

C7 AM A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING AND DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR SPRING BREAK 2025, IN AN EFFORT TO PROACTIVELY STEM THE THREATS TO PUBLIC SAFETY THE CITY HAS EXPERIENCED DUE TO EXCESSIVELY LARGE CROWDS AND LIFE-THREATENING VIOLENCE DURING SPRING BREAK.

Applicable Area:

# MIAMI BEACH

## COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: City Attorney Ricardo J. Dopico

DATE: September 11, 2024

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING AND DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR SPRING BREAK 2025, IN AN EFFORT TO PROACTIVELY STEM THE THREATS TO PUBLIC SAFETY THE CITY HAS EXPERIENCED DUE TO EXCESSIVELY LARGE CROWDS AND LIFE-THREATENING VIOLENCE DURING SPRING BREAK.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY**

### **ANALYSIS**

The above-referenced Resolution was prepared at the request of the sponsors, Mayor Steven Meiner and Vice-Mayor Alex J. Fernandez. It will be submitted via Supplemental Agenda.

### **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-notices/>

### **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

### **CONCLUSION**

### **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**

City Attorney

**Sponsor(s)**

Mayor Steven Meiner  
Commissioner Alex Fernandez

**Co-sponsor(s)**

Commissioner Laura Dominguez  
Commissioner Joseph Magazine

**Condensed Title**

Comprehensive Strategy for Spring Break 2025. (Meiner/Fernandez/Dominguez/Magazine) CA

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING AND DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR SPRING BREAK 2025, IN AN EFFORT TO PROACTIVELY STEM THE THREATS TO PUBLIC SAFETY THE CITY HAS EXPERIENCED DUE TO EXCESSIVELY LARGE CROWDS AND LIFE-THREATENING VIOLENCE DURING SPRING BREAK.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Miami Beach (the “City”) is an internationally renowned tourist destination that is famous for its beautiful beaches, world-class shopping, entertainment, fine dining, and vast array of artistic and cultural events; and

**WHEREAS**, in recent years, the City has seen an increasingly large number of visitors during the Spring Break period, which has posed significant challenges including, but not limited to, extreme traffic and congestion, and severe impacts to the City’s Police, Fire, Sanitation, and Code Compliance services; and

**WHEREAS**, many of the visitors to the City during high impact periods, such as Spring Break, are under the influence of alcoholic beverages and have demonstrated a blatant disregard for the rule of law; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, unruly crowd control issues during Spring Break resulted in the imposition of emergency measures, including an 8:00 p.m. curfew in the area between 5<sup>th</sup> Street and 16<sup>th</sup> Street, from Pennsylvania Avenue to Ocean Drive; and

**WHEREAS**, in March 2022, the City also experienced massive crowds and several shootings in a concentrated tourist area over a period of a few days, resulting in the declaration of a state of emergency and imposition of a weekend midnight curfew for the last weekend of March, 2022, based upon the excessively large crowds and violence occurring on the second and third weekend of March, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, such 2022 incidents included the shooting of 5 different innocent pedestrians and created stampedes and mayhem in the public streets and rights-of-way; and

**WHEREAS**, also in 2022, the Police Department and its law enforcement partners impounded one-hundred (100) firearms from February 18, 2022 – March 21, 2022, with approximately thirty-seven (37) of such firearms having been impounded during the third weekend in March spanning March 18 – 20; and

**WHEREAS**, in March 2023, the City experienced multiple fights, shootings, and various other incidents and police calls for service—for example, for the period between

February 27, 2023 and March 18, 2023, there were four (4) aggravated assault arrests, three (3) aggravated battery arrests, seven (7) robbery arrests, twenty (20) arrests for carrying a concealed firearm, thirty-seven (37) felony drug arrests, twelve (12) arrests for battery on a law enforcement officer, and eighty-two (82) arrests for other felonies; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition, the Police Department and its law enforcement partners impounded over seventy (70) firearms from February 27, 2023 – March 19, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, such March 2023 incidents included two (2) shootings that occurred the weekend of March 17<sup>th</sup>, which resulted in two (2) fatalities and injuries to others, and which also created stampedes that caused injuries to several people, including two (2) volunteer goodwill ambassadors, and all of which posed a danger to public safety and order in the public streets and rights-of-way; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to each of the two (2) deadly shootings, officers were able to arrive on the scene within a matter of seconds, but nevertheless were unable to prevent the shootings (and were, themselves, endangered by their close proximity to the shootings); and

**WHEREAS**, for Spring Break 2024, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2024-32905, which authorized and directed the City Administration to enact the proactive measures set forth in this Resolution, leading to the City's most successful Spring Break response; and

**WHEREAS**, various after-action reports and meetings were held after Spring Break 2024, where the input of residents and business owners were solicited and heard, and there was consensus that the proactive measures employed for Spring Break 2024 were successful and effective; and

**WHEREAS**, based on the foregoing, the Mayor and City Commission desire to approve and direct the City Administration to implement the measures specified in this Resolution, as part of the Mayor and City Commission's comprehensive strategy to mitigate the massive challenges associated large crowds and violence during Spring Break, and protect the health, safety and welfare of all residents and visitors in the City of Miami Beach.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA**, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby approve and direct the City Administration to implement the following comprehensive strategy for Spring Break 2025, in an effort to proactively stem the threats to public safety the City has experienced due to excessively large crowds and life-threatening violence during Spring Break:

(1) adopt and execute a heightened law enforcement staffing plan, including "Alpha Bravo" staffing from Thursday through Sunday on the second and third weekends in March, in partnership with law enforcement agencies providing additional resources to

the Miami Beach Police Department, including the Florida Highway Patrol, Miami-Dade County Police Department, City of Miami Police Department, and Coral Gables Police Department, among other jurisdictions;

(2) vigorously enforce the “Open Container” law, prohibiting consumption of alcoholic beverages in public areas and rights-of-way;

(3) close public beaches, from 5<sup>th</sup> Street to 15<sup>th</sup> Street, or portions thereof, at 6:00 p.m., from Thursday, March 6, 2025 until Sunday, March 9, 2025, and Thursday, March 13 until Sunday, March 16, as authorized by Section 82-443 of the City Code;

(4) support, if necessary, the suspension of sidewalk café operations on Ocean Drive, from 5<sup>th</sup> Street to 15<sup>th</sup> Street, at 7:00 p.m., from Friday, March 7, 2025 through Sunday, March 9, 2025, and from Friday, March 14, 2025 through Sunday, March 16, 2025, as authorized by the City’s outdoor dining concession agreements;

(5) enforce the City’s Noise Ordinance to the fullest extent permitted by law, with a focus on preventing the spillover of loud music from establishments that contribute to the party atmosphere on public rights-of-way;

(6) increase Code enforcement, Parking enforcement and Fire Code staffing and inspections of business establishments to ensure compliance with all laws;

(7) continue to explore the implementation of a secured perimeter on Ocean Drive or portions thereof;

(8) continue to explore the implementation of midnight curfews and other emergency measures in accordance with all laws, as deemed necessary by the City Manager based on on-the-ground observations of conditions during and leading up to Spring Break as well as historical data and trends;

(9) implement a robust marketing and communications campaign to apprise the public and area businesses to anticipate possible curfews and to be aware of the significant additional restrictions during Spring Break;

(10) work closely with Uber, Lyft, and other rideshare apps to communicate restrictions to the public via their platforms;

(11) close all City-owned or City-operated parking lots and garages in the Art Deco Cultural District, including along Washington Avenue and Collins Avenue, between 5<sup>th</sup> Street and 15<sup>th</sup> Street, starting each Thursday at 6:00 p.m. and reopening at 6 a.m. each Monday morning of the second and third weekends of March (and reserving the ability to close any City-owned garages and parking lots, if necessary, any of the five weekends of March 2025);

(12) implement the high impact parking rate in City-owned or City-operated parking lots and garages, with a daily rate of up to \$100, with the exception of residents, employees working in the City, and access card holders;

(13) restrict on-street parking on Ocean Drive, Collins Avenue, and Washington Avenue, from 5<sup>th</sup> Street to 16<sup>th</sup> Street;

(14) work with Miami-Dade County to explore the closure of the Venetian Causeway and/or restrict the Venetian Causeway for resident use only;

(15) create a special event zone or zones, if legally justified, pursuant to Fla. Stat. 316.1891, post all legally required signage, and enforce penalties, such as double fines and vehicle impoundment for noncriminal traffic infractions within the designated special event zone(s); and

(16) explore all alternative modes of transportation to reduce traffic congestion during high impact periods.

**PASSED** and **ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven Meiner, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(sponsored by Mayor Steven Meiner and Vice Mayor Alex J. Fernandez)

APPROVED AS TO  
FORM & LANGUAGE  
& FOR EXECUTION

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

9/6/2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

RFR