was purposely on the sandbars that extend out into the bay from their embarkment point. This is a real win-win-win situation and you should be applauding these folks rather than try to ban them. Do you realize this small company is rated #1 on TripAdvisor. How many visitors come to this area just to ride horses in the bay? These tourists spend money at the local hotels, museums, and restaurants.

I encourage you to reject the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's request to ban horseback riding in the bay. I feel there just isn't enough proven facts submitted to ban horses from an area that just a few years back

was filled with homeless living in the mangroves, drug users and those big rave parties. The area is now clean and safe for many to enjoy.

Regards,

"Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go"

T.S. Elliot

Jacquelyn R. Solomon

C +1-419-566-0026

jackie.solomon@aecom.com

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From: The McCreights <mccreight33@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 2:52 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: C ponies

Dear Commisioners
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters,

I strongly urge you not to ban horses from the Bay. Horses in the Bay cause very few problems for the bay. . This is a fun family-friendly event that truly adds to the amenities St. Pete/Clearwater has to offer. People come to Florida for the beaches, however, there many beaches to choose from in our state. People come to St. Pete/Clearwater beaches because of all the additional activities and venues. There is so much to enjoy here, like horseback riding in the Bay. In fact, Cponies is the number one attraction in this area according to travel sites. Read our reviews. For many people riding in the Bay is a once in a lifetime experience. Horses have profoundly theraputic, calming effects as well as being fun.

The American Horse Council conducted a study on horseback riding and the equine industry. The study showed there is a \$6.8 billion annual economic impact in Florida and is up 33% since the last study over a decade ago. We are part of that growth.

About the seagrass, thankfully there is more seagrass in Tampa Bay than ever before. The Bay is cleaner than it has been in over 50 years. That is an accomplishment to celebrate. The Bay has been getting cleaner all while there has been horseback riding in the Bay. There is no scientific evidence that these few horses can have a damaging effect on our Bay. Boat props not horse hoofs cause 85% of damage to our seagrass.

Perhaps you might take a more moderate approach and license responsible, experienced Horseman Guides.

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From: form_engine@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of lloydsterling at aol.com
<form_engine@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 2:23 PM
To: Seel, Karen
Subject: Online Customer Service Contact Us Form Result #16602149

This information is a result of a Pinellas County Online Customer Service form submission from the Pinellas County web site.

Direction of inquiry

General Information
Report a Problem
Request a Service
Commissioner Janet C. Long - District 1
Commissioner Pat Gerard - District 2 (2019 Vice Chair)
Commissioner Charlie Justice - District 3
Commissioner Dave Eggers - District 4
Commissioner Karen Williams Seel - District 5 (2019 Chair)
Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
Commissioner Kenneth T. Welch - District 7
County Administrator
Webmaster

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Subject Horses Should NOT be banned at the skyway

Message If you remove the horses you need ro remove the kite surfers ,the boaters ,the kayakers ,the dogs ., the Wading fisherman. This ia a normal water activity , if you want to say horses are damaging sea grass then you also need to look at the boat propellers that major huge scars its very clear its a boat prop. The kite surfers have 4 foot blades on the bottom of the boards they surf on ,I have pictures, just like a boat prop.that has blades ,They have a 4 to 5 foot blade ,isnt that like a weed wacker? cuting grass is what those props do, lets be realistic here , ok kite surfers have 40 to 100 people that come out to the skyway and practice the whole time they are standing in sea grass stomping around ,whats the difference of a horse walking out on a path ,which cponies follows a deep water sandy path so not to distrub anything. Dogs poop do people picknit up ? ok dogs running threw the sea grass same as kite surfers and horses all the same . Its proven boat props do more s damage yearly than anything. Well the real issue is human waste worry about all the dumping thtas being dumped in Tampa bay not a few horses walking in thee water ,its not like they are out all day long everyday. Worry about human waste and and real issues not a small group of horses ,horses poop organic poop just like a manatee . Dolphins poop fish poop..lets get real here. Worry about trash and human waste in ocean !!!Im for the horses being at skyway!!!You target one group and not another whats really going on here ???

Your Name	jennifer osterling	City/Unincorporated County	manatee
Your Street Address	40035 clay gully rd	ZIP Code	34251
		Your Phone Number	941 232 1386
		Your Email Address	lloydsterling@aol.com

From: Sandi Harlow <spiritdances@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 3:09 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: Banning horses from Tampa Bay.

Dear Pinellas County Commissioners,
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters:

I urge you to carefully consider the facts before banning horses from Tampa Bay.

1. Since 1982 we have almost doubled the amount of seagrass coverage from around 21,500 acres to over 40,000 acres by bay-wide efforts to improve water quality, reduce commercial dredging, encouraging responsible boating, and seagrass restoration programs.
2. The majority of the damage that occurs to our seagrass in Tampa Bay is due recreational and commercial boat propeller scars and groundings. There is no proof that the photo of Google showing scars are caused by horses. I have looked at several Google pictures of other areas that show the same and in fact worse scarring. Why aren't those areas banning boats?
3. According to Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute there are over 111,000 boats registered in Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Manatee counties.
4. Significant seagrass damage can and does occur from kiteboarding activities. Are you proposing to ban boating, swimming, dog parks, kiteboarding and surfing next?
5. The impact on water quality from the small number of horses is infinitesimal as compared to the thousands of recreational swimmers, beachgoers, and dogs that swim in Tampa Bay waters. I feel tax money could be better spent stopping the Millions of gallons of raw sewage spilled into Tampa Bay.

I have witnessed firsthand the care and caution the CPonies guides use with their horses, their guests, and the bay. The staff pick up trash around the beach before the rides start. They also do large cleanups after every holiday not only picking up the trash but also carrying it away. That is 100's of pounds of garbage that will not enter the bay to damage sea grass.

The majority of our ride was purposely on the sandbars that extend out into the bay from their embarkment point. This is a real win-win-win situation and you should be applauding these folks rather than try to ban them. Do you realize this small company is rated #1 on TripAdvisor. How many visitors come to this area just to ride horses in the bay? These tourists spend money at the local hotels, museums, and restaurants.

I encourage you to reject the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's request to ban horseback riding in the bay. I feel there just isn't enough proven facts submitted to ban horses from an area that just a few years back

was filled with homeless living in the mangroves, drug users and those big rave parties. The area is now clean and safe for many to enjoy.

My family vacation in St. Pete's Beach 3 times a year and love the SeaPonies . They rescue the and we all know and support that cause!

Thank you for your time and help on this vote!

Sandra Harlow

And Family

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From: Tonya <Tonya_M1965@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 2:37 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Subject: One more time please save our cponies.

Dear Pinellas County Commissioners,
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters:

I urge you to carefully consider the facts before banning horses from Tampa Bay.

1. Since 1982 we have almost doubled the amount of seagrass coverage from around 21,500 acres to over 40,000 acres by bay-wide efforts to improve water quality, reduce commercial dredging, encouraging responsible boating, and seagrass restoration programs.
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was filled with homeless living in the mangroves, drug users and those big rave parties. The area is now clean and safe for many to enjoy.

My experience with the horses and the staff who care for them was remarkable. It was a beautiful event shared with my step daughter and her mother. We loved it and want to do this again. I also want to take my own daughters. Please allow these amazing creatures to enjoy the sea and focus on going after companies who pollute our precious water instead

Sincerely,

Tonya M. Morgan

JanetCLong@pinellascounty.org, pgerard@pinellascounty.org, cjustice@pinellascounty.org, deggers@pinellascounty.org, kseel@pinellascounty.org, kseel@pinellascounty.org, kpeters@pinellascounty.org, Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov, Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov, kwelch@pinellascounty.org,

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From: Elizabeth <emcc@emccdesign.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 2:05 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Brandes.jeff@flsenate.gov; Jennifer.Webb@myfloridahouse.gov; Welch, Kenneth
Cc: 'CPonies Beach Horseback Rides'
Subject: Cponies & Seagrass

Dear Pinellas County Commissioners,
Janet Long, Pat Gerard, Charlie Justice, Dave Eggers, Karen Seel, and Kathleen Peters:

I urge you to carefully consider the facts before banning horses from Tampa Bay. You may want to consider the effects of climate change, warming seas, run-off from agriculture, pest control & fertilizers on the seagrass (check Google, Science, Climate Crisis) rather than blame a few horses that are mostly rescued & rehabilitated by these skilled, caring people. By all means, regulate it to ensure quality, safety & humane treatment of the horses, but to blame them for the damage is ridiculous.

1. Since 1982 we have almost doubled the amount of seagrass coverage from around 21,500 acres to over 40,000 acres by bay-wide efforts to improve water quality, reduce commercial dredging, encouraging responsible boating, and seagrass restoration programs.
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Sincerely,

Elizabeth McClymont
1446 Claret Court,
Fort Myers, FL 33919

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