

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee Members

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: April 9, 2025

TITLE: DISCUSS REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM OUTSIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO SUPPORT MIAMI BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT DURING ART WEEK 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the City explore securing additional law enforcement support from outside agencies during Art Week 2025 to enhance public safety, manage increased traffic congestion, and ensure adequate police resources across Miami Beach.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

At the February 3, 2025 City Commission Meeting, at the request of Commissioner Laura Dominguez, the Mayor and City Commission approved a referral (C4 D) to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee ("PSNQLC") to discuss requesting assistance from outside law enforcement agencies to support the Miami Beach Police Department during Art Week 2025.

ANALYSIS

Art Week, particularly the internationally renowned Art Basel, attracts a significant influx of visitors to Miami Beach each year, increasing demands on public safety and law enforcement services. As the event expands, so does the need for enhanced traffic management and law enforcement presence to ensure the safety of residents and visitors while minimizing disruptions to neighborhoods.

During previous high-impact events including Spring Break, the City has successfully coordinated with outside law enforcement agencies to support the Miami Beach Police Department (MBPD). This collaboration has proven effective in managing crowd control, ensuring public safety, and alleviating strain on MBPD personnel.

For Art Week 2025, outside law enforcement assistance should be considered for the following operational needs:

1. Traffic Mitigation & Control

- Additional officers will be required to manage significant traffic congestion, particularly at key locations such as the Miami Beach Convention Center, 41st Street Corridor, 17th Street Corridor, Venetian Causeway, MacArthur Causeway, and Collins Avenue.
- The 2024 Art Week experience demonstrated the need to account for art installations beyond the primary Art Basel venues. The Faena Hotel's bamboo elephant exhibit, for example, caused a significant traffic increase before Art Basel officially began.

- Early deployment of officers at non-traditional art activation sites (e.g., Collins Avenue, Lincoln Road, Ocean Drive, and the Faena District) should be considered.

2. Coordination with Outside Agencies

- To supplement MBPD staffing, the Department could carry out pre-event coordination to activate formalized agreements with agencies such as:
 - Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) for major causeway traffic control.
 - Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office for high-traffic areas.
 - Coral Gables Police Department, Bal Harbour Police Department, Sunny Isles Police Department, and Miami-Dade Schools Police Department to provide additional personnel.
- Interagency traffic task forces should be deployed during peak event hours to assist with vehicle and pedestrian movement.

3. Operational Adjustments for 2025

- Begin traffic mitigation efforts earlier in the week (Tuesday instead of Wednesday) to address congestion buildup.
- Extend officer assignments after event closing hours (at least two additional hours) to manage post-event gridlock.
- Deploy drones for real-time traffic monitoring and adjust staffing dynamically based on live congestion data.
- Increase coordination with the Transportation Department to include having a representative assigned to the Real-Time Intelligence Center (RTIC).

4. Funding Considerations

- Currently, many public safety services during Art Week are provided through off-duty officers funded by event organizers.
- If additional law enforcement resources are contracted, funding must be secured either through direct City funds or by renegotiating security agreements with event organizers to include contributions for external law enforcement assistance.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Financial impact is yet to be determined and will largely depend on the number of outside agency personnel. The Administration will work with the Finance and Police Departments to identify funding sources for additional law enforcement personnel if this initiative is approved.

CONCLUSION

The Administration recommends that the Mayor and City Commission approve efforts to coordinate with outside law enforcement agencies to enhance public safety during Art Week 2025. By securing additional resources, implementing strategic traffic mitigation measures, and ensuring adequate personnel deployment across high-impact areas, the City can effectively manage the growing demands of this internationally recognized event.

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 Laura Dominguez

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Art Week Outside Agency Assistance