FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: on behalf of Flagler Beach and Flagler County

Flagler’s beaches partially reopen Wednesday, A1A detour remains

October 18, 2016 – The beaches in within the city of Flagler Beach and Flagler County will partially reopen Wednesday for the first time since Hurricane Matthew hit.

Effective at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Flagler Beach will open the Boardwalk beach area between 4th Street North and 9th Street South. The beach will remain closed south of 9th Street South, as additional safety issues still exist.

Beachgoers should use caution as debris, boards and other hazards may still be embedded in the sand or floating in the ocean.

“The Pier will still be closed, but the Pier Shop and restrooms will be open,” Flagler Beach City Manager Larry Newsom said. “Lifeguards will be on duty.”

Swimming and surfing is permitted, but surfers are not allowed within 150 feet of either side of the pier by city ordinance.

Parks and beaches in the unincorporated areas of Flagler County – Jungle Hut, Old Salt Park on 16th Street (near the Hammock Beach Resort), and River-to-Sea will also open Wednesday to residents and visitors. There is still no beach access for MalaCompra.

“Varn Park’s dune walkovers are closed with extensive damage,” Flagler County Administrator Craig Coffey said. “The walkover is gone at MalaCompra and there is damage at the end of the road that needs to be addressed before we can open it up to the public. Please do not walk over any dunes.”

Beach access will be permitted at the following locations within Flagler Beach: North 4th Street; North 3rd Street; North 2nd Street (but no ADA-accessible ramp); South 2nd Street (with outdoor shower); South 3rd Street (with outdoor shower; South 5th Street; and, South 8th Street.

“We’ve worked extremely hard to open a portion of the beach to the public,” Newsom said. “Getting our residents and visitors back to normal is a top priority, and I think we’re taking a giant step toward accomplishing this goal by reopening a portion of the beach tomorrow morning.”

Those traveling to Flagler Beach should remember that a portion of State Road A1A collapsed as a result of Hurricane Matthew, forcing the Department of Transportation to close a 1.4 mile stretch of the scenic highway. Traffic is being detoured one block west – to South Central Avenue – between South 9th Street and South 22nd Street.
“South Central Avenue is a residential street where children, dog-walkers, pets and bicyclists are used to light traffic and slower speeds,” Flagler Beach Police Chief Matt Doughney said. “The speed limit on South Central Avenue is 25 mph. The detour was created out of necessity, and we are asking visitors and residents alike to exercise patience and courtesy while the detour is in place.”

Questions about the South Central Avenue detour should be directed to Doughney at 386-517-2024.

###