



Islander

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APRIL 2025

UNDERSTANDING THE SPEED LIMIT INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

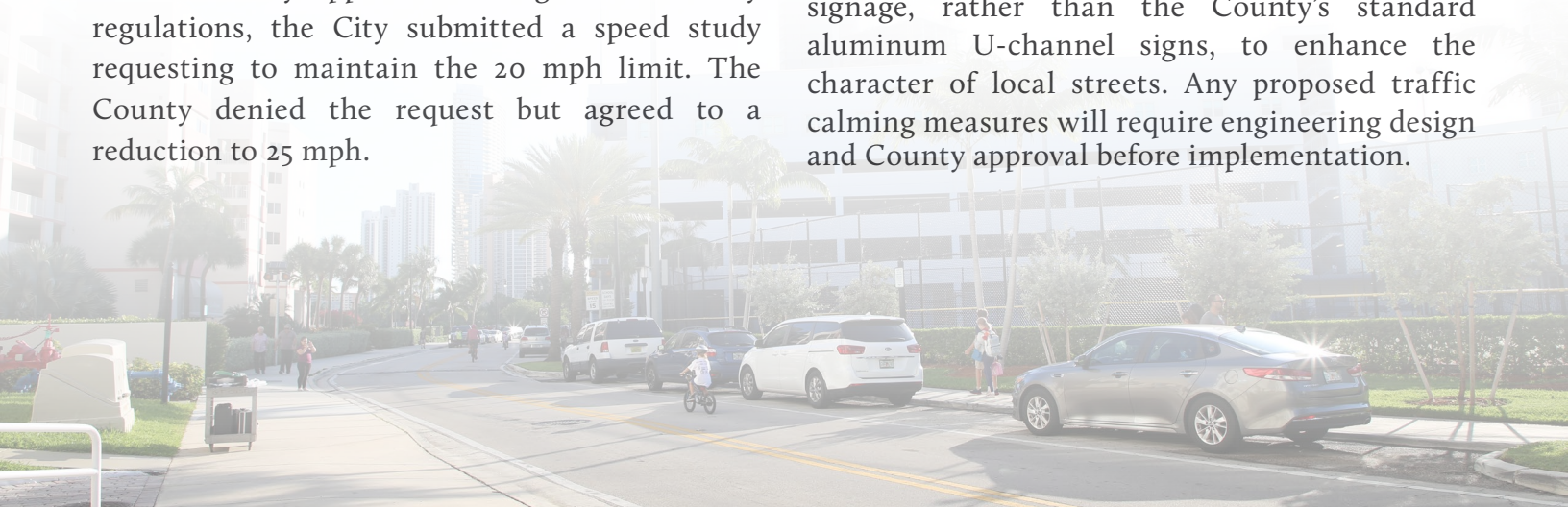
The City of Sunny Isles Beach is working with Miami-Dade County to enter into an Interlocal Agreement that would grant the City more authority over traffic management on interior streets. This agreement would not apply to major roads such as Collins Avenue, Sunny Isles Boulevard, and the William Lehman Causeway, which are managed by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), nor to private roads in communities such as Poinciana Island, Arlen House, and the Ocean Reserve/Oceanview complex.

Currently, the County's standard speed limit is 30 mph, with allowances for reductions to 25 mph. However, the City has historically posted a 20 mph limit on interior roads without formal County approval. To align with County regulations, the City submitted a speed study requesting to maintain the 20 mph limit. The County denied the request but agreed to a reduction to 25 mph.

In a recent Town Hall meeting with Miami-Dade County, residents voiced their concerns and advocated for retaining the 20 mph speed limit. As a result, the County has requested the City conduct an updated traffic study and consider additional traffic calming measures, such as speed humps, traffic circles, and other engineered solutions.

"Even if you're posting at 20 [mph], people are going at 25 – 27 [mph], we need to incorporate traffic calming measures to slow the traffic down," said Miguel Soria of the Miami-Dade Department of Transportation and Public Works Department.

Beyond speed limits, the City is also seeking approval to use decorative street poles and signage, rather than the County's standard aluminum U-channel signs, to enhance the character of local streets. Any proposed traffic calming measures will require engineering design and County approval before implementation.



The Organizations that Make Sunny Isles Beach Thrive

Mayor Larisa Svechin

As your mayor, I'm excited to highlight the civic, religious, and private institutions that make Sunny Isles Beach such a special place to live. Let's celebrate the teamwork that helps our city thrive!

Civic Groups: Empowering Our Community

Our civic organizations are dedicated to improving our city and engaging residents of all ages. The Sunny Isles Beach PTA supports families and teachers, while the Woman's Club brings us together for good causes. The library's Chess Club provides a fun, intellectual space for youth, and my Mayor's Mentoring Circle helps teens plan their future. The library also offers free weekly tutoring, and the Kiwanis Club provides scholarships and volunteer opportunities for high school students.

Commissioner Viscarra leads the City's Residents' Academy, your guide to understanding the city to help residents understand local government, while Vice Mayor Lama's City Senior Roundtable gives a voice to our seniors. Commissioner Stuyvesant and Commissioner Joseph actively connect with residents to hear their concerns. The Sunny Isles Beach Children's Trust offers essential programs to set our youth up for success.

Faith Groups: Uniting Us in Spirit

Our faith-based organizations bring connection and support to Sunny Isles Beach. St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church fosters faith and fellowship, while Chabad Lubavitch and Chabad Russian Center of South Florida offers services and events that unite us. Many other Chabad centers in our city work to meet the spiritual needs of our diverse community. These groups not only support faith but also host social events that bring us together and celebrate our shared culture.

What Makes Us Unique

Sunny Isles Beach stands out because of the collaboration between these organizations. Our police work closely with them, and city programs keep us engaged and entertained. Faith and businesses add richness to our culture. I'd love to hear about the organizations you're involved in—reach out to me at lsvechin@sibfl.gov or call 917.751.1565.

As your mayor, I'm proud to lead this vibrant community. Let's continue supporting the groups that make Sunny Isles Beach the best place to call home!



Contact Mayor Larisa Svechin at lsvechin@sibfl.gov or call 305.792.1754.

Staying Connected Through Senior Roundtable

Vice Mayor Alex Lama

One of the programs I truly value in our city is Senior Roundtable. On the last Wednesday of each month, residents 55 and older come together at Gateway Center for lunch, conversation, and a chance to connect directly with city staff. It's an opportunity to ask questions, share feedback, and learn more about the services we offer.

Each month, we focus on topics that matter to you. In January, our Media Division walked attendees through the city's new website, and more recently, staff provided a step-by-step guide on using CivicRec, our new registration system. These sessions help ensure our senior community stays informed and

comfortable with the latest advancements.

We want you to feel connected and heard. If you're a Sunny Isles Beach resident 55 or older with a valid Resident ID Card, I encourage you to join us. This month's roundtable is on Wednesday, April 30. Register at sibfl.gov/activities or call 305.792.1706 for assistance. Spots fill up quickly!



Contact Vice Mayor Alex Lama at seat2@sibfl.net or 305.792.1752.

Piggybacking: A Smart Procurement Strategy for Sunny Isles Beach

Commissioner Jeniffer Viscarra

If you watch our Commission meetings, you may have heard the term “piggybacking.” Piggybacking allows Sunny Isles Beach to use another government agency’s contract for a product or service, “borrowing” the same terms without repeating the lengthy bidding process.

This practice benefits small cities like ours, allowing us to secure reduced prices on volume purchases made by another entity. For example, if after going out to bid, the state purchases 300 trucks from a vendor and gets a better price per vehicle for buying in bulk, our city can obtain the same price when purchasing two of the same vehicles.

Piggybacking is not done out of a desire to do business with a particular “handpicked” vendor. Our staff evaluates the terms already obtained by other agencies and gets the same beneficial terms for our city. The vendors are vetted through the bidding process of the government entity that entered the contract.

Furthermore, piggybacking does not mean that the city blindly accepts another agency’s bidding process. Staff checks and rejects what doesn’t meet our purchasing requirements. Staff verifies that the contract is active and

confirms that the vendor is in good standing.

Piggybacking is used on a case-by-case basis, providing an alternative starting point that allows for a more efficient use of staff time and more affordable results. However, it does have its limits. If a project has unique requirements to Sunny Isles Beach, like the creation of the Intracoastal Sports Park, then we go out to bid. This procurement method is incorporated in the City’s Purchasing Code of Ordinances, Chapter §62-13.

Like one of my colleagues seems to have done in last month’s *Islander*, one could argue that piggybacking is a “continuous waiving of the open and transparent bidding process when awarding million-dollars contracts to handpicked vendors.” While my colleagues may prefer other practices, it does not mean piggybacking is an act of corruption as the statement above infers. On the contrary, it prevents wasteful use of resources and provides a perfectly acceptable, beneficial, and widely used alternative.



Contact Commissioner Jeniffer Viscarra at seat4@sibfl.net or 305.792.1750.

Commission Recap

Below are some of the key approvals and decisions made by the City Commission at the March 20, 2025 meeting. For the full agenda and meeting recordings, visit sibfl.gov/meetings.

School Resource Sergeant Position

The City Commission approved the use of the Department of Justice (DOJ) Federal Forfeiture funds to pay for a full-time School Resource Sergeant position. With funding not to exceed \$198,000, this role will help maintain an active presence at the school and support the existing officer provided by Miami-Dade County Schools.

Flashing Crosswalk at 196 Street & Collins Avenue

The City Commission passed a resolution requesting the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to install a flashing crosswalk at 196 Street and Collins Avenue, enhancing pedestrian safety and accessibility.

CALENDAR

APRIL OF EVENTS

City Commission Workshop: *Renovations to Newport Sandbar Restaurant*

Tuesday, April 1

11:30 AM

Commission Chambers, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

Bingo

April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Wednesdays | 3 - 4 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Gateway Market

April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Wednesdays | 5:30 - 10 PM

Gateway Park, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Special City Commission Meeting: *Construction of the City Annex Building*

Thursday, April 3

11:30 AM

Commission Chambers, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

Mount Sinai Lunch & Learn

Thursday, April 3

12 - 1 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Spring Fling

Friday, April 4

11 AM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Pre-registration required.

Price: \$20

Resident ID Cardholders: \$10

Teen Talk

Tuesday, April 8

5 - 6 PM

The Spot, 215 185th St.

Teens Only: *Blackout Karaoke Night*

Friday, April 11

7 - 9 PM

The Spot, 215 185th St.

Egg Scramble

Saturday, April 12

10 AM - 2 PM

Pelican Community Park, 18115 N.

Bay Rd.

Pre-registration only. Wristbands will not be sold at the event.

Price \$50

Resident ID Cardholders: \$5

Full Moon Yoga

Saturday, April 12

7:30 - 8:30 PM

On the beach by Samson Oceanfront Park, 17425 Collins Ave.

City Commission Workshop

Tuesday, April 15

10 AM

First Floor Meeting Room, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

City Commission Workshop - *Budget Planning: Vision, Goals and Events*

Tuesday, April 15

1 PM

Fourth Floor Meeting Room, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

Sunny Spaces Art Unveiling

Tuesday, April 15

6 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

City Commission Workshop: *Special Presentations and Discussion Items*

Thursday, April 17

3 PM

Commission Chambers, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

Regular City Commission Meeting

Thursday, April 17

6:30 PM

Commission Chambers, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

Art Uncorked presents Poetry in the Park

Sunday, April 27

7 - 8:30 PM

Town Center Park, 17200 Collins Ave.
Pre-registration is required.

Doc Chat with Humana

Wednesday, April 30

11 AM - 1 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.
Pre-registration is required.

Senior Roundtable

Wednesday, April 30

12 - 1 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.
Pre-registration is required.

**FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF EVENTS,
VISIT sibfl.gov/events**

Disclosure: Events are subject to change.

Miami-Dade County Sunny Isles Beach Branch

APRIL **LIBRARY PROGRAMS**

Chess Club (ages 9+)

Tuesday, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
4 - 6 PM

Talking is Teaching – Talk, Read, Sing for Toddlers (ages 18 mos. – 3 yrs.)

Wednesday, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
11 AM - 12 PM

Citizenship Class (ages 19+)

Saturday, April 5, 12, 19, 26
10 AM - 12 PM

Homework Help and Tutoring (students grades K-12)

Saturday, April 5, 12, 19, 26
10 AM - 1 PM

For more information, contact
tutoring@mdpls.org or call 305.375.1413.

Children's Stories and Craft (Ages 3 – 11yrs.)

Wednesday, April 9
5:30 - 6:30 PM

The Kids Reading Club (Ages 6 – 12 yrs.)

Saturday, April 12
1 - 2 PM

Russian Social Club (ages 19+)

Saturday, April 19
3:30 - 5 PM

Furry Tales (all ages)

Saturday, April 26
2 - 3 PM

Read your favorite story aloud to a
registered therapy dog!

For more information on Miami-Dade County
Sunny Isles Beach Branch Library programs,
call 305.682.0726 or email vazquezh@mdpls.
org. Unless otherwise noted, classes and
programs are held in the First Floor Meeting
Room of the Sunny Isles Beach Government
Center, 18070 Collins Avenue.





EGG SCRAMBLE

SATURDAY, APRIL 12 / 10 AM - 2 PM

Pelican Community Park

This year's Egg Scramble promises an unforgettable day filled with vibrant colors, sweet surprises, and whimsical fun!

Price: \$50

Resident ID Cardholders Pre-Purchase: \$5

*Pre-registration only! Wristbands will
not be sold the day of event.*

SIBFL.GOV/EGGSCRAMBLE

MYWATERPLEDGE.COM

The City of Sunny Isles Beach is participating in the Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation.

Take the pledge to conserve water at mywaterpledge.com, for your chance to win prizes and make Sunny Isles Beach one of the most water-wise communities in the nation!

WIN \$3000
for home utilities
and thousands in prizes
for students at area
schools!

SPREAD THE WORD ON SIMPLE WAYS TO SAVE WATER AND CLEAN UP OUR COMMUNITIES

It's fun, free and easy. Simply choose an action to take on behalf of your city at mywaterpledge.com

A Community Service Campaign From:

 **WYLAND FOUNDATION**

In Association With:

NLC NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES



ZENNT

PLUS,
\$1,000S
IN HOME
IRRIGATION
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Founded in 1993, the Wyland Foundation is a non-profit community service organization that brings people together for clean water and a healthy ocean. Learn more at wylandfoundation.org

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CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

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Islander

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CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH
MEDIA DIVISION
18070 Collins Avenue
Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160

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COMMISSIONER Fabiola Stuyvesant

COMMISSIONER Jeniffer Viscarra

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