

# **TOWN OF PALM BEACH**

Information for Town Council Meeting on: July 11, 2023

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TO: Mayor and Town Council

VIA: Kirk W. Blouin, Town Manager

FROM: H. Paul Brazil, P.E., Director of Public Works

RE: Port of Palm Beach Strategic Master Plan Discussion

DATE: June 30, 2023

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## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Town staff recommends that Town Council provide direction regarding the submittal and content of comments to the Port during the current public comment period.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Port, along with assistance provided by their consultant Moffat & Nichol, completed their re-draft of the Port of Palm Beach Strategic Master Plan on June 3, 2023. A final public meeting was held on June 27, 2023 to provide a presentation to the public and initiate a 30-day public comment period that will expire on July 27, 2023.

The Town of Palm Beach has a strong interest in the current actions and future goals and objectives of the Port of Palm Beach as their activities have a direct impact on the livelihood of our residents. An overall concern for the Town over the years has been an expansion in the scope of operations of the Port to provide support to the South Florida region, specifically Palm Beach County.

In review of the main report and appendices, the following notable points were identified:

- The Port has reaffirmed its commitment to working with the Town of Palm Beach to ensure that all beach-compatible sand is placed south of the inlet on the Town's beaches.
- Deepening and widening of the inlet was not explicitly mentioned.
- Appendix A states a community outreach intent for the Port to work closely with all adjacent and neighboring municipalities regarding all new projects.

The following concerns will continue to be monitored:

- Any commitment to accommodate larger ships in the future inherently raises inlet deepening and widening concerns.
- Overall support of Riviera Beach initiatives needs to be monitored as Port intentions for future mooring considerations by Riviera Beach were not discussed in the report.

cc: Patricia Strayer, P.E., Town Engineer  
Robert Weber, Coastal Program Manager