



## Caper Tigers sweep Panthers with 2-1 field hockey win

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# Study needed as surf zone injuries persist

Chad DeSatnick says he suffered C-Spine injury 20 years ago, others still being hurt

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Chad DeSatnick, a member of the Beach Safety Advisory Committee who suffered a spinal injury here in 2001, is calling for the city to hire a coastal engineer and take action to find a way to change the beach slope and stop injuries to swimmers and body surfers.

The Beach Safety Advisory Committee met for the first time this year on Sept. 27.

"Enough is enough. I'm not about to repeat my journey that started 20 years ago at Poverty Beach. I am

here as a recovery story, a father and a voice for those hundreds if not thousands of individuals who have suffered back and neck injuries, and bodily harm from simply stepping into a 6-foot area known as the Cape May surf zone," he said. "There is literally a line in the sand that is being drawn and the city needs to do something now. The fact is so obvious that these beaches, at certain times of the tidal cycle, are unsafe for swimming, surfing and body surfing, and continues to affect the safety, the health and the well-being of paying beach patrons."

"We need timelines, we need

action and we need professional experts to be hired as soon as possible. This is so beyond the pay scale or volunteer time deemed necessary to accomplish the goal of a safer beach and surf zone," he continued. "I am now demanding you to stop dragging your feet on initiating a demonstration project. The results of these studies are still years away and with the data and statistics that have already been OPRA'ed and gathered, any coastal engineer and attorney wouldn't need very much time to see what the real deal is in the Cape May surf zone."

DeSatnick asked what Cape May

did after it had knowledge of the unsafe bathing conditions. He said the past 20 years have not been wasted, but hundreds of back and neck injuries have literally placed disability into innocent families and multiple lives have been lost.

"The data show that injuries most commonly occur in a three-hour window prior to and after the high tide and the surf does not need to be kicked up from a coastal storm," DeSatnick said.

"If you don't take action immediately, the reputation as one of the number one family beach towns in America is in serious jeopardy," he

said. "We have the data and statistics from the local hospital systems, Cape May Beach Patrol and Cape May Fire Department that supports the hypothesis that the beaches and the Cape May surf zone are more dangerous than other coastal communities."

The DeSatnick Foundation, which was formed to raise funds, awareness and education about those individuals who are injured, has now been forcefully injected into the middle of this because of the lack of accountability on the city's

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## County requests study of FEMA's new rate method

Says 77% of flood insurance policyholders will pay more

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — The Board of County Commissioners urged the state last week to study the socioeconomic implications of changing the way flood insurance premiums are calculated.

According to a resolution the board passed, an estimated 77 percent of policy holders will pay higher insurance costs and studies indicate that some policies will need to quadruple to reflect risks they already face.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has undertaken an initiative called "Risk Rating 2.0: Equity in Action" that transforms the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). It became effective Oct. 1 for new policies and will kick in April 1, 2022, for policy renewals.

The county resolution states:

"Risk Rating 2.0 is intended to address a legitimate problem; however, it was hastily implemented without adequate trans-

parency into the process and will likely result in the majority of policy holders incurring an increase in insurance premiums that will be compounded year after year."

It states FEMA has not disclosed a comprehensive analysis of the expected impacts of implementing Risk Rating 2.0, nor has the change been fully vetted and analyzed by experts.

The resolution states the Board of County Commissioners is concerned that Risk Rating 2.0 will not only affect Cape May County but also cause insurance costs to increase substantially in low-income communities throughout the state, which are "among our last bastions of affordable homeownership in New Jersey."

"The commissioners are further concerned that Risk Rating 2.0 will lead to a considerable number of lapsed insurance policies, which would lead to a catastrophic scenario for the state in the event of a

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## CFO: Cape May could save \$2.2M. via county dispatch

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — According to city Chief Financial Officer Neil Young, moving 911 communications to county dispatch would save Cape May \$2.2 million over the next five years.

Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan has been seeking for a financial breakdown of costs for the city using the county's emergency services dispatch center.

At a Sept. 21 City Council meeting, Police Chief Dekon Fashaw said earlier in the

year, he, City Manager Mike Voll and Mayor Zack Mullcock discussed moving to county dispatch in 2022 and met with the county.

On July 21, City Hall was struck by lightning, requiring the police and fire departments to turn over 911 calls and dispatching to the county, Fashaw said.

The city will continue to use the services of the county for dispatching police, fire and the beach patrol, Fashaw said.

Damage figures have be-

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

## All eyes on the royal procession

Naturalists and residents are watching the skies here during the annual autumn southern migration of monarch butterflies, hoping the declining species shows better numbers than previous years. The spectacle of monarchs feeding on flower nectar can be seen in gardens throughout Cape May and Cape May Point.

## Diamond Beach residents alarmed

Inspira took 15-20 minutes to respond to drowning call

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — A Diamond Beach resident told Lower Township Council on Sept. 20 of a near-drowning in a pool at his condominium complex, claiming it took Inspira, the township's contracted emergency medical service provider, 15 to 20 minutes to respond.

Diamond View condominium resident Gregory Morris said one week ago, "an individual basically drowned in our pool" and had to be resuscitated.

"Luckily, there was somebody there that knew CPR," he said.

'Somebody's going to die over there and you're going to be held responsible and your insurance isn't going to cover you. Something really needs to be done because this is a life-and-death situation over there.'

-Gregory Morris, Diamond Beach

Morris said CPR was applied for 15 to 20 minutes before an ambulance arrived. He said if a nurse had not been poolside, the individual would have died.

"For a place that's contributing \$8 million to \$10 million per year in real estate taxes, the whole Diamond Beach area to this township, and you

can't supply some agreement with the (Wildwood) Crest to support the people there? It's really gross negligence on your part," Morris said.

He advised the township to check its insurance coverage because gross negligence is probably not covered. Morris said a few years ago, he made an emergency call for his

wife and the ambulance took 25 to 30 minutes to arrive in Diamond Beach.

"Somebody's going to die over there and you're going to be held responsible and your insurance isn't going to cover you," he said. "Something really needs to be done because this is a life-and-death situation over there."

James Sanford, president of the Diamond Beach Citizen's Action Group, said he had received dispatch reports from the county with the number of emergency medical calls to Diamond Beach last month total-

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