



## ***CITY OF PANAMA CITY BEACH AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY***

**1. DEPARTMENT MAKING REQUEST/NAME:**

Erica Citrigno, Police

**2. MEETING DATE:**

September 25, 2025

**3. REQUESTED MOTION/ACTION:**

Hold a second reading and consider approval of the proposed ordinance.

**4. AGENDA: REGULAR AGENDA AND  
DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS**

**5. IS THIS ITEM BUDGETED  
(IF APPLICABLE)?:** N/A

Detailed Budget Amendment Attached: N/A  
Is Business Impact Statement Attached: Yes

**6. IDENTIFY STRATEGIC PRIORITY:**

Public Safety  
Quality of Life  
Financial Health

**7. BACKGROUND: WHY IS THE ACTION NECESSARY? WHAT GOAL WILL BE  
ACHIEVED?**

Ordinance No. 1667 sets forth a new set of rules during a declared "High Impact Period" (HIP).

A High Impact Period is a specially designated time when Panama City Beach expects unusually large crowds, such as Spring Break or July 4th weekend. During these peak times, the City can officially declare a HIP, which allows for the implementation of temporary rules to ensure that the City is able to address safety issues as they happen. The goal is to prevent the kind of overcrowding, violence, and chaos that have occurred during past high impact events.

Ordinance No. 1667 creates the following safety provisions to be used only during declared HIPs:

- **Nighttime Juvenile Curfew:** During a HIP, the City may impose a temporary 8:00 P.M. to 5:00 A.M. curfew for minors under 18 who are not with an adult. This means that there are no unaccompanied minors in public at night. Exceptions are allowed (for example, teens going to work with a parent/guardian, or coming from a school or church event). Parents are held responsible: it is unlawful for a parent/guardian to knowingly allow their child to break curfew, and fines of up to \$500 can be applied for each offense.
- **Under-21 Restrictions in Bars/Clubs:** To reduce underage drinking and violence, no one under 21 is allowed inside bars or nightclubs after 10:00 P.M. during a HIP (unless accompanied by a parent or for a permitted special event). Bars must check IDs and deny entry to under-21 patrons at night. If an underage person sneaks in despite the venue's

precautions, the venue won't be penalized, provided they were diligently checking IDs and immediately removed the minor. Violations can result in hefty fines for the establishment (starting at \$1,000) and a \$500 fine for the underage individual.

- **Security and Lighting at Nightlife Venues:** Bars, clubs, and similar late-night businesses must implement enhanced safety measures during HIPs. Professional security personnel are required on-site from 10:00 p.m. to closing time. Larger venues require additional security personnel (e.g., one guard per 100 patrons, with extra guards assigned to large parking areas) to effectively manage crowds. Parking lots and entrances must be well-lit at night for enhanced visibility and safety. The City can also require additional steps if needed – for instance, using electronic ID scanners at the door or ending outdoor music early – to address specific safety concerns during a HIP.
- **Vacation Rental Party Control Measures:** New temporary rules aim to curb rowdy house parties in short-term rentals during HIPs. Key provisions include:
  - **Minimum Age to Rent:** Vacation rentals cannot be rented to anyone under 21 years old, and the rental owner/agent must verify the primary renter's ID at check-in. All adult guests' names and ages must be recorded (with ID) so there is accountability for who is staying at the property.
  - **On-Site Security for Large Rentals:** Large vacation rental complexes (more than 25 units or with on-site amenities) are required to have nighttime security personnel on duty during HIP evenings. Security guards or off-duty officers will patrol to enforce rules, keep order, and report any unlawful activity.
  - **Guest ID and Amenity Restrictions:** Rental owners must check IDs of all overnight guests and limit access to shared amenities (pools, decks, etc.) to registered guests only. Unaccompanied minors are not allowed in shared amenity areas after 9:00 P.M. without an adult present. Owners are also required to inform all guests about the HIP rules in effect and cooperate with law enforcement if any issues arise.
- **Traffic, Parking, and Crowd Management:** Ordinance 1667 gives the City new tools to manage congestion and crowds during HIPs. Traffic flow can be temporarily adjusted – officials may close or reroute certain streets, create pedestrian-only zones, or block off crowded beach accesses to prevent dangerous overcrowding. Public parking lots in the HIP zone may charge higher fees (up to double the normal rate) to discourage excessive traffic and cruising. Illegal parking and cruising violations face tougher penalties. Vehicles towed during a HIP can incur higher towing fees (up to double the usual rate), and police are authorized to impound vehicles for up to 72 hours if they're used in street racing or other traffic violations within a HIP zone. These measures help keep roads clear for the safety and convenience of emergency responders. (The City can also swiftly set up "special event zones" with extra security and traffic control if an unpermitted mass gathering erupts, to restore order.)
- **"CARES" Voluntary Business Certification:** The ordinance establishes a voluntary Panama City Beach C.A.R.E.S. program (Community Alliance for Responsible Entertainment and Safety) to encourage local businesses to exceed safety standards, particularly during HIPs. Bars, clubs, restaurants, hotels, and rentals can choose to meet higher safety standards, for example, hiring extra security or off-duty police during peak weeks, using strict ID checks to prevent underage drinking, installing security cameras, and enforcing zero tolerance for drugs or fighting. Businesses that become "CARES Certified" will be publicly recognized as safe and family-friendly establishments (featured in City/CVB marketing, given a special badge or logo). Incentives: The City can offer fee reductions or waivers to certified businesses (such as discounts on permit fees or licenses) as a reward for their commitment to safety. This program is a partnership approach – it rewards responsible businesses and helps visitors identify venues that are proactively keeping

guests safe.

The new HIP rules are proactive steps to protect public safety during Panama City Beach's busiest periods. By temporarily ramping up curfews, age checks, security presence, and traffic control, the City aims to prevent the violence, overcrowding, and lawlessness that can occur when huge crowds converge. Ordinance No.1667 is designed to ensure that even during Spring Break or major holiday weekends, our beach community remains a safe, orderly, and enjoyable place for both residents and visitors. These measures are applied only during declared HIPs and are meant to strike a balance between welcoming large events and maintaining public order and family-friendly fun.

[Ord No. 1667.High Impact Period.9.19.25.2nd Reading.pdf](#)

[BIE Ord 1667.pdf](#)

[Notice 2nd Reading.pdf](#)