### Gary Post-Tribune August 6, 1953

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# MAYOR TELLS GROUP: BEACH FOR ALL GARY

# Suggests Miller Group Form Committee

All public property is for the use of all citizens regardless of race or nationality, Mayor Peter Mandich told a mass meeting of Miller and beach property owners last night.

The meeting, sponsored by the Miller Civic and Improvement Assn., was held in Eagles Hall at 668 South Lake St., which was packed to capacity while about 200 milled about outside. The meeting was called to discuss "the beach problem."

The mayor told the audience that he could be put in jail for failing to enforce the law and protect the rights of minority groups. The same goes for police, he said.

#### Suggests Committee

The mayor recommended that a committee be formed to meet with him to help work out the problem peaceably and to avoid violence or rash action. Police Chief John Foley discounted exaggerated stories relative to beach incidents. He said he had been at the beach every day the last six weeks to observe what was going on and saw that the park was well policed.

A proposal was made from the floor by one of the many speakers that the mayor close down the park and beach for the remainder of the season to let tension die down. The mayor said he would consider the suggestion.

Councilman Albert W. Brown (R-1st) told the crowd the mayor and the police force were putting forth every effort to solve the problem to everybody's satisfaction. He counseled them to be patient while the situation is worked out.

#### Traffic Is Problem

The hour and half session ended with no specific action being taken. Officers of the association indicated a committee probably would be formed as proposed by the mayor to work out a sensible solution to the problem.

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One of the major complaints concerned congestion on Lake Street resulting from heavy beach traffic. Miller property owners want the city to provide another thoroughfare to the beach.

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