



2024

ANNUAL REPORT

CITY OF
SUNNY ISLES BEACH



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WELCOME MESSAGE

by City Manager Stan Morris



I am pleased to present the City of Sunny Isles Beach Annual Report for 2024. This report shares a few highlights from the past year, offering statistics and insight into city projects and initiatives.

Our goal is to continue to provide transparency and ensure that every resident has access to the achievements and strides we've taken together. Within these pages, you'll find a brief look at how we navigated a year filled with obstacles and accomplishments, all while staying focused on enhancing the lives of our residents and strengthening our community.

In my three years of service as your City Manager, we have built a strong foundation for progress. We addressed leadership gaps in our departments, reviewed and canceled unnecessary contracts, saved hundreds of thousands of dollars, and recovered

funds in areas to benefit our city's future. Rebuilding the police department with Chief Santiago and adding 18 new police officers has been my proudest achievement.

We also saw residents head to the polls for both the Presidential Election and our local elections in November. I want to congratulate Commissioner Jerry Joseph and Commissioner Fabiola Stuyvesant on their re-election to Seat 1 and Seat 3.

In 2024, we encountered an unforeseen challenge. In June, we faced severe flooding caused by unprecedented torrential rains. While our primary focus has traditionally been on hurricane preparedness, this year it required us to enhance our focus on flood response. Our community endured some losses, but the swift action of our staff helped mitigate the impact and begin recovery efforts immediately.

As always, our city leaders and I are committed to engaging with residents and understanding your needs and concerns. We want to ensure that you feel connected to your city officials and the work we are doing. I encourage you to attend our City Commission meetings and workshops, and I invite you to reach out to me by calling 305.792.1730, emailing citymanager@sibfl.net, or submitting a service request through our citizen engagement app, My Sunny Isles Beach.

I look forward to the continued progress and many accomplishments we will achieve together as a community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stan Morris".

Stan Morris
City Manager



CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

MISSION AND VISION

MISSION:

The City of Sunny Isles Beach's mission is to enrich the quality of life for all by providing excellent service, building on its reputation as a culturally rich and inclusive community, and cultivating a safe and harmonious environment where residents, businesses, and visitors can thrive.

VISION:

To be the most coveted oceanfront community in all of South Florida, known for its exceptional quality of life, responsive municipal government, dynamic and inclusive community, and commitment to preserving its natural environment.

ELECTED OFFICIALS



Larisa Svechin
Mayor
mayor@sibfl.net



Alex Lama
Vice Mayor /
Commissioner Seat 2
seat2@sibfl.net



Jerry Joseph
Commissioner
Seat 1
seat1@sibfl.net



Fabiola Stuyvesant
Commissioner
Seat 3
seat3@sibfl.net



Jeniffer Viscarra
Commissioner
Seat 4
seat4@sibfl.net

14

of Ordinances Approved

173

of Resolutions Approved

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

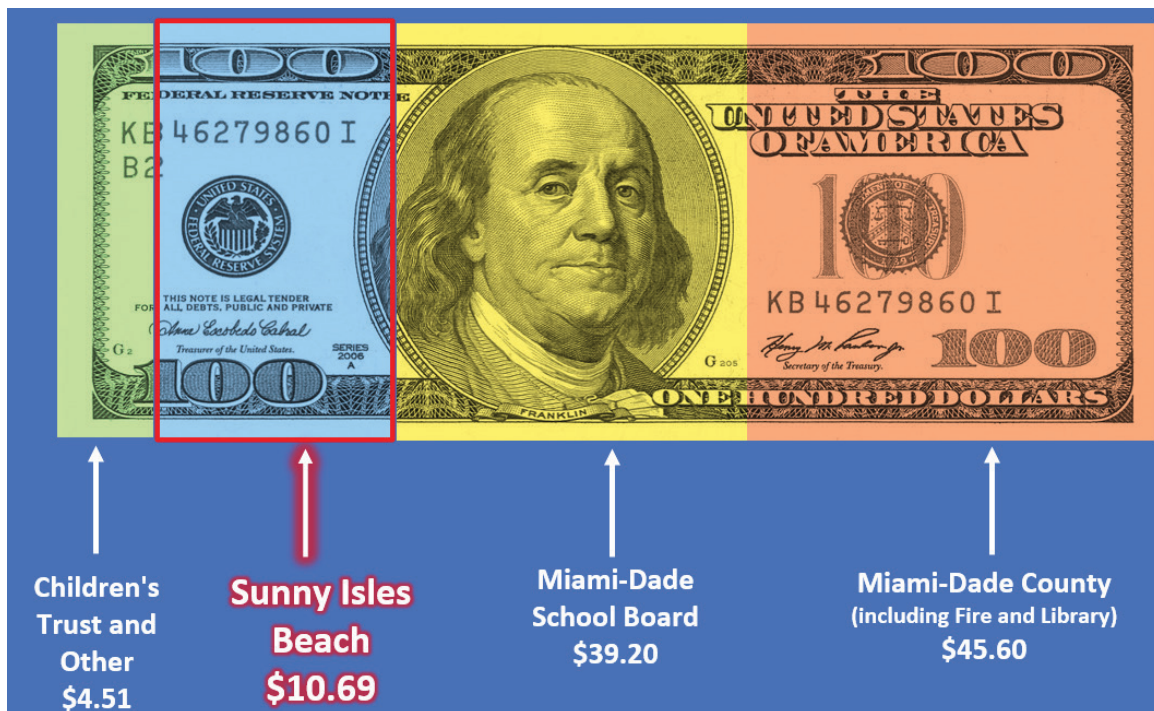
Each year, the City carefully plans its budget to ensure the continued delivery of essential services to residents. To streamline the budgeting process, the Finance Department introduced new budgeting software, increasing efficiency and improving oversight. The City's fiscal year runs from October 1 to September 30, and the City Commission has approved the FY 2024-2025 budget, which includes yet another reduction in the millage rate to 1.8 mills.

At the same time, the City maintains strong financial reserves, with over \$100 million allocated to ensure the continued delivery of essential services to our residents.



The Finance Department was awarded the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 15th consecutive year, as well as the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 13th consecutive year.

Where do your tax dollars go?

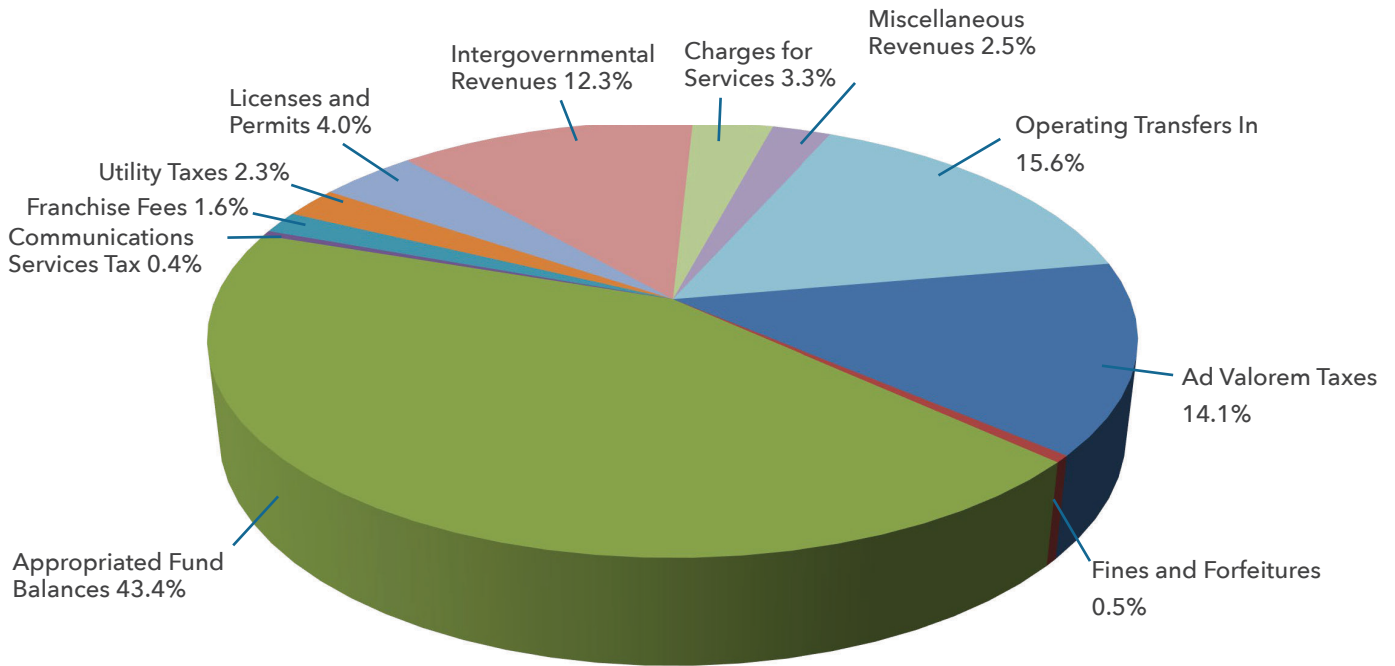


An illustration of a \$100 bill showing how your tax dollars are distributed. The City of Sunny Isles Beach only receives a little over **10 cents** from every tax dollar.

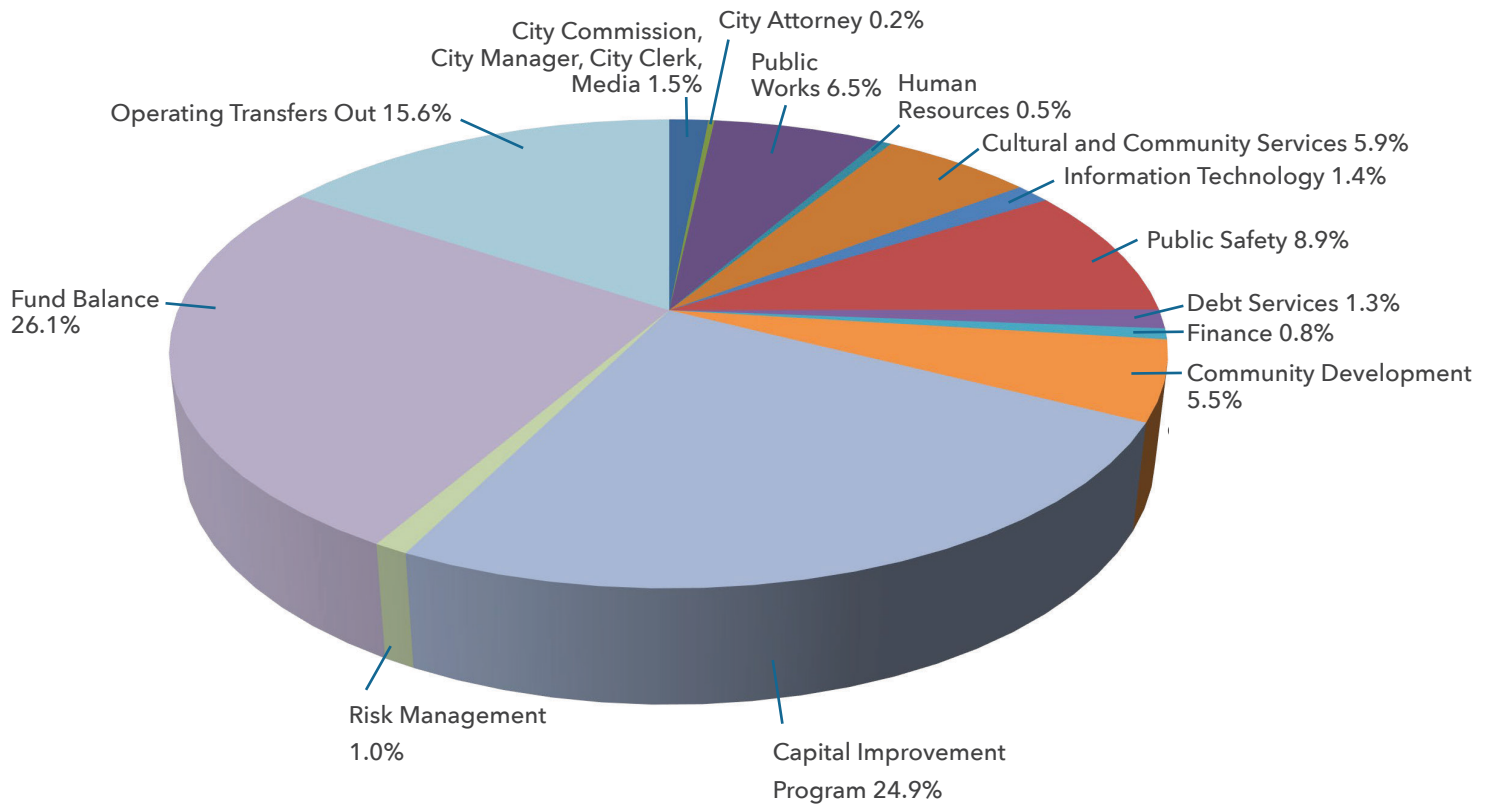
BUDGET SUMMARY

\$216,257,780

Revenues by Source



Expenditures & Fund Balance by Type



PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety is our number one priority!

To enhance safety for both residents and visitors, the City has installed red-light cameras at key intersections. These cameras operate 24/7, year-round, helping to promote safer driving habits and support consistent traffic law enforcement across the community.

In addition, the Police Department introduced Facial Recognition Software to strengthen security measures. This system allows images of individuals of concern - such as registered sex offenders to be identified by the software. An alert is then sent to the Communications Center Hiperwall, enabling officers to be quickly dispatched to the location.



Intersection Safety Cameras on Sunny Isles Blvd.

At Pelican Community Park, the Police Department upgraded several existing cameras and added new ones in key areas, including those facing the NSE/SIB K-8 school. These upgraded cameras are equipped with artificial intelligence to visually detect firearms. If a firearm is detected, the system immediately sends an alert to the Police Communications Hiperwall, prompting officers to assess the situation and respond accordingly.

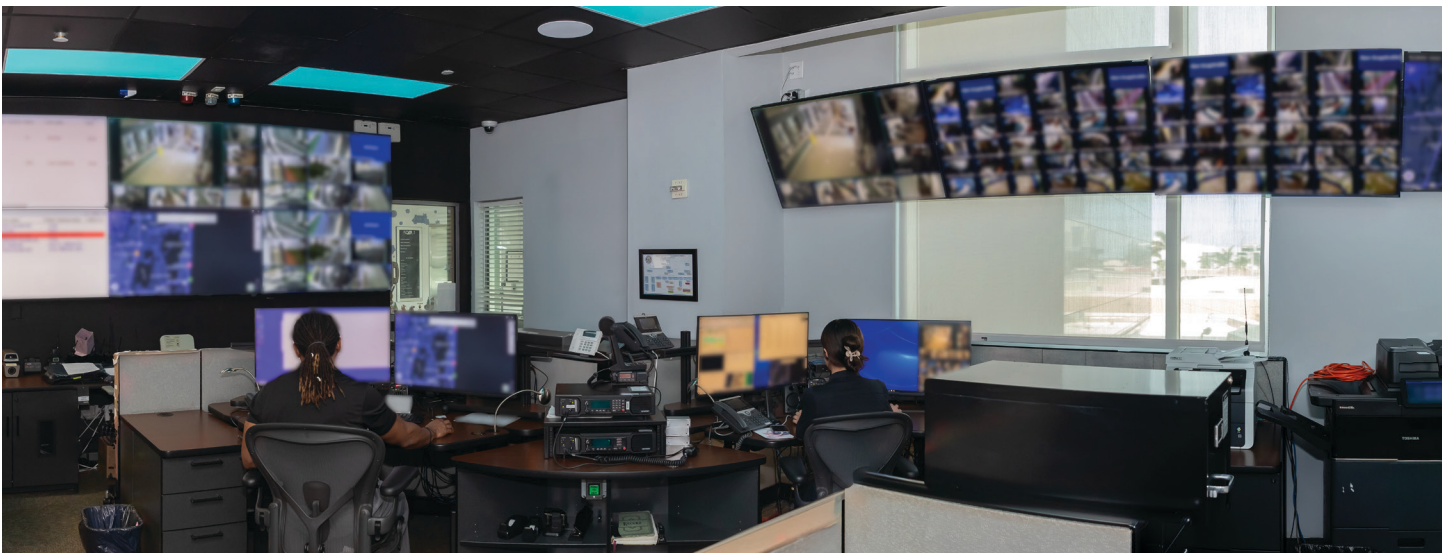
Red Light Citations Issued*

**Total since implementation in September 2024.*

7,560

1,456

Scooter Violations Cited



The hiperwall in the Police Communications Center integrates advanced technologies, including License Plate Readers (LPRs) and CCTV cameras into one interface.

YOUR CITY AT WORK

Flooding and Flood Risk Mitigation

Our proactive approach to emergency preparedness was put to the test in June when the City experienced severe flooding due to torrential rains. City departments worked together to ensure facility safety, assess damage, communicate with residents, and support recovery efforts.

In response to the event, the City Commission authorized the purchase of two high-water vehicles and two large capacity pumps to improve flood response capabilities. Additionally, the City launched a new flood risk portal in partnership with Forerunner, giving residents and property owners easy access to personalized, property-specific flood information.



Flooding on Collins Avenue on June 12, 2024.

Fortunately, prior to the flooding, we completed the drainage project that elevated 172nd Street roadway by one foot to help mitigate some of the impacts from the storm.



High-water vehicles will assist emergency personnel with flood response capabilities.

Capital Projects

In May, the City completed the construction of the Meditation Garden at Town Center Park, offering a tranquil urban retreat for adults seeking a peaceful escape. The garden also introduces additional green space for residents and visitors, featuring a new art installation by artist Mike Szabo.

At Pelican Community Park, the gymnasium underwent significant upgrades, including the installation of a new floor, security cameras, scoreboards, and acoustic panels, enhancing both functionality and safety.

The City also began partial demolition of the interior of the Government Center Annex to start designing the future home of the Building Department. Additionally, contract negotiations are underway with the restaurant Crema to introduce a new dining option at this facility.

Cleaning of the Government Center exterior was completed this year, improving the building's appearance and contributing to its long-term maintenance.

The City also demolished the Le Richelieu property on Atlantic Boulevard, adjacent to Pelican Community Park. The space will provide for a much-needed expansion of Pelican Community Park.



The Meditation Garden at Town Center Park is a space designed for adults and opened to the public on May 29, 2024.



The Pelican Community Park gymnasium reopened in August following renovations.

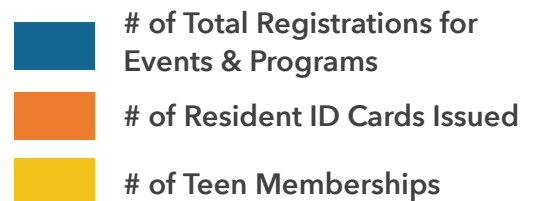
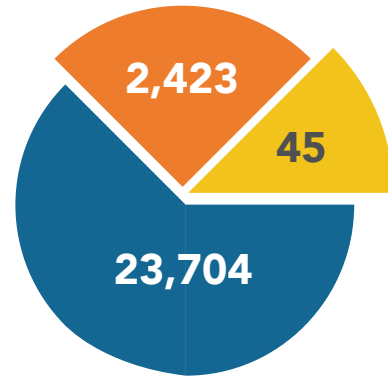


Le Richelieu Demolition

PARKS AND RECREATION

In 2024, the City opened the doors of The Spot, a vibrant new community space designed specifically for teens. This dynamic hub offers a safe and engaging environment where young people can gather after school, connect with peers, and participate in a variety of events and programs. Open to residents ages 12-17, The Spot is accessible to those with a Teen Membership Card. For more information about The Spot and to apply for a Teen Membership Card, visit sibfl.gov/The-Spot.

Throughout the year, the City hosted an exciting array of family-friendly events. Resident attendance at these events reached an all-time high, reflecting the growing enthusiasm for the City's diverse offerings. From Egg Scramble, the City's Anniversary, Booogie by the Beach, and Winter Fest, these events not only provided fun and entertainment but also created opportunities for residents to connect, engage, and celebrate the spirit of our community.



The Spot, located at 215 185 Street is a space for teens only, ages 12-17.



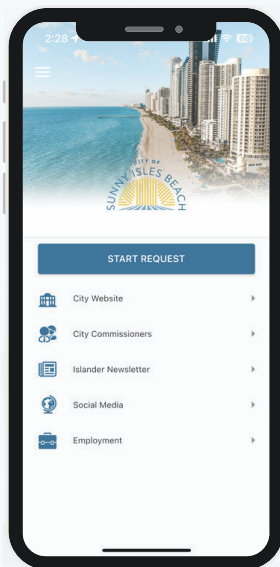
Families enjoyed Egg Scramble at Pelican Community Park on March 25.



The City celebrated its 27th Anniversary with live music and food on the beach on June 2.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

In August, the City launched a redesigned, fully accessible website under a new domain, **sibfl.gov**. Earlier in the year, the City introduced the *My Sunny Isles Beach* mobile app, enhancing citizen engagement by providing residents with easy access to city information and the ability to submit service requests directly from their smartphones.



497

requests received through
"My Sunny Isles Beach"
Service Request app

432

have been resolved

Community Engagement

In 2024, the City continued to provide residents with opportunities to connect through the successful Community Resource Fairs, where valuable information about city and county services was shared.

In April, the City unveiled the Gateway Artway at Gateway Center, featuring original works by 25 local artists through the Sunny Spaces Art Contest, each creating an original piece. The contest continued in 2024, and five winning artists have been selected, with their works set to be displayed on the Gateway Artway this year.



Community Resource Night brought together residents and city staff in April.

The City also showcased its vibrant cultural identity through a series of art exhibits. In October, the City hosted Caged Pacifiers, an installation by local artist Luli Sulichin, along with her curated exhibit Saltwater Tears, created specifically for Sunny Isles Beach. In December, the City introduced a new art series, Art Uncorked, with an engaging exhibition during Miami Art Week. The inaugural event was presented in partnership with the renowned Paris-based gallery, Espace Meyer Zafra.



Installations by Manuel Mérida on display at the Government Center during the City's Art Uncorked exhibition.



Sunny Spaces Art Contest winners gathered in April for the unveiling of their art at the new Gateway Artway, located at Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

On January 2, 2024, the Building Department fully transitioned to an electronic system for all permit applications, and document submittals. This shift to a paperless process has helped the Building Department streamline the building permitting process, allowing for a more efficient service. Customers are now able to easily submit applications, track permit statuses, make payments, and schedule inspections online, ensuring a more efficient and transparent service.

In response to residents' concerns, the City Commission passed a new ordinance that changes how building and structure heights are measured, specifically by establishing the Design Flood Elevation (DFE) as the starting point for height measurements. For more information, please visit sibfl.gov/height-ordinance.

Additionally, the City Commission adopted revisions to regulations governing temporary signs in 2024. These revisions include limits on the number of off-premises temporary signs, allowing no more than three at any given time. Off-premises signs are also prohibited from being placed on public right-of-ways or city-owned property, and placement on private property requires explicit consent from the property owner. For a full list of the new temporary sign regulations, please visit sibfl.gov/temporary-signs.

The City has also started developing a vision for the west side of Collins Avenue through the Sunny Isles Beach Vision: Planning for Tomorrow project. This initiative included valuable input from residents, business owners, and employees through focus groups and open houses. The project will continue in 2025.



Inspections Completed



Short-Term Rental
Licenses Issued



Code Compliance
Cases Opened



Dogs on the Beach Cited



Building Permits Issued



Scooter Registrations



The Planning and Zoning Department hosted outreach events and focus groups to gather input for the Vision Project.





ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Larisa Svechin	305.792.1753	mayor@sibfl.net
Vice Mayor/Commissioner Seat 2 Alex Lama	305.792.1752	seat2@sibfl.net
Commissioner Seat 1 Jerry Joseph	305.792.1754	seat1@sibfl.net
Commissioner Seat 3 Fabiola Stuyvesant	305.792.1751	seat3@sibfl.net
Commissioner Seat 4 Jeniffer Viscarra	305.792.1750	seat4@sibfl.net

CITY DEPARTMENTS/SERVICES

Beach Conditions Hotline	305.792.1940	
Building Department	305.947.2150	info.building@sibfl.net
Business Licensing	305.792.1875	businesslicensing@sibfl.net
City Clerk	305.792.1703	cityclerk@sibfl.net
City Manager's Office	305.792.1731	citymanager@sibfl.net
Code Compliance & Parking	305.792.1760	codecompliance@sibfl.net
Cultural & Community Services	305.792.1706	ccsd@sibfl.net
Finance	305.792.1707	finance@sibfl.net
Human Resources	305.792.1708	humanresources@sibfl.net
Media & Communications	305.792.1920	sibmedia@sibfl.net
Planning & Zoning	305.792.1740	infopz@sibfl.net
Police Dispatch	305.947.4440	
Police Records	305.792.1713	
Police TTY Line	305.792.1598	
Public Works	305.792.1711	publicworks@sibfl.net

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