

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee Members

FROM: Rickelle Williams, Interim City Manager

DATE: June 28, 2024

TITLE: DISCUSS FINANCIAL AND MANPOWER IMPACT OF EXTENDING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER INITIATIVES TO THURSDAY NIGHTS DURING THE TWO MIDDLE WEEKENDS OF MARCH 2025.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

At the May 15, 2024 City Commission Meeting, at the request of Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt and co-sponsored by Commissioner Joseph Magazine, the Mayor and City Commission approved a dual referral (C4 S) to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee ("PSNQLC") and the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee ("FERC") to discuss the financial and manpower impact of extending law enforcement officer initiatives to Thursday nights during the two (2) middle weekends of March 2025.

The item was heard at the May 22, 2024 PSNQLC and concluded awaiting the discussion at FERC.

ANALYSIS

Each year, the Miami Beach Police Department ("MBPD") diligently assesses and conducts research to identify colleges observing a Spring Break period. This analysis focuses on consecutive weekends between February and April during which the City of Miami Beach experiences an influx of college students. Currently, the Department operates on an Alpha/Bravo staffing model on the weekends flagged to be those with the largest number of schools on break to meet the public safety demands associated with managing the significant presence of college students and others visiting the City in March.

Consistent with March 2024, it should be noted that March 2025 will include five (5) weekends. Although information and research on 2025 Spring Break college schedules are not yet available or completed, recent trends, circumstances and observations from prior years have shown the two (2) middle weekends (or the second and third weekends) to be of the greatest concern as it relates to capacity and crowds. After careful consideration, the Department acknowledges and agrees that adjusting staffing protocols to commence on Thursday rather than Friday (extending through the weekend) during the two (2) middle (second and third) weekends of March could prove beneficial with the caveat that future intelligence may indicate otherwise. This proactive measure would aid in more effectively managing the anticipated influx of visitors and better ensure public safety.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed extension of services will incur additional expenses. The average cost to add one (1) day (Thursday) to one (1) Spring Break high impact weekend is estimated to be around \$90,000. This daily average amount includes the current level of funding for outside agency assistance and MBPD officer overtime. For both high impact weekends, the total estimate comes to between \$180,000 and \$195,000. This estimated range does not take into consideration the

potential assumption of costs for outside agency assistance in 2025 which, if necessary, would greatly increase the total estimated amount.

CONCLUSION

The Administration recognizes the importance of balancing fiscal responsibility with public safety obligations. While the two (2) additional days of enhanced police officer deployment would be beneficial to Spring Break operations, the delineated financial impact must be considered in the City’s budget planning when contemplating the enhancement. Should the Committee recommend, and the Mayor and Commission approve this enhancement, it should be prioritized through the Fiscal Year 2025 budget development process.

Applicable Area

South Beach

Is this a “Residents Right to Know” item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?

No

Is this item related to a G.O. Bond Project?

No

Was this Agenda Item initially requested by a lobbyist which, as defined in Code Sec. 2-481, includes a principal engaged in lobbying? No

If so, specify the name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s):

Department

Police

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt

Co-sponsor(s)

Commissioner Joseph Magazine