



INDIAN SHORES BUILDING DEPARTMENT

19305 GULF BLVD INDIAN SHORES FL 33785 • 727-474-7786

Tuscany
By Sea SA

June 26, 2026

Dear owner, tenant, occupant, or condo association:

The Sea Turtle Conservation Program (STCP) at Clearwater Marine Aquarium has identified artificial lighting that could be harmful to sea turtles on your property. A photo is enclosed for your reference.

The Town of Indian Shores regulates artificial lighting in its local code under Article VII. – Sea Turtle Protection Plan. In addition, artificial lighting may ultimately result in violations of Federal and State law, including but not limited to the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S. Code § 1531 et seq.) and Marine Turtle Protection Act (Florida Statutes § 379.2431).

Sea Turtle nesting season is from May 1st through October 31st. Artificial lighting may disorient sea turtles. Lights may cause adult turtles to wander hundreds of yards up the beach where they can become tired and dehydrated. When baby sea turtles become disoriented, they may crawl away from the water where they can encounter a variety of hazards often resulting in death. Pinellas County ranks among the worst counties in Florida for disorientation from lights.

Turning off decorative lights, changing the type of bulb, closing curtains or drapes, enclosing or shielding garage or parking lot lights to shine downward will reduce turtle disorientation. Light timers and window films that reduce light transmission through windows are also helpful and save energy. Many vibrant tourist communities turn off their lights during turtle nesting season. Please follow suit and make the Town of Indian Shores beaches more turtle friendly.

If you have questions or need assistance in meeting the standards, please call me at (727)-474-7785.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Brian Rusu CBO, CFM
Building Official – Floodplain Administrator
Building, Zoning & Code Enforcement Director
Town of Indian Shores
19305 Gulf Blvd 33785
Phone: 727-474-7785
Fax: 727-596-0050



