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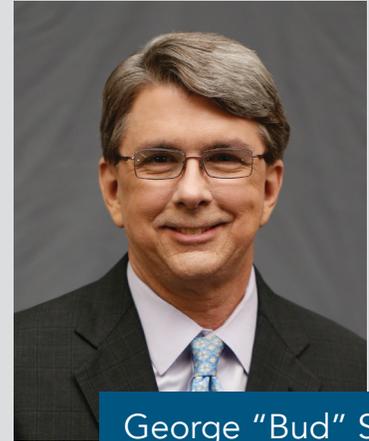
CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

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AUGUST 2020

A MESSAGE FROM THE Mayor

“ When you look back on this time in two, five or 10 years, how do you want your actions to be remembered? We have the opportunity to take one of two paths: accepting personal responsibility and doing everything in our power to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 or placing self-indulgent attitudes above the welfare of our family, neighbors and community. ”



George "Bud" Scholl
Mayor

You can debate about opinions of masks and curfews. But the fact is the number of cases in Florida is increasing, the percentage of people testing positive for the virus is increasing, and the death rate is increasing. Miami-Dade County accounts for nearly 25% of Florida's cases, the highest total in the State. The stay-at-home order and business closures back in March and April were implemented to keep our hospitals from being overwhelmed with critical cases. It worked then, but when we reopened just over one month later, the number of cases jumped dramatically. Now, nearly 20% of tests in the County are being reported as positive, and the County has only 30% total and ICU bed capacity available.

Some might see the case number by cities and note that Sunny Isles Beach has a significantly lower number than most of the cities in the County. But as I have mentioned before, this number might actually be 10 times higher. Our city is not only frequented by residents. Those who work, shop or vacation here might unknowingly be asymptomatic

and unintentionally spread the virus to both residents and non-residents of Sunny Isles Beach. The goal of the restrictions and closures is to keep the collective safe, not just ourselves.

With a virus as new as COVID-19, much uncertainty lies in the future impacts for those who recover. The long-term effects are unquestionably unknown. Which is why the small steps such as practicing social distancing, wearing your facial covering, and avoiding crowded activities are so important. You might be unconcerned about contracting the virus, but think about your community and keeping them safe. Do you know someone working in a hospital? In a grocery store? Delivering packages? These are essential workers on the front lines. Stay home and wear a mask to keep them safe.

Wouldn't you rather know you had a positive impact on someone's health by doing something so simple as wearing a mask, than to look back in 10 years and realize you propelled the problem? Let's be part of the solution.

Message from the City Manager

Christopher J. Russo



We are moving forward in determining the future of the Town Center North Overlay (TCNO). However, due to delays from COVID-19, the City Commission is in the process of extending the moratorium through March 2021 to allow for ample time to complete the public outreach process and provide final recommendations to proceed. Our consultant team from Calvin, Giordano & Associates (CGA) has facilitated the outreach process, and on June 4, they presented their initial findings and recommendations to the City Commission.

The outreach process consisted of stakeholder meetings with residents, landowners, developers, and elected officials; gathering and analyzing information about present conditions; public outreach through pop-up activities, an open-house workshop and online survey; and synthesizing all the community input.

Throughout this outreach process it was important for us to educate the public about the TCNO before gaining feedback. The CGA team found that while there were strong opinions regarding the TCNO, many did not fully understand the complexity of the area. Education was a key component at each outreach activity. Staff explained the history and composition of the TCNO, which is three distinct areas, including the Collins commercial corridor, the midsection and the bayfront.

Typically, a “town center” is a central, walkable place that people can easily access for a variety of purposes: to shop, dine, work, exercise, enjoy a movie or concert, or just congregate as a community in a social public place. According to this description, the current Town Center District seems to be deficient, and our residents know this. The purpose of the public engagement is to determine what our citizens want to see there.

What did we learn?

Through a combination of face-to-face interactions and online engagement, we were able to gain a wealth of public input about the current view of the TCNO and its future. We reached over 500 points of direct public engagement, with several hundred more estimated from interaction with the website, social media posts, and emails.

We found that most participants would rather see a moderate skyline here, favoring the current districtwide mix of heights. Participants would like to see a better selection, both in quantity and quality, of shopping, dining and entertainment options. They prioritized broader quality of life issues such as walkability, connectivity, multimodality, pedestrian safety, green space, and infrastructure capacity over regulatory issues. Residents desire for the TCNO to remain unique when compared to development on the east side of Collins Avenue, placing importance on the need for a sense of retreat.

Possible Paths

The CGA team developed four possible paths for the City to take. The Commission must now prioritize what they want to achieve in terms of policy goals and how to achieve those goals with regulatory implementation.

Let it Be

- Keeps the TCNO in the Comprehensive Plan as is.
- Involves adding density and intensity measures that are currently absent to comply with Florida law.
- Requires amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code.

A New Vision

- An overhaul of the current TCNO and would implement new land use designation.
- Involves a depth of analyses to document the new district and re-designation of land.
- Requires amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, Future Land Use Map, and Zoning Map and Code.

Toss it Away

- Eliminates the TCNO in the Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map, leaving the existing underlying land use districts to guide future redevelopment.
- Requires amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, Future Land Use Map, and Zoning Map and Code.

A Narrower Focus

(Most favored option of our workshop participants.)

- Subdivides the TCNO to reflect the distinct character sub-areas of the overall district.
- Resizes the footprint so the overlay applies only to the present commercial or residential area.
- Adjusts guidelines to promote a higher caliber of future redevelopment for this area.
- Requires amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, Future Land Use Map, Zoning Map and Code.

Where do we go from here?

As we pursue the path of extending the moratorium for an additional six months, we will continue engaging with the community to receive your feedback. The City Commission will then deliberate at a formal public meeting and may select one of the four options to move forward with, ask for a variation of the paths or revisions, or provide direction to staff regarding other options. Once they provide feedback, staff will prepare the policy and regulatory amendments necessary to implement their decision.

This may seem like a long and arduous process, but it is necessary to gain public input before moving forward. In the weeks to come, we will announce additional opportunities for public engagement as well as the date for another virtual public workshop. I encourage you to learn more about the Town Center District, the public engagement project report, and the steps the City is taking to create a better future for Sunny Isles Beach by visiting sibfl.net/towncenternorth. I invite you to share your comments online or by calling 305.792.1740.

Standing United

Commissioner Alex Lama

Last month we celebrated the 244th birthday of the United States of America and as the fourth of July fireworks faded and the celebrations drew to a close, I kept thinking of how grateful I am to live in this country. Living here offers many of us the tranquility of personal safety (a priceless gift absent during my childhood in El Salvador) and it offers us access to great education as well as economic opportunities rarely found in other countries.

I also thought of the challenges we face due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the recent social unrest and the economic downturn. It is certainly an unprecedented and tough time for us as a country. Many of us have observed with concern how this situation has created divisions and augmented existing issues in our society. However, despite this, it is reassuring to see the empathy, respect and care among many people, regardless of race, religion, color and ethnicity.



It is vital we draw on these values and our commonalities to face these challenges and come out victorious. After all, we are here to enjoy our rights to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. These are our unalienable rights as written in our Declaration of Independence. Our great nation has endured many difficult times and has triumphed. I am confident we will continue to collaborate and stand united to overcome our trials and tribulations so we can continue to enjoy these rights and make our country better.

Please contact me with questions at [305.792.1752](tel:305.792.1752) or alama@sibfl.net.

New in Condoland: Ombudsman, emergency powers & condo rights

Commissioner Dana Goldman

On the regulatory front, Governor Ron DeSantis appointed Spencer Hennings of Miami as Florida's new Condominium Ombudsman. The Office of the Ombudsman provides resources and educational programs; fields questions for condominium unit owners, directors and officers; serves as liaison with policy makers; and monitors condominium elections and meetings. The City looks forward to having the Ombudsman's office representative serve our residents on a monthly basis, as provided by recent City Commission resolution.

On the legislative front, our condominium associations have encountered tremendous operational and governance challenges during this pandemic; however, the emergency powers under Chapter 718, Florida Statutes (the "Act") currently contemplates responses to a hurricane but not a pandemic event such as COVID-19. The Florida Bar is proposing legislation for the upcoming Session to clarify that the Act's emergency powers



are available during a pandemic or public health emergency. The legislation will clarify that meetings can be held by telephonic, video and other means, and that associations can adopt an emergency plan that will allow for restricted access to the condominium property or common areas, rely upon emergency management officials and public health officials for advice, receive immunity for exercising emergency powers and charge unit owners for sanitization costs incurred.

On the local front, my condo rights workshops will continue virtually with an upcoming COVID presentation and a Theft, Fraud & Embezzlement program in September with our Police Department. To be added directly to my condo rights workshop mailing list, please contact me at dgoldman@sibfl.net or [786.512.6364](tel:786.512.6364). Stay safe!

SIBeHealthy Programs for Seniors

The City is offering an assortment of free virtual programs for seniors. Tune in to this live programming on SIBTV (Atlantic Broadband channel 662) and follow along from home. All classes will be rebroadcast on our YouTube page shortly after airing. [Subscribe on YouTube](#), @CityofSIB, to see the full catalog of free virtual programs.

Tai Chi Tuesday

July 28 & August 4 at 9:30 AM
Tai Chi with Azat

Workout Wednesday

July 29 & August 5 at 9:30 AM
Strength & Resistance with Randy

Therapeutic Thursday

July 30 & August 6 at 9:30 AM
Chair Yoga with Beatriz

Beginning August, we will be livestreaming a monthly yoga class on the third Monday of each month. Join us live on Facebook on August 17 and September 21 at 9:30 AM for Meditation Mondays. Look for more information coming soon on livestream yoga and additional virtual programs for children. Visit sibfl.net/sibehealthy to see the complete upcoming schedule.



Don't Fall Victim to Cybercriminals

There are many cybercriminals exploiting the Coronavirus and taking advantage of individuals. Here are some tips to stay vigilant and avoid falling for cyber scams:



- Hang up on robocalls: scammers use illegal sales calls to get your money and personal information.
- Watch out for phishing emails and texts: don't click on links you don't know.
- Research before you donate: don't let anyone rush you into making a donation.
- Watch out for phony emails that may appear to be from the IRS or government officials. The IRS will not contact you via email without your consent.

Farm Share Event Recap



On Friday, June 26, the City of Sunny Isles Beach in partnership with Farm Share, distributed over 500 boxes of food and fresh produce to Sunny Isles Beach residents and our neighboring community members.

Watch the recap video at [YouTube.com/cityofsib](https://www.youtube.com/cityofsib).



MAKE YOURSELF COUNT

Out of 409 cities in Florida, Sunny Isles Beach ranks 387 in response rates to the 2020 Census. Do your part to ensure you get the most out of your tax dollars and your city receives funding for important resources such as schools, roads, and public safety.

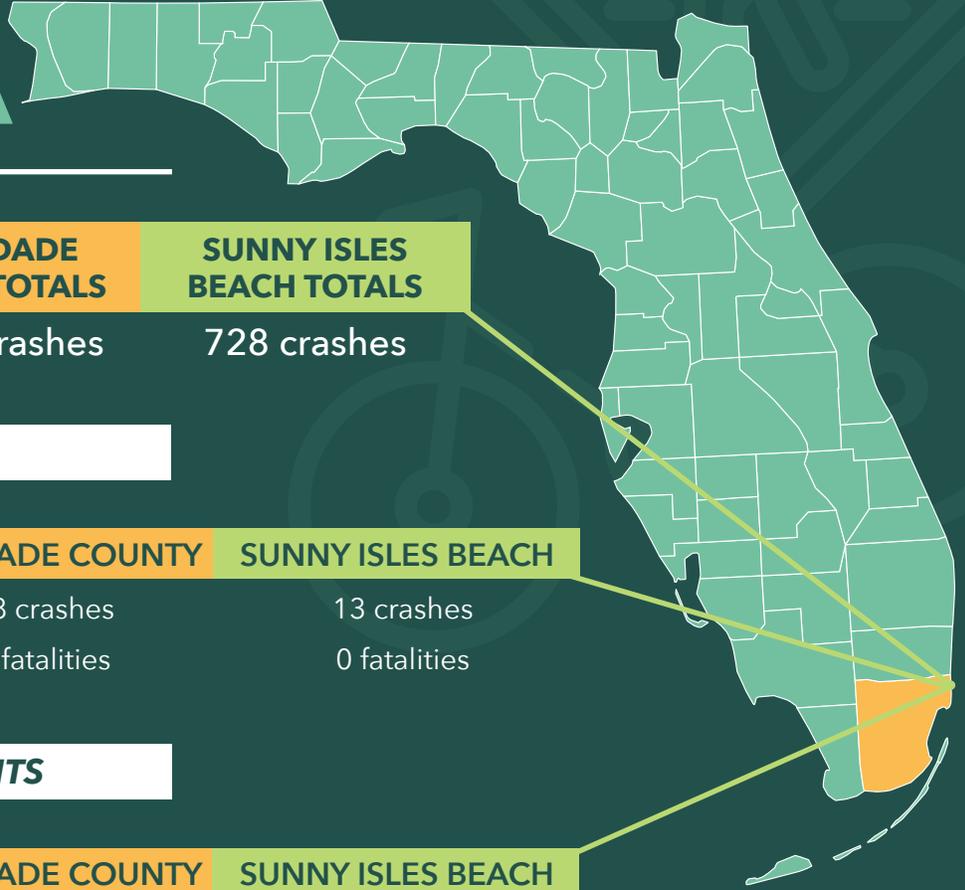
If you have not yet completed the 2020 Census for your household, there is still time to do so. The census asks a few simple questions, which remain confidential, and is available in multiple languages.

Visit 2020census.gov to complete your census today.



SAFELY SHARING OUR ROADS

2019 FLORIDA ACCIDENT DATA



STATE OF FLORIDA TOTALS	MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TOTALS	SUNNY ISLES BEACH TOTALS
400,788 crashes	64,732 crashes	728 crashes

BICYCLE ACCIDENTS

STATE OF FLORIDA	MIAMI-DADE COUNTY	SUNNY ISLES BEACH
6,642 crashes	818 crashes	13 crashes
146 fatalities	15 fatalities	0 fatalities

PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENTS

STATE OF FLORIDA	MIAMI-DADE COUNTY	SUNNY ISLES BEACH
9,686 crashes	1,602 crashes	15 crashes
717 fatalities	88 fatalities	0 fatalities

Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Crash Dashboard

2019 "DANGEROUS BY DESIGN" REPORT FROM SMART GROWTH AMERICA AND THE NATIONAL COMPLETE STREETS COALITION

In Florida, there were 5,433 pedestrian deaths in the 10-year span between 2008-2017, which is an annual average of 2.73 pedestrian deaths per 100,000 people.

WAYS THE CITY IS INCREASING PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES

- North Bay Road/Emergency Pedestrian Bridge
- Gateway Park Pedestrian Bridge
- Future Collins Avenue Bridges at 174 Street and 181 Street

OFF-COLLINS BICYCLE PATH

BIKE SAFETY AND HELMET FITTING EVENTS

INCREASED POLICE VISIBILITY AND VIGILANCE

SAFETY TIPS:

BE ALERT

OBEY ALL TRAFFIC SIGNS AND SIGNALS

CROSS STREETS AT CROSSWALKS

HEADS UP, PHONES DOWN

For more safety tips, visit sibfl.net/trafficsafety.

FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS



MASKS REQUIRED IN ALL PUBLIC PLACES

Remember to always have a facial covering with you when going out in public, indoors or outdoors. Sunny Isles Beach residents must adhere to Miami-Dade County's order requiring all persons in the County to wear a facial covering in public places, including at the beach, parks, and on sidewalks. Even if social distancing, you must wear your facial covering.

FACIAL COVERING TIPS:

Make sure it covers your nose and mouth and is secure under your chin

Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face

Don't put the covering around your neck or up on your forehead

Don't touch the face covering, and, if you do, wash your hands

Learn more at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website.

PROTECT YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY & YOUR COMMUNITY



STAY HOME



WEAR FACIAL COVERINGS



NO CONGREGATING IN ANY AREA



SOCIAL DISTANCE

STAY INFORMED

Get the latest information on the coronavirus at:

sibfl.net/coronavirus