

GOLF CARTS IN BRINY BREEZES

[for release on May 15, 2018]

At the April Town Council meeting, Town Manager Dale Sugerman provided the Town Council with an update on the negotiations with the Florida Department of Transportation on the use of golf carts in Briny Breezes. Here are the facts about the use of golf carts:

The determination by the Town Council does not mean that golf carts are prohibited in Briny Breezes. Golf carts are still allowed in Town. However, there are some strict regulations as to where they can be used.

There are street legal golf carts and non-street legal golf carts. Street Legal Golf Carts generally speaking, are subject to the same requirements for registration, insurance, taxes and state-regulated inspections as other vehicles being operated on the same roadways or neighborhood streets. That is, to be street legal, the golf cart must be registered, have lights, windshield wipers, turn signals, seat belts, reflectors, and other features; just as if it were an automobile. Any golf cart that does not meet these requirements is not considered street legal. Non-street legal golf carts are not allowed to traverse any portion of State Route A1A.

Since the sidewalk running north and south on SR A1A is only 5' wide, no golf cart (street legal or non-street legal) is allowed to use the sidewalk. This is currently prohibited and has always been prohibited under Florida State Statute 316.212 (8)(b)(3) and Town of Briny Breezes Code Section 16-95.3(4) which was adopted in February of 2015. Any golf cart (street legal or non-street legal) which traverses the sidewalk of SR A1A is subject to a citation issued by the Boynton Beach Police Department.

There are a variety of different fines associated with illegal use of golf carts on the private streets of Briny Breezes, SR A1A, and the sidewalk adjacent to SR A1A. The minimum fine begins at \$116.00 (plus court costs) and goes up from there; depending on the type of violation.

Over the last few years, the Boynton Beach Police Department has not strictly enforced the FDOT, State Statute, and Town Code regulations regarding golf cart usage in the Town of Briny Breezes. The truth of the matter is that the laws have not changed, and the Florida Department of Transportation has previously determined, and they continue to take the position that they will not waive, grandfather, or provide any special exceptions to golf cart owners in the Town of Briny Breezes.

Therefore, all golf cart owners/users in the Town should be aware that the Boynton Beach Police Department will be enforcing the laws and regulations regarding the use of golf carts in the Town. Warnings will be issued for approximately 60 days, with citations issued to violators after that.