

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Mayor Steven Meiner

DATE: October 30, 2024

TITLE: REFERRAL TO THE FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCY COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS THE POLICE DEPARTMENT POTENTIALLY PURCHASING HANDHELD NARCOTICS ANALYZERS TO TEST SEIZED CONTRABAND AND PROTECT MIAMI BEACH POLICE OFFICERS FROM POSSIBLE EXPOSURE.

RECOMMENDATION

Please place on the October 30, 2024 City Commission agenda a referral to the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee to discuss the utility and viability of the Police Department potentially purchasing Handheld Narcotics Analyzers to enable MBPD officers to test contraband seized “in the field” and to protect Miami Beach Police Officers from possible exposure.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

The safety and security of its employees and, in particular, its first responders such as MBPD Officers, is a top priority for the City. However, there are rapidly growing concerns among law enforcement agencies nationwide (including MBPD) regarding the influx into the United States of dangerous and deadly synthetic drugs (in particular, fentanyl), which is responsible for countless fatal drug poisonings throughout the Country.

Fentanyl, primarily due to being readily available and its lower cost, is often being laced/substituted into other powdered narcotics such as cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamines. Unfortunately, people often take these drugs without knowing they contain fentanyl, which greatly increases the risk of poisoning that can easily be fatal. Therefore, law enforcement officers, who need to quickly identify suspected narcotics “in the field” to help keep drugs and drug dealers off the streets, stand at great risk of incidental (and obviously accidental) fentanyl exposure.

Handheld Narcotics Analyzers provide law enforcement officers with the ability to scan suspected narcotics through plastic or glass which minimizes the risk of contamination, reduces exposure, and preserves evidence. Moreover, Handheld Narcotics Analyzers aid in quickly identifying narcotics and controlled substances, including emerging threats like synthetic cathinones (bath salts) and cannabinoids so officers will know whether (and for what) an individual may be arrested.

As part of this referral, I would request that the Police Department be prepared at Committee to discuss its thoughts and recommendations regarding the necessity, utility, and benefit(s) of purchasing Handheld Narcotics Analyzers, along with any associated costs and/or concerns.

ANALYSIS

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

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

If applicable, the Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on:
See BIE at: <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/meeting-notice/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

CONCLUSION

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

Office of Mayor Steven Meiner

Sponsor(s)

Mayor Steven Meiner

Co-sponsor(s)

Commissioner David Suarez

Condensed Title

Ref: FERC - Potential Purchase of Handheld Narcotics Analyzers. (Meiner/Suarez)