

R9 S DISCUSSION REGARDING COMMUNITY POLICING EFFORTS IN SOUTH BEACH, THE SOUTH OF FIFTH NEIGHBORHOOD, OCEAN DRIVE, AND NORTH BEACH.

Applicable Area:

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Commissioner David Suarez

DATE: July 24, 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

Granado, Rafael

Subject: FW: DISCUSSION REGARDING COMMUNITY POLICING EFFORTS IN SOUTH BEACH AND THE SOUTH OF FIFTH NEIGHBORHOOD.

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From: Suarez, David <David@miamibeachfl.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 8:41 PM
To: Paz, Rafael <RafaelPaz@miamibeachfl.gov>
Subject: FW: DISCUSSION REGARDING COMMUNITY POLICING EFFORTS IN SOUTH BEACH AND THE SOUTH OF FIFTH NEIGHBORHOOD.

Please include the areas mentioned by mrs latone in my item as an addendum

From: Elizabeth K. Latone <kplatone@gmail.com>
Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 8:16 PM
To: Suarez, David <David@miamibeachfl.gov>
Cc: ABBOTT FLORIST ROMINA <romina71@hotmail.com>, Fernandez, Alex <Alex@miamibeachfl.gov>, Bhatt, Tanya <Tanya@miamibeachfl.gov>, David Sexton <davidsxton@gmail.com>, Dominguez, Laura <Laura@miamibeachfl.gov>, Everardo E. Padron <padronbelaire@gmail.com>, Janet Silverman <jsilverman27@msn.com>, Jose Smith <josesmithmb@gmail.com>, Joseph Marano <jmarano356@aol.com>, Linda Hothem <lchothem2@icloud.com>, Reynaldo Rey Mayor <reymayor@gmail.com>, Ronnie Issenberg <ronnie.issenberg@marcusmillichap.com>, Rosen Gonzalez, Kristen <Kristen@miamibeachfl.gov>, Samuel P. Latone II <sam.latone@tscg.com>, Meiner, Steven <StevenMeiner@miamibeachfl.gov>, Tom Richerson <tomricherson@gmail.com>, Magazine, Joe <Joe@miamibeachfl.gov>, john ohrnberger <ojmj6655@gmail.com>
Subject: DISCUSSION REGARDING COMMUNITY POLICING EFFORTS IN SOUTH BEACH AND THE SOUTH OF FIFTH NEIGHBORHOOD.

[THIS MESSAGE COMES FROM AN EXTERNAL EMAIL - USE CAUTION WHEN REPLYING AND OPENING LINKS OR ATTACHMENTS]

Dear Commissioner Suarez,

The Allison Park Neighborhood Association (APNA) supports R 9Q, your definition of Community Policing, and your advocacy to increase staffing to support it.

APNA has been actively advocating for this idea for years. We too believe that having designated police officers operating within the same area not only creates an alliance with the residents and businesses in the area, but also enables more efficient and proactive law enforcement.

While you mention the South of Fifth area, we also ask that you specifically include our neighborhood, in particular 63rd to 72nd in your item due to the urgency and need of greater Community Policing in our area.

Transforming our area from blight, the new projects such as Ocean Terrace and hopefully the Deauville site is crucial to the local economy and safety is of utmost importance to the residents, businesses and visitors.

We humbly request the City to provide at least 2-4 beat patrol officers, designated solely to North Beach such as to increase our security both from a psychological and physical standpoint.

Please note that the CRA has requested more police beat officers and have been told it's not within our budget, even though these are basic city services which our taxes pay for.

We are now also asking for your assistance, and would appreciate the Commission including our neighborhood in this item and in the budget of the City. If we have enough money for painting of buildings, etc... we certainly have enough for dedicated officers in our parks and streets. It is an imperative we are safe.

We have long been overlooked and have been viewed as the throw away part of the city which has contributed to its decline. We ask that we are no longer the forgotten and neglected and are viewed as an equal part of the City of Miami Beach.

You all can help us achieve what we are destined to be and hope you all see the potential and progress of our little part of the city. Please help us.

<https://miamibeach.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/CoverSheet.aspx?ItemID=34179&MeetingID=1338>

Elizabeth K. Latone

APNA - President