

PRESS RELEASE FOR THE GALVESTON AREA NEWS MEDIA
REGARDING FORMATION OF THE BEACHES FOR JOBS COMMITTEE

Galveston business, tourism and government officials have formed the "Beaches for Jobs Committee" to promote passage of Proposition Number Four on the November 2 ballot.

Armin Cantini, chairman of the Galveston Chamber of Commerce Beach Renourishment Committee will spearhead the movement to add one-eighth of one cent to the local sales tax to fund beach renourishment for Galveston.

"This increase, while having a minimal effect on individuals and businesses in the community, will provide the money to ensure stable funding for beach renourishment," Cantini said.

The Beach Renourishment Committee of the Chamber has been working since 1991 to accomplish the goal of creating new beaches from 10th to 61st streets. The Committee has been comprised of state, county and local elected officials and staff members, as well as business community volunteers.

The project, which can begin in January 1994 and be completed by April of 1994, will cost approximately \$4 million dollars. The renourishment project will take sand from just offshore of Big Reef on the eastern end of the Island and pipe it to the beaches between 10th and 61st Streets. The volume of sand used in this project will total 715,000 cubic yards and will provide an average beach width of 150 feet from the Seawall.

Cantini said his committee sees tremendous benefits for Galveston residents. "First, there will be benefits to residents of our community who enjoy the Seawall and beaches as a part of the ambiance of living in Galveston. The Seawall and the beaches provide exceptional recreational benefits. Another very compelling reason to undertake this project is because we think there will be increased economic and business opportunities that will benefit our residents by providing new jobs."

Cantini said, "We expect to see the benefits repeated here that have occurred in other seaside communities where successful beach restoration projects have been completed. We expect to see increased hotel occupancies and an attendant increase in hotel-motel taxes. We expect to see new development and new business opportunities along the central corridor of Seawall Boulevard and a resultant increase in sales taxes and jobs."

He went on to say that Galveston's beaches are a unique asset which other communities can not replicate. As an important community asset, we need to be vigilant in our efforts to take full advantage of the beaches. Renourished beaches, along with such attractions as The Moody Gardens, The Pier 21 developments, the many museums, the return of the day cruise industry by Gold Star Cruises, and others simply to numerous to mention, all combine to make Galveston an interesting and exciting place to live and to visit.

Cantini said anyone interested in helping to promote passage of Proposition Number Four is invited to attend a meeting on the issue at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 13, 1993. The meeting will be held at the Chamber of Commerce offices in the Moody Civic Center.

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