

6. DISCUSS ADDITIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGETARY ITEMS
RECOMMENDED BY THE POLICE/CITIZENS RELATIONS COMMITTEE.
Applicable Area:

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 ADDITIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGETARY ITEMS
RECOMMENDED BY THE POLICE/CITIZENS RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends considering the delineated budgetary items as highlighted by the Police/Citizens Relations Committee at the May 2025 Budget Retreat as part of the Fiscal Year 2026 budget process.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

At the September 11, 2024 City Commission Meeting, at the request of Commissioner Laura Dominguez, the Mayor and City Commission approved a referral (C4 C) to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee (PSNQLC) to discuss additional Police Department budgetary items recommended by the Police/Citizens Relations Committee (PCRC) via LTC 379-2024.

ANALYSIS

The City of Miami Beach's Police/Citizens Relations Committee's (PCRC) was established with the mission to recommend and endorse programs and projects that will enhance the well-being of the residents and visitors of the City and to provide advice to the City Commission pertaining to community/police relations. To this end, the Committee created a Budget Advisory Subcommittee through which to understand the Police Department's budgetary requests and advocate for the tools necessary to keep residents and visitors safe.

The PCRC understands that over the 2024 fiscal year, the City Commission legislatively requested many priorities of the Miami Beach Police Department (MBPD); however, the Committee and Subcommittee raised concerns that many of the budget enhancements formally requested by the Department through which to accomplish the City Commission's priorities were not formally funded. Cognizant of budgetary limitations, the Committee examined those priorities of highest value and recommended the review of four allocations, one of which was related to police peer support and internally funded by the Department. Three additional increases in personnel allocations to DUI traffic enhancement and to the ATV Beachwalk and Marine Patrol Squads are delineated in LTC 379-2024.

The Administration acknowledges the importance of the stated staffing components in carrying out the City Commission's most important priorities. However, due to the completion of the Fiscal Year 2025 budgetary process coupled with the timing of the current police officer recruitment campaign to staff open positions, the Administration recognizes the current limitations by the Police Department to staffing the new positions required for DUI traffic enhancement, the ATV Beachwalk Squad and the Marine Patrol unit in Fiscal Year 2025. The Administration, therefore, deems it appropriate to revisit the funding request with any necessary additions for the Fiscal Year 2026 budget.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The financial impact will be reevaluated as part of the upcoming budgetary process.

CONCLUSION

The Administration acknowledges the importance of properly staffing the Miami Beach Police Department to accomplish the goals set forth by the City Commission. Nonetheless, due to staffing processes and the timing of the upcoming budgetary process, the review of personnel funding would be best suited for discussion at the Fiscal Year 2026 budgetary retreat.

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

Additional Police Department Budgetary Items.



COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
FROM: Commissioner Laura Dominguez
DATE: September 11, 2024
TITLE: REFERRAL TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS ADDITIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGETARY ITEMS RECOMMENDED BY THE POLICE/CITIZEN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

RECOMMENDATION

Please place on the September 11, 2024 agenda a referral to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee to discuss the potential funding of additional Police Department budgetary items that have been recommended by the Police/Citizen Relations Committee.

The City is committed to ensuring the safety and security of its residents and visitors through the effective and efficient operation of its Police Department. To that end, the Police/Citizen Relations Committee's ("PCRC") was established with the mission to recommend and endorse programs and projects that will enhance the well-being of the residents and visitors of the City and to provide advice to the City Commission pertaining to community/police relations. As such, the PCRC has reviewed the proposed Fiscal Year 2025 budget for the City and identified several unbudgeted items that the Committee believes are necessary to further enhance the capabilities of the Police Department.

Specifically, the PCRC has recommended the inclusion of three (3) budgetary allocations to augment the Police Department's personnel in the following squads in order to ensure adequate coverage and police responsiveness in the following vital areas:

Marine Patrol (In order to reduce burglaries emanating from the water since the City is a water community and many residences are on the water. In addition, there has been a huge increase in boater activity, including illegal charters and rentals of both boats and jet skis).

Driving Under the Influence (In order to patrol the roadways and waterways to enforce the "DUI" and "BUI" laws).

Beachwalk ATV (In order to add police officers on the Beachwalk at nighttime to aid in ensuring public safety).

Accordingly, I would request that the City Administration be prepared at Committee to discuss the cost of each, along with a recommendation as to whether each item would be of sufficient benefit to the Police Department so as to justify such expenditure

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

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?

Yes

Is this item related to a G.O. Bond Project?

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If so, specify the name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s):

Department

Office of Commissioner Laura Dominguez

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Laura Dominguez

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Ref: PSNQLC - Additional Police Department Budgetary Items. (Dominguez)

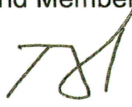
MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

LTC # **379-2024**

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Honorable Mayor Steven Meiner and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk 

DATE: September 4, 2024

SUBJECT: **Police/Citizens Relations Committee's Budget Concerns**

The purpose of this Letter to Commission (LTC) is to inform the Mayor & Commission of the Police/Citizens Relations Committee's concerns over the upcoming Fiscal Year 2025's budget and police allocations.

Over the past year, many priorities were requested by the Commission of the Miami Beach Police Department (MBPD) to include enhanced DUI enforcement and increased marine patrols, among others. Being sensitive to these requests, the Department put together a list of budget items that would enable them to accomplish these tasks. As the end of the budget process nears, the Police/Citizens Relations Committee and its Budget Advisory Subcommittee are concerned that many of these items have not been funded. The committees are also concerned that the Department would be held responsible for accomplishing many unfunded priorities.

The original list of enhancements had over 25 budget requests. Being realistic, the committee understands that all the items would not be approved. Therefore, the list has been pared down to the following items. As you are completing the budget process, please consider adding some of these items to next year's budget. The goal is to provide the City's Police Department with all the tools necessary to keep Miami Beach safe.

1. DUI Traffic Enhancement

- a. Requested by the City Commission. The creation of a squad to patrol the causeways and waterways to enforce DUI laws. Originally, the request was for 12 officers. Due to budget sensitivity, PD leadership is suggesting to begin with six (6) officers.

2. ATV Beachwalk Squad

- a. Requested by the City Commission. The beachwalk and City beaches are not safe at night as evidenced by the recent sexual assault of a woman in Mid Beach. Patrol personnel is needed on the beaches at night.

3. Marine Patrol Squad

- a. Requested by the City Commission. Miami Beach is a water community. Many homes are on the water. Many burglaries come from the waterside and not from the front of a house. In addition, there is a large increase in boater activity, illegal charters of both vessels and jet skis, and DUI activity on the water.

4. Peer Support Consultant

- a. Requested by the Police Chief to support and counsel police personnel.

REG/cmrp