

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee Members

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: November 6, 2024

TITLE: DISCUSS A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO STRATEGICALLY IMPLEMENT ENHANCED PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURES PERIODICALLY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AND TO PRESENT THE PLAN FOR DISCUSSION AT THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the delineated events be considered for enhanced public safety measures and multiagency cooperation, and that, outside of the specific events identified in the attached plan, the Miami Beach Police Department continue operating under current all-hazards plans, policies, and practices which are aligned with national accreditation standards, follow industry best practices, and adhere to the principles of the FEMA National Incident Management System (NIMS).

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

At the June 26, 2024 City Commission meeting, at the request of Commissioner Alex Fernandez, the Mayor and City Commission approved a Resolution (C7 BJ) directing the Administration to develop a plan for the strategic implementation of enhanced public safety measures to be presented at the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee (PSNQLC).

The plan was heard at the September 18, 2024 PSNQLC where the discussion provided additional context and clarified Commission's vision for the plan. The item was slated to return to the October 23, 2024 PSNQLC for a review of the plan which could better address and show the City's approach to staffing events and ensuring police officers are not overburdened due to a lack of mutual aid support.

ANALYSIS

Pursuant to Resolution 2024-33141, the Administration developed a plan for the strategic implementation of enhanced public safety measures throughout the year. This plan, as presented in Exhibit A, outlines recurring events that require the Miami Beach Police Department (MBPD) to adjust staffing or modify operations to address specific public safety needs.

MBPD is nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) since 2000, adhering to strict standards for managing public safety during major events. The Department's policies are designed to allow for the implementation of enhanced public safety measures when warranted. These measures are applied in response to or in anticipation of incidents or events that may threaten public safety. Each enhancement is based on the objectives and real-time conditions encountered or on lessons learned from previous similar events. For example, when planning identifies the potential for large crowds or significant traffic congestion, measures such as Traffic Mitigation Plans, Mobile LPR Details, and DUI Checkpoints are deployed to maintain public safety. Bike patrol units are often used to navigate

congested areas quickly, ensuring timely response to evolving situations. These measures often necessitate mutual aid support from partners such as Miami-Dade Police Department and other local agencies.

Historically, only two events — Spring Break and Memorial Day Weekend — have required full activation of all MBPD personnel with 12-hour shifts for three consecutive days. During these periods, mutual aid support is essential due to the volume of visitors and increased demands on public safety services. All other events requiring an enhanced staffing component have been readily staffed with officer volunteers working overtime or off-duty details.

MBPD's strategic plan for enhanced public safety measures cannot be applied arbitrarily throughout the year. The declaration of high-impact periods and the necessary measures are determined by the City Manager based on real-time conditions and the nature of the event. MBPD's current policies allow for rapid deployment of additional resources, including mutual aid support, when the situation demands it. Incidents requiring extensive resources or coordination across multiple agencies follow established protocols in line with FEMA's National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS). A core NIMS principle is that incidents are managed at the lowest jurisdictional level possible. Local resources are utilized first, and mutual aid is requested only when resources are depleted or a specialized capability is needed.

The planning process takes a tiered approach, scaling operations based on various factors. MBPD's approach to event planning is based on core principles that guide the development of incident-specific action plans. These plans are flexible, allowing the Incident Command to scale resources up or down based on real-time conditions.

For major events like Spring Break and Memorial Day Weekend, the planning process spans several months, incorporating insights from previous years and best practices from similar events. The key factors considered in the development of these plans include:

- Type of event and expected crowd size
- Number of concurrent events in the city
- Hotel occupancy rates
- Traffic impacts and mitigation needs
- Intelligence and social media monitoring
- Anticipated need for mutual aid support
- Historical patterns of behavior at similar events
- History of occurrences of violent crime during previous events

The development of MBPD's public safety plans is not influenced by crowd demographics but rather is based solely on public safety needs to address the event or incident as detailed above. These plans incorporate best practices and are designed to protect life and maintain public order. Additionally, MBPD regularly employs measures like License Plate Readers (LPRs) and DUI checkpoints during daily operations, similar to those used during high-impact events. These tools have been highly effective in apprehending dangerous individuals and maintaining public safety.

Code Compliance will work with MBPD to provide approved enhanced public safety measures and enforcement efforts as needed.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The exact fiscal impact of the proposed plan is undetermined at this time. However, costs will arise from hiring personnel from outside agencies to work on and off-duty details at specific

events. Additionally, discussions within the Miami-Dade County Commission may result in agencies being charged for mutual aid support services.

CONCLUSION

The Miami Beach Police Department will continue to engage in a vigorous planning process to assess the public safety needs of each event or incident. The department will employ the enhanced public safety strategies outlined in the attached plan, adjusting them to the specific needs of each event or incident. Mutual aid assistance will be requested when necessary to supplement resources in alignment with recognized best practices.

The Administration supports close collaboration with the City Commission, the Chief of Police and community stakeholders to foster clear communication and collaboration in developing effective, defensible, and sustainable public safety strategies. Expanding this transparent approach will strengthen community trust and ensure the safety and security of everyone who lives, works, or visits the City of Miami Beach.

Applicable Area

Citywide

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 Alex Fernandez

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Year-Round Enhanced Public Safety Measures.