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March 29, 2021

Mayor Robert M. Dyer
Municipal Center
City Hall, Building #1
2401 Courthouse Drive
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456

Dear Honorable Mayor, Members of City Council, City Manager, City Attorney, and VBPB Chief of Police,

On behalf of the Board of the Virginia Beach Hotel Association, please allow me to take the opportunity to share with you our thoughts in advance of tomorrow's special City Council meeting. It should be the priority of all involved that steps are taken to ensure, to the best of our ability, that the events that took place at the oceanfront Friday night are not repeated. We hope the focus of tomorrow's meeting is a discussion of the steps required to ensure that public safety is our paramount priority, and for that message to be strongly conveyed to the public. It is our opinion that more public safety personnel, video camera coverage of the entire resort area, more lighting, particularly on side streets, and license plate recognition technology are sensible ideas that will assist our police department in protecting our citizens and visitors. Additionally, we will be supportive of any other ideas offered by the city manager, city attorney, and chief of police to ensure public safety. We are at the very beginning of the 2021 tourism season and hope that tomorrow's meeting sends a clear message that the events of Friday night will not be tolerated, and that clear direction is given that any and all measures will be taken to assist our police department in the important job they do.

Thank you for your service to our city.

Sincerely,



John Zirkle, President
Virginia Beach Hotel Association

c: Taylor Adams, Director of Economic Development;
Kenneth Chandler, Deputy City Manager; BJ Baumann, RAC Chairperson

1206 Laskin Road, Suite 140 D-E • Virginia Beach VA 23451

Phone: 757-428-8015

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