

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee Members

FROM: Rickelle Williams, Interim City Manager

DATE: July 10, 2024

TITLE: DISCUSS A RESOLUTION TO EXPLORE THE VIABILITY OF CREATING POLICE SUBSTATIONS, SIMILAR TO THE POLICE SUBSTATION IN NORTH BEACH, IN THE COLLINS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD, AT CITY HALL, IN THE SOUTH OF FIFTH NEIGHBORHOOD, AND IN MID-BEACH, IN ORDER TO MAKE LAW ENFORCEMENT RESOURCES AND INCIDENT REPORTING MORE EASILY ACCESSIBLE AND READILY AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS, AND TO MORE EFFICIENTLY ADDRESS CRIMINAL ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT THE CITY; AND FURTHER, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO REPORT THEIR FINDINGS AND PROPOSALS TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE AT ITS JULY 10, 2024 MEETING IN ORDER FOR THE COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING THE FISCAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE IMPACT) TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION IN ADVANCE OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET PROCESS.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the Mayor and City Commission consider the proposal to explore the budgetary implications of establishing satellite offices at key locations throughout the city and staff such locations with various City departments to ensure there is a community benefit.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

At the May 15, 2024, City Commission meeting, at the request of Commissioner Alex Fernandez, the Mayor and City Commission approved a referral (C7 AK) to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee ("PSNQLC") to report the findings and proposals related to the viability of creating police substations.

ANALYSIS

The Administration takes great pride in its resident, business, and stakeholder engagement. These efforts are led by the City's Neighborhood Affairs Division who works closely with the Miami Beach Police Department (MBPD) Community Affairs Unit, area captains, and Neighborhood Resource Officers who are always open to exploring new opportunities to increase community engagement and collaboration. The MBPD currently has one police substation in North Beach that provides limited in-person services for walk-in reporting during business hours. The remainder of the facility serves as a police force briefing facility for North Beach police roll calls and houses offices for the Area Captain, Neighborhood Resource Officer, area beat officers and the Boston Whaler Marine Patrol Vessel. Except for the units assigned to North Beach, all MBPD personnel are deployed from the main headquarters building, located at 1100 Washington Avenue in South Beach.

The MBPD headquarters is staffed 24 hours a day to provide full-service and in-person reporting capabilities. Full investigative services are also available, and personnel are deployed and briefed at this location during each roll call throughout the 24-hour shift cycle. The MBPD also offers an online portal to report minor crimes. This reduces the need for people to have to physically go to the police department headquarters or substation to file a police report.

Additionally, the Administration recommends a comprehensive analysis of the proposal to explore the budgetary implications of establishing satellite offices at key locations throughout the city and staff such locations with various City departments to ensure there is a community benefit.

The costs of securing a leased or City-owned facility to provide the services described in the proposed Resolution could be significant. These anticipated costs could potentially be mitigated, however, by engaging in or amending public/private partnerships with community stakeholders and businesses who may be interested in providing space for City personnel at no cost or minimal cost to the City. Additionally, the feasibility of reassigning staff to new substation locations may be challenging and funding for additional personnel to staff these facilities would need to be considered.

Regarding availability of City-owned real estate in the suggested locations, the City does not have any viable properties at this time. However, there may be future opportunities including in Collins Park at the Collins Park Artist Workforce Housing Project, which is also included on the July 10, 2024 PSNQLC agenda for discussion. At City Hall, a substation continues to be explored including the public safety benefits for employees and visitors. In the South of Fifth Street neighborhood, there may be a future opportunity at the Miami Beach Marina, pending potential negotiations. There may also be an opportunity for a moderate level of public safety-related office space at the new Convention Center hotel, once a public benefits agreement is fully negotiated by the RDA Administration and authorized by the RDA Board. A potential Mid Beach location has not yet been identified.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

To be determined based on location costs and staffing needs. [lick or tap here to enter text.](#)

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CONCLUSION

The Administration recommends that the PSNQLC consider the feasibility of establishing substations at key locations throughout the City. The pathway towards establishing such locations with the least budgetary impact could be through mutually beneficial public/private partnerships.

Applicable Area

Citywide

Is this a “Residents Right to Know” item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?

Yes

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

Discuss the Viability of Creating Police Substations.