



**Gasparilla Island Conservation and Improvement Association, Inc.  
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**PRESS RELEASE--For Immediate Release**

**Boca Grande--January. 3, 2017--GICIA Sponsors Rep Rodrigues for Island Visit**

The Gasparilla Island Conservation and Improvement Association (GICIA) is pleased to announce that Jerry Paul of Capitol Access is now under contract to serve as the GICIA's governmental affairs liaison in Tallahassee for 2017. Having a representative in Tallahassee is imperative to the GICIA's efforts to protect the integrity of the Gasparilla Island Conservation District Act. This State law, which has been adopted into the Comprehensive Plans of both Lee and Charlotte Counties, protects our fragile barrier island from high density, high rise development. Without this special legislation, Gasparilla Island would become a concrete canyon of high rise buildings like many of other coastal communities.

Capitol Access is a full service consulting firm specializing in state and local government affairs, public relations and community relations. Capitol Access was founded by Jerry Paul who is an engineer, attorney, former member of the Florida House of Representatives (representing portions of Sarasota, Charlotte and Lee Counties) and formerly served as the Principal Deputy Administrator of the U.S. National Nuclear Security Administration appointed by President Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 2004. As a practicing attorney Mr. Paul formerly served as an Assistant Charlotte County Attorney and, thereafter in private practice, represented local government clients such as City of Punta Gorda, Charlotte County School Board, Englewood Water District, and the Gasparilla Island Bridge Authority. His private practice also included, land use, property rights, and civil litigation.

As part of GICIA's continuing efforts to be as effective as possible in protecting the integrity of Gasparilla Island Act, we, with the assistance of Capitol Access, are sponsoring a meet and greet with Representative Ray Rodrigues on January 17th, at 4 PM in the Crowninshield Community House. Representative Rodrigues is a Republican member of the Florida House of Representatives, representing the 76th District, which includes southern and coastal Lee County, namely, Bonita Springs, Fort Myers Beach, and Sanibel, since 2012. He currently serves as Majority Leader through 2018 as serves on the Appropriations Committee, Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee, and the Rules & Policy Committee. Rodrigues has been active in the Lee County Republican Party since 1995, serving in various capacities including Vice-Chairman from 2010-2012.

The GICIA encourages Island residents to stop by for a glass of ice tea and assist us in providing Rep Rodrigues with a true appreciation of our unique and wonderful island community. Please RSVP, before January 11th, to the GICIA Office by calling 941-964-2667 or emailing [gicia@embarqmail.com](mailto:gicia@embarqmail.com).