

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee Members
FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager
DATE: March 26, 2025
TITLE: DISCUSSION REGARDING EXPANDING KIDS' PARKS AND RECREATION OFFERINGS TO INCLUDE SUNDAY CLASSES.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that while the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee evaluates expanding kids' Parks and Recreation offerings to include Sunday classes, it also carefully considers several critical factors that will significantly impact the General Fund budget, beginning in FY 2026:

1. The City's increasing unfunded capital improvement program
2. Long-term General Fund financial projections indicating a potential shortfall in upcoming fiscal years
3. The recent notification of a \$5-6 million annual budget impact on the General Fund due to the new 2% collection fee imposed by the Miami-Dade Tax Collector
4. The passage of Amendment 5 in November 2024, which increases the homestead exemption and further constrains the growth of taxable property values

These considerations are essential to ensure that decisions regarding reopening the Scott Rakow Youth Center on Saturdays and the North Shore Park Youth Center on Sundays align with the City's broader long-term financial stability and strategic priorities. If the Committee recommends funding expanding kids' Parks and Recreation offerings to include Sunday classes for \$84,000, the Administration recommends it be considered part of the FY 2026 budget process.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

During the February 3, 2025, City Commission meeting, at the request of Vice-Mayor Tanya K. Bhatt, the Mayor and City Commission referred a discussion item to the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee ("FERC"), a discussion regarding expanding kids' Parks and Recreation offerings to include Sunday classes. (Exhibit A)

ANALYSIS

The Parks and Recreation Department offers various weekend programs and events for all age groups. As shown in Exhibit B, numerous programs and facilities are available, which are heavily utilized by the community. Some of these offerings include a swim team, dance lessons, open play chess, an adult art club, floral workshops, ice skating lessons, gymnastics programs, youth soccer and baseball, beach volleyball, and multiple swim lesson classes. Additionally, the Parks and Recreation Department provides free community weekend access for Miami Beach residents at both the Scott Rakow Youth Center on Sundays, and the North Shore Park Youth Center on Saturdays, where visitors can enjoy the fitness center, game rooms, bowling alley, and gymnasium.

As part of the budget process during the COVID pandemic, the Department closed the Scott

Rakow Youth Center on Saturdays and the North Shore Park Youth Center on Sundays as a cost-saving measure. The recommendation for closure was also based on the very limited usage of the facilities by the public at the time.

Beginning in the summer of 2025, the Department proposes to reopen the Scott Rakow Youth Center on Saturdays and the North Shore Park Youth Center on Sundays as a pilot to gain interest. This can be achieved through the addition of four (4) Part-time Recreation Leader I positions. The Department will evaluate community use throughout the summer to determine whether remaining open year-round at each of these facilities on the identified weekend days is warranted based on attendance numbers.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

If the Committee accepts the Administration's recommendation to reopen the Scott Rakow Youth Center on Saturdays and the North Shore Park Youth Center on Sundays as a pilot to gain interest, a budget amendment would be necessary to add four (4) Part-time Recreation Leader I positions at a total budgetary impact of \$84,000.

Does this Ordinance require a Business Impact Estimate? (FOR ORDINANCES ONLY)

The Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on .

See BIE at: <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/meeting-notice/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

N/A

CONCLUSION

The Parks and Recreation Department proposes to reopen the Scott Rakow Youth Center on Saturdays and the North Shore Park Youth Center on Sundays as a pilot to gain interest, if desired by the Committee.

Applicable Area

Citywide

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

Yes

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

Parks and Recreation

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Expanding Kids' Parks and Recreation Offerings to include Sunday Classes (Bhatt)