

# MIAMI BEACH

## COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO:	Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
FROM:	Rickelle Williams, Interim City Manager
DATE:	June 26, 2024
TITLE:	A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE, AT ITS MAY 22, 2024 MEETING, TO EXPLORE WAYS TO ACQUIRE MORE VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST IN THE GOODWILL AMBASSADOR PROGRAM INCLUDING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Administration is supportive of the proposal and recommends the Mayor and City Commission further discuss the item and provide a policy recommendation.

### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY**

At the May 15, 2024 City Commission meeting, at the request of Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt, the Mayor and City Commission approved a referral (C4 O) to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee ("PSNQLC") to discuss making some adjustments in the City's approach to Goodwill Ambassadors for Spring Break 2025.

The item was subsequently heard and discussed at the May 22, 2024 PSNQLC meeting where the Committee unanimously agreed to move the item to the full Commission with a favorable recommendation to explore ways to acquire more volunteers to assist in the Goodwill Ambassador Program including Miami-Dade County.

### **ANALYSIS**

One of the highlights of this year's Spring Break season was the implementation of a Goodwill Ambassador program solely supported by Miami Beach City staff. During March 2024, the City went without Goodwill Ambassadors from Miami-Dade County who had provided support in previous years and relied solely upon City employees for staffing. Despite a smaller volunteer turnout of around 70 individuals, the City achieved the highest attendance rates of City employees to date. Unlike previous years where volunteers often signed up but ultimately did not report for duty, this year City employees were consistently present and actively involved throughout the entire period.

The City received commendations for the Goodwill Ambassador's excellent knowledge of City policies and their valuable assistance in ensuring public safety, highlighting the importance of geographic familiarity. Looking ahead, this year's success underscores the potential for continued reliance on City staff for future events. Nonetheless, there may still be a need to revisit participation eligibility and potentially limit the number of essential employees who can be assigned as Goodwill Ambassadors during future Spring Break periods. Staffing shortages were experienced at times due to employee fatigue from working overtime and as Goodwill Ambassadors. It is the Administration's hope to align efforts in the future with Miami-Dade County with respect to the Goodwill Ambassador program because, while City employees outdid themselves this year, their partnership is still essential for high-impact weekends.

As suggested by the item sponsor, the Administration agrees that the City could explore the feasibility of recruiting college students to participate in the Goodwill Ambassador program. To ensure the appropriate level of training, a primary consideration would need to involve mitigating any potential risk/liability.

Looking ahead to 2025, the Administration plans to enhance the Goodwill Ambassador program further by increasing Community Emergency Response Team ("CERT") certification to ensure that every City employee who wishes to participate has the highest level of training via CERT certification. This will equip the volunteers with the skills and knowledge needed to handle various situations effectively and provide even better support to residents and visitors.

### **SUPPORTING SURVEY DATA**

N/A

### **FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

No financial impact has been identified to date and remains to be determined dependent on policy decisions.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Administration supports exploring additional avenues for acquiring enhancements and volunteers for the Goodwill Ambassador program. The City is collaborating with Miami-Dade County to address any concerns and secure their assistance in providing Goodwill Ambassadors for Spring Break 2025. Additionally, the Administration also reached out to Miami-Dade County and secured Goodwill Ambassador assistance for a successful Memorial Day Weekend 2024.

### **Applicable Area**

South Beach

<b><u>Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?</u></b>	<b><u>Is this item related to a G.O. Bond Project?</u></b>
No	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)**