



COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Commissioner David Suarez

DATE: June 26, 2024

TITLE: DISCUSSION REGARDING COMMUNITY POLICING EFFORTS IN SOUTH BEACH, THE SOUTH OF FIFTH NEIGHBORHOOD, OCEAN DRIVE, AND NORTH BEACH.

ANALYSIS

Community policing is a law enforcement philosophy in which police officers continuously operate within the same area to create a stronger bond, and ultimately a partnership, with the residents living and working in that area. By consistently working in the same area of a city or town, police officers are more able to engage with residents easily and effectively and can ideally proactively prevent crime from occurring rather than merely responding to incidents after a crime has already been committed. Typically, community policing provides some, or all, of the following benefits:

- a) Leads to residents having a more favorable view of their police department.
- b) Improves trust between police officers and residents.
- c) Encourages residents to participate with police officers in order to keep their own community safe.
- d) Provides police officers with more accurate information from residents concerning criminal activity in their neighborhood.
- e) Allows police officers to gain a better understanding of the needs of residents and their expectations of the police.

Accordingly, I would like to discuss with my colleagues, and request that the City Manager's Office and Police Department be prepared to discuss, the City's community policing efforts in North Beach, South Beach, and in particular, in the South of Fifth and Ocean Drive (5th-15th Streets) areas. I would also request that, given the unique characteristics of the South of Fifth neighborhood and Ocean Drive, the City Manager's Office and Police Department present the Mayor and City Commission with any potential enhancements to the staffing and coverage for these neighborhoods which would greatly benefit from supplemental community policing.

Clerk's Note: See attached email from Elizabeth K. Latone, APNA President, requesting community policing in the areas of North Beach, particularly from 63rd to 72nd Streets.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The sponsor of this item requests that the Administration be prepared to address the fiscal impact of this proposed measure, if any, at the City Commission Meeting.

Applicable Area

South Beach

**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 Commissioner David Suarez

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner David Suarez

Co-sponsor(s)

Commissioner Joseph Magazine