



RESOLUTION

BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS, SOUTH CAROLINA, APPROVING AND SUPPORTING THE FINDINGS OF THE ISLE OF PALMS BEACH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

IT IS RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS, SOUTH CAROLINA, THAT:

WHEREAS, the beach on the Isle of Palms is one of South Carolina's most valuable natural resources, providing areas for recreation, an attraction for tourists and other visitors and providing a significant boost to the City, Charleston County and regional economy; and

WHEREAS, the plant known as beach vitex (*Vitex rotundifolia*), a species not native to North America, has been found growing in sand dunes on the island; and

WHEREAS, the City's Beach Advisory Committee has made an extensive study of beach vitex, finding that this plant is a rapidly growing species that destroys native vegetation and inhibits the natural growth of sand dunes, and further, that ongoing research conducted by the 2005 Carolina Beach Vitex Task Force has presented preliminary data indicating that beach vitex is less efficient at inhibiting dune erosion than natural vegetation; and

WHEREAS, the Isle of Palms beaches are important nesting areas for the federally threatened loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) and beach vitex may interfere with nesting success; and

WHEREAS, the spreading and persistence of beach vitex will cause harm to important uses of the City's beaches; and

WHEREAS, based upon research and the 2005 Carolina Beach Vitex Task Force's preliminary findings, ten (10) communities in North and South Carolina have enacted restricting ordinances against beach vitex;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that City Council, in meeting duly assembled, accepts and supports the following findings:

The plant known as beach vitex (*Vitex rotundifolia*) is hereby found and declared to be a public nuisance, due to the significant negative impacts this plant has placed upon the public beaches and dunes of both the City of Isle of Palms and South Carolina.

Beach vitex shall not be planted on any property located in the City of Isle of Palms. Any existing or future beach vitex should be eradicated by repeated use of over-the-counter weed killing spray, until the entire plant and root system has been destroyed.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON THE 22nd DAY OF AUGUST 2006.

F. Michael Sottile, Mayor

(SEAL)
ATTEST:

Lisa Darrow, City Clerk