

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DIRECTING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PLAN, SETTING FORTH SPECIFIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES, TO INCREASE POLICE OFFICER VISIBILITY IN MIAMI BEACH NEIGHBORHOODS THROUGH THE UTILIZATION OF COMMUNITY POLICING EFFORTS THAT PRIORITIZE FOOT PATROLS, BICYCLE PATROLS AND OTHER FORMS OF HIGHLY VISIBLE POLICE PRESENCE, TO INCLUDE A COMPONENT ENSURING OPTIMAL POLICE COVERAGE THROUGHOUT THE CITY DURING THE OVERNIGHT HOURS WITH AN EMPHASIS ON THOSE AREAS HAVING A HIGHER CRIME RATE AND RECENT INCIDENTS; AND, ADDITIONALLY, THE PLAN SHOULD ESTABLISH A MECHANISM TO MONITOR AND EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE INCREASED POLICE VISIBILITY PLAN THROUGH IDENTIFIABLE METRICS AND DATA INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, CRIME RATES, COMMUNITY SATISFACTION, AND OFFICER ACTIVITY IN VARIOUS NEIGHBORHOODS WITHIN THE CITY WITH SUCH FINDINGS TO BE REPORTED TO THE CITY COMMISSION ON A QUARTERLY BASIS; AND FURTHER, DIRECTING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ALLOCATE SUFFICIENT RESOURCES, INCLUDING ADEQUATE PERSONNEL AND FUNDING, ALONG WITH ANY KNOWLEDGE, EQUIPMENT, TRAINING OR OTHER TOOLS NECESSARY FOR POLICE OFFICERS TO SUCCESSFULLY SUPPORT THE SUSTAINED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN.

WHEREAS, the City only has approximately 80,000 residents and fifteen (15) square miles of land within its territorial jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the City had seen a tremendous number of visitors during the Spring Break / March high impact period, which included uncontrollable and unruly crowds, general mayhem, and incidents of violence (including deadly violence) that posed significant challenges for the City's Police, Fire, Sanitation, and Code Compliance services; and

WHEREAS, after "breaking up with Spring Break," the City had a highly successful Spring Break period this year, including a dramatic reduction in crime and illegal behavior during Spring Break 2024; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of all City staff contributed to the City's huge success during Spring Break this year but, in particular, the tireless dedication of the City's police officers (while working alpha/bravo shifts), along with their collaboration with outside agencies, was a key factor in the City's progress this year; and

WHEREAS, the City's police officers obviously cannot continue working an alpha/bravo basis, but the continuation of proactive policing strategies is essential in maintaining public safety and strengthening police-community relations beyond the Spring Break period; and

WHEREAS, the presence of police officers outside of their vehicles, actively patrolling neighborhoods, and engaging with residents and visitors has proven to be, without a doubt, an effective deterrent for criminal activities and has contributed to fostering safer communities; and

WHEREAS, when police officers continuously work within the same area while "out and about," a stronger bond, and ultimately a partnership, is created with the residents and persons living and working in that area; and

WHEREAS, assigning police officers to walk or bike through neighborhoods allows officers to interact with residents and visitors on a personal level and also provides greater visibility (especially in areas where vehicles may not be practical); and

WHEREAS, police officers should be encouraged to spend dedicated time each shift outside of their assigned police vehicle, and actively patrolling neighborhoods, addressing community concerns, and interacting with residents, business owners, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, residents and business owners should be encouraged to proactively collaborate with the police officers assigned to their neighborhood in a collaborative effort to enhance public safety; and


WHEREAS, interacting with residents in the neighborhood can provide police officers with more accurate information concerning illegal activity occurring in their neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, community policing efforts also allow police officers to gain a better understanding of the needs of residents and their expectations of the Police Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED THAT THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, hereby direct the Police Department to develop and implement a comprehensive strategic plan, setting forth specific goals and objectives, to increase police officer visibility in Miami Beach neighborhoods through the utilization of community policing efforts that prioritize foot patrols, bicycle patrols and other forms of highly visible police presence, to include a component ensuring optimal police coverage throughout the City during the overnight hours with an emphasis on those areas having a higher crime rate and recent incidents; and, additionally, the plan should establish a mechanism to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the increased police visibility plan through identifiable metrics and data including, but not limited to, crime rates, community satisfaction, and officer activity in various neighborhoods within the City with such findings to be reported to the City Commission on a quarterly basis; and further, directing the Police Department to allocate sufficient resources, including adequate personnel and funding, along with any knowledge, equipment, training or other tools necessary for police officers to successfully support the sustained implementation of the plan.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 3 day of April, 2024.

ATTEST:


Steven Meiner, Mayor

APR 08 2024

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Mayor Steven Meiner)

Co-Sponsored by Commissioner Joseph Magazine



**APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION**


City Attorney 

3-29-24
Date

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
 FROM: Rafael A. Paz, City Attorney
 DATE: April 3, 2024

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DIRECTING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PLAN, SETTING FORTH SPECIFIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES, TO INCREASE POLICE OFFICER VISIBILITY IN MIAMI BEACH NEIGHBORHOODS THROUGH THE UTILIZATION OF COMMUNITY POLICING EFFORTS THAT PRIORITIZE FOOT PATROLS, BICYCLE PATROLS AND OTHER FORMS OF HIGHLY VISIBLE POLICE PRESENCE, TO INCLUDE A COMPONENT ENSURING OPTIMAL POLICE COVERAGE THROUGHOUT THE CITY DURING THE OVERNIGHT HOURS WITH AN EMPHASIS ON THOSE AREAS HAVING A HIGHER CRIME RATE AND RECENT INCIDENTS; AND, ADDITIONALLY, THE PLAN SHOULD ESTABLISH A MECHANISM TO MONITOR AND EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE INCREASED POLICE VISIBILITY PLAN THROUGH IDENTIFIABLE METRICS AND DATA INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, CRIME RATES, COMMUNITY SATISFACTION, AND OFFICER ACTIVITY IN VARIOUS NEIGHBORHOODS WITHIN THE CITY WITH SUCH FINDINGS TO BE REPORTED TO THE CITY COMMISSION ON A QUARTERLY BASIS; AND FURTHER, DIRECTING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ALLOCATE SUFFICIENT RESOURCES, INCLUDING ADEQUATE PERSONNEL AND FUNDING, ALONG WITH ANY KNOWLEDGE, EQUIPMENT, TRAINING OR OTHER TOOLS NECESSARY FOR POLICE OFFICERS TO SUCCESSFULLY SUPPORT THE SUSTAINED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

Was 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 name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s): N/A

ANALYSIS

The proposed Resolution was prepared at the request of the sponsor, Mayor Steven Meiner.

SUPPORTING SURVEY DATA

N/A

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Administration is requested to be prepared to address the fiscal impact of this proposed measure, if any, at the April 3, 2024 City Commission meeting.

Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-14?

No

Does this item utilize G.O. Bond Funds?

No

Legislative Tracking

Office of the City Attorney

Sponsor

Mayor Steven Meiner

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

1 Resolution