



City of Sanibel

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AREA CODE – 239

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To: City Council
From: Mike Miller, City Councilman
Date September 8, 2022

Subject: PROPOSAL REGARDING LOW-SPEED VEHICLES

Many citizens have expressed concern regarding the safety hazards created by the operation of low-speed vehicles (“LSV’s”) on Sanibel.

Having a maximum speed of 25 MPH, LSV’s travel at considerably lower speeds than otherwise allowed on Sanibel roads causing some local drivers to attempt passing in unsafe circumstances. This situation will not improve as the City is committed, under the Sanibel Plan, to not increasing roadway capacity.

The safety risk will increase as miles driven and number of LSV’s increase. Thus, for the purpose of overall safety, it may be appropriate to limit the number of such vehicles present at any time.

Accordingly, Council could consider a registration and rental limitation program involving the issuance to providers a limited number of medallions. LSV providers would be required to ensure that a medallion was displayed on each LSV rented for use on the Island. The medallions would be sold annually (fiscal year) to LSV providers at a cost such that the aggregate amount realized from the sale of all medallions would, at a minimum, cover the cost of administration of the program.

I envision the program would limit the number of LSV’s available for rent on island or through a company delivering LSV’s to the island. All providers of rental LSV’s would be required to register with the city and pay an applicable fee. There are legal considerations for the City Attorney to examine and policy issues for the City Manager to review and develop. Staff could also look at methods being used by other cities to manage LSV rentals and determine if one of those models could be applicable to Sanibel.

I’m seeking City Council input on this proposal, and support to direct staff to review options for a program that would limit the number of medallions sold.