

AN ORDINANCE TO DECLARE BEACH VITEX A NUISANCE

WHEREAS, it is necessary and advantageous to establish and adopt Ordinances to promote the public health, safety and general welfare of the residents of Ocean Isle Beach.

WHEREAS, the beach of Ocean Isle is one of the Town's most valuable natural resources, providing areas for public recreation, attraction of tourist and other visitors, and providing a major boost to the Island's economy; and

WHEREAS, there are three species on the Federal Endangered List (loggerhead sea turtles, piping plovers, and seabach amaranth) severely threatened by Beach Vitex; and

WHEREAS, there are other species including but not limited to Sea Oats, Bitter Panicum, Seashore Elder, and American Beachgrass that are also severely threatened; and

WHEREAS, Beach Vitex destroys these plants which protect dunes, and provides little if any protection for dunes, therefore significantly increasing the likelihood of damage to the dunes, the beaches, and therefore Island infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Beach Vitex, a plant species that is not native to this country much less this Island, has been found growing in many places on this Island including the land side of beach dunes; and

WHEREAS, the spreading and persistence of Beach Vitex has caused harm and will continue to cause harm to native species.

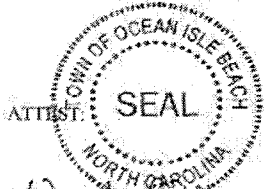
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWN OF OCEAN ISLE BEACH that Chapter 22 entitled "Environment" be amended to add a new Section, denominated as Section 22-35 to read as follows:

It shall be unlawful to introduce, plant or maintain Beach Vitex (*Vitex rotundifolia*) within the Town of Ocean Isle Beach.

That Section 22-36 through 22-79, shall be classified "Reserved".

That this ordinance shall be placed in the ordinance book and become effective immediately.

This the 10th day of January, 2006.



Wendy Williams
Town Clerk: (1)

[Signature]
Mayor