

NB 14. DISCUSS THE POTENTIAL FUNDING FOR FY 2026 TO EXPAND THE MARINE PATROL UNIT TO DETECT AND DETER CRIME AND QUALITY OF LIFE OFFENSES IN BISCAYNE BAY.

Applicable Area:



**COMMISSION MEMORANDUM**

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Commissioner Alex Fernandez

DATE: October 30, 2024

TITLE: REFERRAL TO THE FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCY COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS THE POTENTIAL FUNDING FOR FY 26 TO EXPAND THE MARINE PATROL UNIT TO DETECT AND DETER CRIME AND QUALITY OF LIFE OFFENSES IN BISCAYNE BAY.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Please place on the October 30, 2024 City Commission agenda a referral to the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee to discuss the potential funding for FY 26 to expand the Marine Patrol Unit to detect and deter crime and quality of life offenses in Biscayne Bay.

The City is a vibrant tropical community which, due in part to its ideal marine location and popularity as a local hotspot, experiences a wide variety of vessels making use of its waterways.

Recently, the City has experienced a surge in boats and vessel activity on and around its jurisdictional waters. Regrettably, many vessel operators and vessel rental businesses have not been complying with local, state, and federal laws pertaining to vessel safety and business regulations.

This ongoing nuisance has led to an increase in navigational hazards and vessel accidents and injuries on the water, in addition to having adverse impacts on the environment and the residential areas and islands along Biscayne Bay. Moreover, residents along the waterways continue to request Marine Patrol in those areas to increase police presence and address home burglaries and quality of life issues connected with vessels in those waterways.

As part of this referral, I request that the City Administration be prepared at Committee to discuss the possibility of, and costs associated with, expanding the Marine Patrol Unit to detect and deter crime and quality of life offenses in Biscayne Bay, especially in areas surrounding Star, Palm and Hibiscus Islands, along with Belle Isle and the Venetian areas, for FY 26, in addition to any hurdles or concerns.

**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-notices/>

**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?**

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 Alex Fernandez

**Sponsor(s)**

Commissioner Alex Fernandez

**Co-sponsor(s)**

**Condensed Title**

Ref: FERC - Potential Funding for FY 26 to Expand Marine Patrol Unit (Fernandez)