



# City of Tarpon Springs, Florida

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May 2, 2017

To: Mayor, Vice-Mayor and Board of Commissioners

From: Mark G. LeCouris, City Manager

For information purposes in regards to the Sunbay Motel. I want to again emphasize that these actions are completely separate from our ongoing process of trying to purchase the Sunbay Motel and Hoffman property for a park/public gathering place. I will send you more information as it becomes available and all information will be posted on our website. Mark LeCouris City Manager

**From:** Robert Kochen  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 04, 2017 3:24 PM  
**To:** Mark LeCouris  
**Subject:** FW: Sunbay Motel

Just an additional FYI

**ROBERT P. KOCHEN**  
CHIEF OF POLICE



**TARPON SPRINGS**  
POLICE DEPARTMENT

*"Building a Better Future through Excellence in Policing"*

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**Please Note:** The State of Florida has a very broad public records law under chapter 119. Most written material to or from City officials regarding City business are public records and available to the public or media upon request. Your e-mail communications and/or e-mail attachments may be subject to public disclosure.

**From:** Robert Kochen  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 04, 2017 3:22 PM  
**To:** Mike Trill <[mtrill@tspd.us](mailto:mtrill@tspd.us)>; 'jyoung@tspd.us' <[jyoung@tspd.us](mailto:jyoung@tspd.us)>  
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**Subject:** Sunbay Motel

All Admin/Staff:

Based on the latest narcotics operation (reference the below information) the City will now initiate the following action(s) against Sunbay Motel:

1. The City Commission will be asked to authorize the City Attorney to initiate litigation on the Sunbay Motel through the Circuit Court. (This will be done at the 05/16/17 Commission Meeting)
2. Our Code Enforcement Division will now initiate another nuisance action against the Sunbay Motel through the Code Enforcement Board.

As most of you know currently the City has hired an eminent domain attorney to review a possible "eminent domain action" against the Sunbay Motel and the adjacent property. Additionally, the Sunbay Motel has been cited to appear before the City's Code Enforcement Board on 05/11/17 to address building and fire code violations.

**\*\*Kudos to the Patrol Division for keeping a strong police presence at the Sunbay Motel\*\***  
**\*\*Kudos to the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department and Detective Walguarnery for two successful narcotics operations that had an impact on the illegal activity at the Sunbay Motel\*\***



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Date: May 5, 2017

The Tarpon Springs Police Department and the Pinellas Sheriff's Office Countywide Narcotics Task Force conducted a joint narcotics operation, which took place over the past six months and was concluded this past week. The investigation involved undercover operations into the sale of narcotics in the City of Tarpon Springs. The operation culminated in criminal drug charges on at least 20 individuals.

On April 27, 2017 officers from T.S.P.D. and deputies from Pinellas S.O. began attempting to locate the suspects and conduct arrests. At the present time, 13 suspects have been arrested and several more suspects are outstanding and being sought. The following individuals were taken custody in this investigation to date:

1. Burthland Forde (B/M; 10/26/98)  
2 counts of Sale of Crack Cocaine  
2 counts of Possession of Crack Cocaine
2. Frederick Smith (B/M; 08/13/59)  
1 count of Sale of Crack Cocaine  
1 count of Possession of Crack Cocaine
3. Damon Mathis (B/M; 09/14/84)  
3 counts of Sale of Crack Cocaine  
3 counts of Possession of Crack Cocaine
4. Prince Smith (B/M; 02/01/90)  
1 count Sale of Marijuana  
1 count Possession of Marijuana
5. Donnell Engram (B/M; 10/16/89)  
1 count of Sale of Crack Cocaine  
1 count of Possession of Crack Cocaine
6. Ezra Delaine (B/M; 03/20/00)  
1 count of Sale of Crack Cocaine  
1 count of Possession of Crack Cocaine
7. Keistey Crenshaw (B/M; 11/09/53)  
2 counts of Sale of Crack Cocaine  
2 counts of Possession of Crack Cocaine
8. Todd Mitchell (B/M; 06/06/92)  
2 counts of Sale of Cocaine  
2 counts of Possession of Cocaine
9. Anthoine Blanch (B/M; 02/16/90)

1 count of Sale of Crack Cocaine  
1 count of Possession of Crack Cocaine

10. Adrianna Lindsay (B/F; 07/08/98)  
2 counts of Sale of Crack Cocaine  
2 counts of Possession of Crack Cocaine

11. Andre McCants (B/M; 08/05/70)  
1 count of Sale of Crack Cocaine  
1 count of Possession of Crack Cocaine

12. Stephen Whalen (W/M; 10/26/89)  
1 count of Sale of Oxycodone  
1 count of Possession of Oxycodone  
1 count of Sale of Counterfeit Drug

13. Ruben Brooks (B/M; 08/01/60)  
1 count of Trafficking in Hydromorphone  
1 count of Sale of Counterfeit Drug

The investigation revealed that the majority of the undercover deals had a nexus to the Sunbay Motel, located at 57 W. Tarpon Ave., where a large majority of the suspects would frequent and make contact with undercover operatives. Approximately 30% of the undercover drug deals took place on the property at the motel, with some of the suspects staying on the property during the investigation. Other narcotics transactions, although originated at the motel, would take place at various locations within the city, due in part to increased law enforcement presence and efforts in the area of the motel, as noted by the suspects' statements during the undercover operation.

The Tarpon Springs Police Department will continue its efforts to combat the sale of drugs within the city and will continue to partner with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office in this effort.

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