



Islander

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DECEMBER 2025

Building Department Closes Out the Year with Accreditation Announcement

The City of Sunny Isles Beach is proud to announce its Building Department has achieved accreditation from the International Accreditation Service (IAS). This independent, third-party recognition highlights the department's technical competence, operational excellence, and commitment to best practices -- ensuring the highest standards in customer service and building safety.

"Earning accreditation from the International Accreditation Service is a tremendous milestone for our Building Department," said Building Official Dylan Battles. "It reflects our team's unwavering commitment to professionalism, consistency, and public safety. This recognition reaffirms that Sunny Isles Beach continues to uphold the highest standards of excellence and accountability."

As part of the accreditation process, members of the IAS Assessment Team conducted a comprehensive multi-day evaluation of the department. The assessment examined the department's goals, policies, and procedures for permitting, plan review, and inspections, and property maintenance to ensure alignment with IAS standards. It included a facility tour, stakeholder interviews, document reviews, technical observations of inspectors and plans examiners, and the preparation of a final report.

During the site visits, the assessment team noted strong feedback from the development community. "The construction of a project of this magnitude necessitates a unique partnership between the developer and the Building Department," said one Project Manager. "Their invaluable contributions have

been instrumental in sustaining the project's momentum and ensuring that all stakeholders remain aligned with our critical path forward. Throughout my career, I have collaborated with numerous building departments, and the City of Sunny Isles Beach stands out as the most proficient in the industry."



The assessment further noted the department's strong focus on customer service as a particular strength. From daily interactions at the permitting windows to meetings with contractors and on-site inspections, the Building Department consistently demonstrates exceptional dedication to serving the community.

Accreditation provides numerous benefits, including independent validation that the department operates under the highest ethical, legal and technical standards. It also helps streamline operations, retain employees and enhances the City's reputation among developers and residents alike.



— MESSAGE FROM THE City Manager's Office

As the year comes to a close, I would like to give thanks to our residents for taking pride in our city. Your feedback, both good and bad, helps us prioritize what matters in Sunny Isles Beach and take actions to ensure this city remains the height of living. Throughout the year, you have shared your concerns, questions and complaints through emails, phone calls, and our Go Gov service request portal. We work hard to address all requests. Here are some of the changes we made this year, thanks to your feedback:

- Moved City anniversary to February to better accommodate residents
- Initiated upgrades to our City Buses including a new mobile-friendly application and ADA-compliant ramps to make the boarding process easier
- Added park rangers to help keep our parks safe
- Completed upgrades to the North Bay Road Pedestrian Bridge, including a new ADA-compliant surface, a dedicated bike lane, and improved safety features



- Collected feedback from residents on possible changes to our motorized scooter ordinance
- Completed upgrades on the Gateway Park Pedestrian Bridge elevators, including new glass doors and security cameras
- Installed additional intersection safety cameras to address speeding concerns
- Introduced monthly DBPR Resident Support Sessions to address condominium or COA-related questions and concerns
- Expanded restroom hours at Samson Oceanfront Park
- Installed new shower towers at Samson Oceanfront Park



- Increased beach patrol to ensure compliance with all beach rules and regulations, including dogs and shoreline fishing.
- Increased cleaning frequency at Newport Fishing Pier

With a new year on the way, we plan to continue prioritizing resident engagement. I encourage you to continue submitting requests through our Go Gov portal or feel free to reach out to my office directly. On behalf of the City, we wish you a very happy holiday season and joyous new year.

Contact City Manager's Office at citymanager@sibfl.net or [305.792.1701](tel:305.792.1701).

A Season of Light, Faith, and Community

Mayor Larisa Svechin

As the celebrations of Chanukah and Christmas draw near, I extend my warmest wishes to all who observe these meaningful holidays. Happy Chanukah and Merry Christmas to every resident celebrating this season.

Our Sunny Isles Beach community welcomed in the season together at our Holiday Lighting Celebration on November 22, gathering at Gateway Park for our annual park lighting ceremony. This event sparkled with ice skating, live music, activities for kids, and a special visit from Santa Claus. We hope this celebration was a joyful start to the holiday season, and invite you to join us for upcoming festivities throughout December to keep the spirit going:

- A Holiday Concert with the South Florida Youth Symphony on December 13
- Two Festival of Lights events marking the start of Chanukah on December 14 and 15

- A Movie Night featuring Wonka on December 19

To spread even more cheer, Christmas trees and menorahs are on display at Samson Oceanfront Park, Gateway Park, Heritage Park, and inside the Government Center, Gateway Center, and Pelican Community Park.

This season remains one of my favorites. I hope this festive time inspires everyday acts of kindness: donate to the Food Pantry, check in on a neighbor, or join your community in worship and celebration. May the lights of Chanukah shine brightly and may the spirit of Christmas fill your homes with peace and love.



Contact Mayor Larisa Svechin at mayor@sibfl.net or call [305.792.1753](tel:305.792.1753).

Shining Bright as One Community

Commissioner Jeniffer Viscarra

As we enter the festive season, I want to extend warm holiday wishes to everyone in Sunny Isles Beach. This time of year is a beautiful reminder of community and unity, and I hope each of you finds joy and peace with family and friends.

In response to community requests and discussions by the Commission, we've enhanced our holiday lights this season, illuminating our city. These decorations represent our commitment to inclusivity, shining brightly for all residents. The conversations around our holiday displays have reaffirmed that true governance is about balance. While some may desire a more dominant "red and green" theme to capture the spirit of Christmas, and others call for more symbols honoring our Jewish community, the reality is that it would be inappropriate to only focus on one tradition. Some residents have expressed having no preference at all so long as there are more lights to enhance the festive atmosphere. We must always strive for

a balance of all interests. Admittedly, this is not a perfect science, which is why so much of local governance is a work in progress (as it should be). As we navigate this balancing act, I encourage each of you to embrace the holiday spirit—celebrating our uniqueness while cherishing the harmony within our community.

Whatever the theme of our holiday lights, we are lucky to live in a place where our families can safely walk to and from school, shops, parks, and places of worship. That sense of security is something for which I am deeply grateful. Wishing you all a happy, safe, and healthy holiday season! May 2026 bring you joy, prosperity, and countless reasons to smile.



Contact Commissioner Jeniffer Viscarra at seat4@sibfl.net or [305.792.1750](tel:305.792.1750).

Commission Recap

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

Installation of Surveillance and Security Equipment

The City Commission approved two resolutions allowing for the installation of surveillance and security equipment at The Spot and Intracoastal Sports Park. This project will enhance safety and security at The Spot by providing real-time monitoring and analytics, deterring potential incidents through visible surveillance presence, supporting law enforcement with high-resolution footage, ensuring a secure environment for teens during events, and integrating with the City's broader public safety technology infrastructure.

Contest Winners Recognized

The City Commission recognized the winners of the annual Sunny Isles Beach Photo Contest and the Florida Government City Week Writing Contest at the Commission Workshop. The photo contest winners, whose photos are featured in the City's 2026 calendar, were presented with awards and gift bags, and had their submissions featured on screen during the workshop. Desktop calendars are free and now available to pick up at the Government Center, Pelican Community Park or Gateway Center.

The students who won the writing contest received \$100 gift cards and had the opportunity to sit with the elected official who selected their winning submission during the workshop.



ANNUAL SUNNY ISLES BEACH RESIDENTS' ACADEMY

February 4 - March 18 / Wednesdays / 5:30 - 7 PM

LOCATION:

Sunny Isles Beach Government Center
First Floor Meeting Room
18070 Collins Avenue

LEARN MORE AT
SIBFL.GOV/RESIDENTSACADEMY



DECEMBER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mobile Driver's License Event

Monday, December 1

9 AM - 4 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Art Uncorked ft. Espace Meyer Zafra & Mylene Costa

December 1 - 16

Exhibition Hours:

M-F, 12 PM - 7 PM

Sat & Sun - 11 AM - 5 PM

Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

DBPR Resident Support Session

Wednesday, December 3

10 AM - 2 PM

Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

Bingo

December 3, 10, 17

Wednesdays | 3 - 4 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

The Shape of Art: A Live Curation

Wednesday, December 3

6 - 8 PM

Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

Special Magistrate Hearing

Thursday, December 4

10 AM

Commission Chambers, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

Full Moon Yoga

Thursday, December 4

5:30 - 6:30 PM

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

Shred-a-thon

Saturday, December 6

10 AM - 2 PM

9500 Bay Harbor Terrace
(Bay Harbor Islands)

Teen Talk

Tuesday, December 9

5 - 6 PM

The Spot, 215 185 St.

Teens Only: 3rd Annual Dessert War

Friday, December 12

5 - 8 PM

The Spot, 215 185 St.

Pre-registration is required.

Beach Cleanup

Saturday, December 13

8 - 11 AM

Newport Fishing Pier,
16501 Collins Ave.

Holiday Concert

Saturday, December 13

6 - 8 PM

Gateway Park, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Festival of Lights

Sunday, December 14

3 - 6 PM

Gateway Park, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Festival of Lights

Monday, December 15

5:30 - 7 PM

Government Center First Floor Parking
Garage, 18070 Collins Ave.

Coffee with a Cop

Wednesday, December 17

9 - 11 AM

Rose Cafe, 16690 Collins Ave.

Teen Trip: Florida Panthers Hockey Game

Friday, December 19

5 PM

Bus will depart from and return to The Spot, 215 185 St.

Movie Night ft. Wonka

Friday, December 19

6:30 - 9 PM

Pelican Community Park, 18115
North Bay Rd.

Holiday Ball: Enchanted Winter Wonderland

(ages 18+)

Saturday, December 20

6 - 9 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Price: \$20

Resident ID Cardholder: \$10

Mini-FLOW

Monday, December 22

10 AM - 1 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Federal Holiday: Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25

City offices closed.

City Bus will not operate.

Parks open from 8 AM - 6 PM.

Cultural Trip: FROZEN the Broadway Musical

Sunday, December 28

12:30 - 6 PM

Bus will depart from and return to
Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Price: \$110

Resident ID Cardholder: \$55

Federal Holiday: New Year's Day

Thursday, January 1

City offices closed.

City Bus will not operate.

Parks open from 8 AM - 6 PM.

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

DECEMBER 2025

Disclosure: Events are subject to change.

CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH 5

Miami-Dade County Sunny Isles Beach Branch

DECEMBER **LIBRARY PROGRAMS**

Talking is Teaching – Talk, Read, Sing for Preschoolers
(ages 3 - 5 yrs.)

Monday, December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
11 AM - 12 PM

Chess Club
(ages 9+)

Tuesday, December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
4 - 6 PM

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

Wednesday, December 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
11 AM - 12 PM

Homework Help and Tutoring
(students grades K-12)

Saturday, December 6, 13
10 AM - 1 PM

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

Citizenship Class
(ages 19+)

Saturday, December 6, 13
10 AM - 12 PM

Chanukah Stories and Craft for Kids
(ages 3 – 11 yrs.)

Wednesday, December 10
5:30 - 6:30 PM

The Kids Reading Club
(ages 6 – 11 yrs.)

Saturday, December 13
1 - 2 PM

Furry Tales
(ages 4 – 8 yrs.)

Saturday, December 20
2 - 3 PM

Russian Social Club
(ages 19+)

Saturday, December 20
3:30 - 5 PM



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.





ART UNCORKED

Where Creativity Flows And Inspiration Pours

Presents

an exclusive art exhibition in conjunction with Miami
Art Week featuring renowned Paris-based gallery

ESPACE MEYER ZAFRA

**Manuel Mérida • Carlos Cruz-Diez • Yaacov Agam • Rene Ugarte
Francisco Salazar • Piotr Kowalski • Richard Schur • Jean-Claude Reussner
João Carlos Galvão • David Rodriguez Caballero**

and Sunny Isles Beach-based artist

MYLENE COSTA

DECEMBER 1 – 16

Monday – Friday: 12 PM – 7 PM
Saturday & Sunday: 11 AM – 5 PM

*Sunny Isles Beach Government Center
18070 Collins Avenue*

**THE SHAPE OF ART:
A LIVE CURATION**

DECEMBER 3 / 6 - 8 PM

Enjoy an evening of wine,
conversation and the
opportunity to hear from
the gallerist and artist.

For more information, visit sibfl.gov/artuncorked.



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