



Islander

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JULY 2025

NEW TECHNOLOGY SUPPORTS POLICE SAFETY EFFORTS

Sunny Isles Beach Police Expand Use of Technology to Enhance Public Safety

The Sunny Isles Beach Police Department is expanding its use of technology to improve safety across the city. These updates include the expansion of the City's Intersection Safety Camera Program, deploying an autonomous police drone, and exploring the possibility of new school zone speed enforcement cameras.

Intersection Safety Camera Program Expansion

The City's existing Intersection Safety Camera Program currently monitors several key locations:

- 193 Street and Collins Avenue (southbound only)
- 183 Street and Collins Avenue (northbound and southbound)
- Eastbound Sunny Isles Boulevard at the signaled pedestrian crosswalk (200 block)
- 159 Street and Collins Avenue (north and southbound)

Building on this, the program will be expanded to include two additional intersections:

- 174 Street and Collins Avenue (northbound and southbound)
- Sunny Isles Boulevard and Collins Avenue (northbound and southbound)

These locations were chosen because of high traffic and frequent violations. The new cameras are expected to be installed in July or August, pending FDOT permits.

Since introducing the Intersection Safety Camera Program last year, more than 19,000 citations have been issued, mostly to cars belonging to non-residents.

For more information on the Intersection Safety Camera Program, visit sibfl.gov/red-light-cameras.



Autonomous Police Drone

Sunny Isles Beach will soon become the first city in Florida to formally launch an autonomous police drone program. This new technology will be used to respond to emergencies, as well as monitor large crowds and traffic.

The drone will be managed by our newly established drone unit and is equipped with infrared and thermal cameras. The drone will automatically launch when a dispatcher puts in a call, allowing officers to see live video on their phone. This will ensure that officers are not walking into a situation blindly. The Police Department has already been using a remote-controlled drone for beach enforcement and recently used it to monitor religious institutions in the wake of the terror attack in Boulder, Colorado.

School Speed Zone Cameras

To help protect students, the City is studying the possibility of installing new school zone cameras along Atlantic Boulevard near Norman S. Edelcup Sunny Isles Beach K-8. These cameras would monitor both directions of traffic, with the goal of slowing down drivers amid concerns over speeding.

These updates are part of a larger effort by the Police Department to use smart technology and improve safety citywide. The City also uses facial recognition and Visual Firearm Detection technology as part of its commitment to keeping the community safe.

COMMUNITY DROP-IN SESSION RECAP: HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS



The City hosted its first Community Drop-in Session last month focusing on Hurricane Preparedness. Officials from the Miami-Dade County Department of Emergency Management provided updates and important information to help residents prepare for the 2025 hurricane season – including how to take part in their



Emergency and Evacuation Assistance Program. City representatives were also on hand to answer questions.

Community Drop-in Sessions are a new way for residents to connect directly with the City Manager's Office and engage on important topics affecting our community. Each session will provide a space to ask questions, share feedback, and gain valuable insights.

Hurricane season is underway and runs through November 30. For a list of resources, visit sibfl.gov/hurricane.

Please be on the lookout for the next Community Drop-in Session and we look forward to seeing you there!

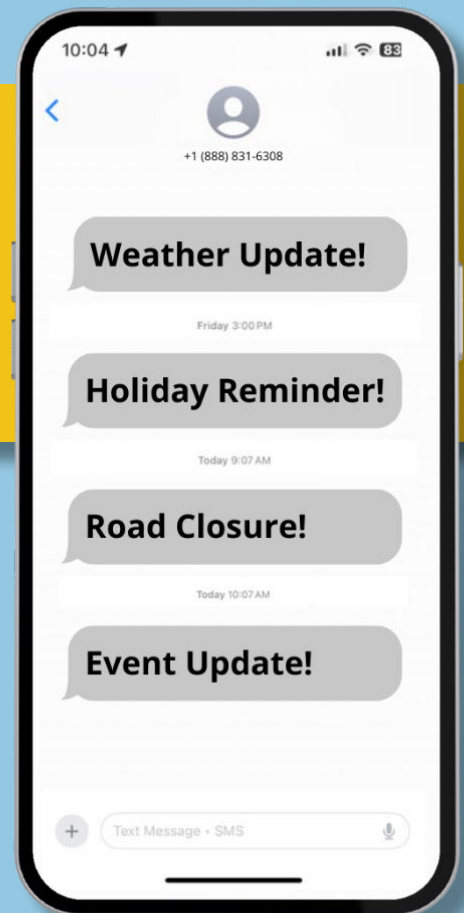
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Staying Safe During a Fire Emergency

Mayor Larisa Svechin

On June 6, a fire involving four boats docked behind 400 Sunny Isles Boulevard sent clouds of smoke across our community, prompting a swift response from Sunny Isles Beach Police and Miami-Dade Fire Rescue (MDFR). Thankfully, no injuries were reported but the incident serves as a stark reminder of the importance of fire safety in our high-rise-heavy city.

The fire, which engulfed a yacht and spread to three nearby vessels, was fueled by highly combustible fiberglass materials. MDFR's quick action to isolate the boats prevented further damage to the marina and nearby residences. This incident underscores the need for vigilance in our coastal community, where marinas and high-rises are in close proximity.

In Sunny Isles Beach, 85% of residents live in high-rises. These buildings follow strict safety protocols overseen by the City's Building Department and MDFR. All high-rise buildings undergo annual fire inspections to ensure compliance with Florida building codes. Following a past high-rise fire, MDFR has emphasized resident education, conducting fire drills and training sessions, such as those at Winston Towers.

To enhance safety, the city encourages residents to:

- **Know Your Exits:**

Familiarize yourself with your building's evacuation routes and fire safety plans.

- **Report Hazards:** Notify building management or MDFR about potential fire risks.

- **Stay Informed:** Attend fire safety workshops offered by MDFR to learn about prevention and response.

The recent boat fire highlights the need for ongoing safety measures. As your Mayor, along with the Commission, the City Manager's Office, Police, and Ocean Rescue -- we remain committed to protecting residents through proactive outreach and programs.

I commend the first responders for their professionalism and superior skills. Let's work together to keep Sunny Isles Beach safe.

For more information, visit sibfl.gov or contact the Building Department.



Contact Mayor Larisa Svechin at mayor@sibfl.net or call [305.792.1754](tel:305.792.1754).

Commission Recap

Below are some of the key approvals and decisions made by the City Commission at the June 17, 2025 meeting. For the full agenda and meeting recordings, visit sibfl.gov/meetings.

Vulnerability Assessment

The City Commission approved a resolution allowing Keith and Associates to perform a Vulnerability Assessment funded by a Resilient Florida Planning Grant in the amount of \$257,000. The study will examine the exposure of the City's critical assets to high tide flooding, storm surge, and compound flooding and will analyze those risks, develop recommendations for adaptation, and engage residents in focus group discussions about the results.

Concurrency Management

The City Commission approved the first reading of two ordinances to establish the City's concurrency review procedure. The term "concurrency" is from a Florida law that requires local governments to ensure there will be adequate public infrastructure and services to support new development, including potable water, sanitary sewer, drainage, and solid waste disposal. Sunny Isles Beach also enforces concurrency on parks, roads, and schools. The ordinances provide procedures and standards to ensure the infrastructure and services needed to support new development are available at the same time ("concurrently") as the development project is completed and occupied. Concurrency Management is an important growth management tool to protect public health, safety, and welfare by preventing infrastructure deficiencies.



JULY IS **PARK** **& RECREATION** MONTH

This July, join the City of Sunny Isles Beach in celebrating Park and Recreation Month! Our dedicated Cultural and Community Services Department (CCS) staff is proud to serve the community with access to 11 parks & 3 community centers with a variety of amenities – from playgrounds to sports fields, and a multitude of diverse programs.

This year's theme "Build Together, Play Together" captures what we strive to do – create spaces where people of all ages can gather, grow and enjoy an active lifestyle. Our programs are essential to community health and well-being and help make a lasting impact.

Soon our residents will have access to even more recreation with the addition of the Intracoastal Sports Park. This park will offer multi-sport courts for tennis and basketball, outdoor fitness equipment, and a pedestrian pathway – another step in enhancing our city.

We invite you to visit our parks, snap a picture, and share your moments on social media. Don't forget to tag us @CityofSIB and use the hashtag #BuildTogetherPlayTogether.

To learn more about Park and Recreation Month, visit nrpa.org/july. For a list of our parks, please visit sibfl.gov/parks.

CALENDAR

JULY

OF EVENTS

Public Meeting: *New Single-Family Residential Ordinances*

Tuesday, July 1

6 PM

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



July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Wednesdays | 3 - 4 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Federal Holiday: *Independence Day*



Friday, July 4

City facilities closed.
SIBshuttle will not operate.
Parks open regular hours.

Teen Talk

Tuesday, July 8

5 - 6 PM

The Spot, 215 185 St.



Full Moon Yoga

Thursday, July 10

7:45 - 8:45 PM

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

Cultural Trip: *Lunch at Bahama Breeze*

Friday, July 11

12 - 3:30 PM

Bus will depart from and return to Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.
Price: \$40
Resident ID Cardholder: \$20

Beach Cleanup

Saturday, July 12

8 - 11 AM

Samson Oceanfront Park, 17425 Collins Ave.



HELP (Health Emergency Life Protection) Training Course

Saturday, July 12

10 AM - 12 PM

Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.
Pre-registration is required.

Teens Only: *Backyard Barbecue*

Saturday, July 12

12 - 3 PM

The Spot, 215 185 St.



City Commission Workshop: *Agenda Review*

Tuesday, July 15

10 AM

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

City Commission Workshop: *FY 25-26 Budget*

Tuesday, July 15

1 PM

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

City Commission Workshop: *Special Presentations & Discussion Items*

Thursday, July 17

3 PM

Commission Chambers, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

Regular City Commission Meeting

Thursday, July 17

6:30 PM

Commission Chambers, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

Cultural Trip: *Sparez Bowling Alley*

Friday, July 18

12 - 3 PM

Bus will depart from and return to Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.
Price: \$35
Resident ID Cardholder: \$15

Cultural Trip: *Julia & Henry's Food Tour*

Friday, July 25

11 AM - 3:30 PM

Bus will depart from and return to Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.
Price: \$30
Resident ID Cardholder: \$10

Senior Roundtable

Wednesday, July 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

JULY **LIBRARY PROGRAMS**

Chess Club (ages 9+)

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

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

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

Citizenship Class (ages 19+)

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

Homework Help and Tutoring (students grades K-12)

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

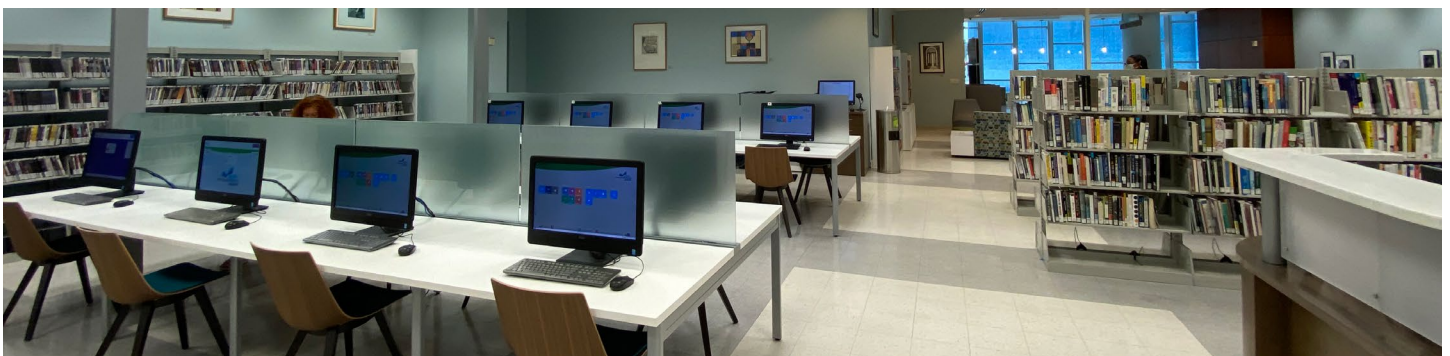
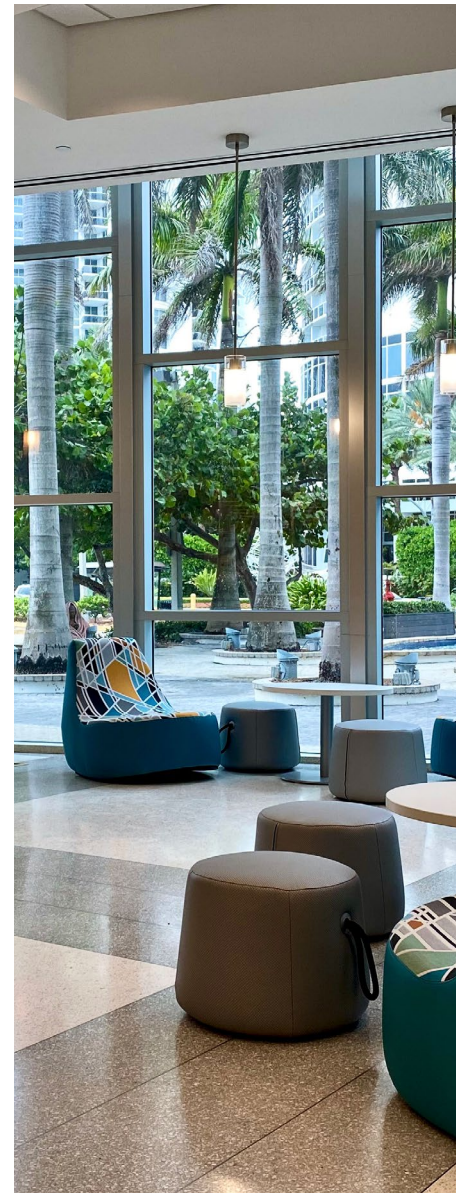
For more information, contact
tutoring@mdpls.org or call
305.375.1413.

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

Monday, July 7, 14, 21, 28
11 AM - 12 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.



ANNUAL SUNNY ISLES BEACH

Photo Contest



Submit your photos for a chance to be featured in the **2026 SUNNY ISLES BEACH DESKTOP CALENDAR**.

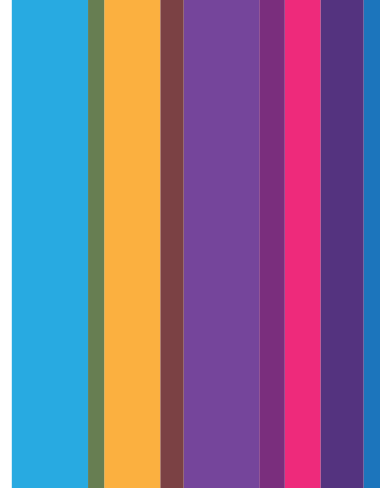
Photos should be at least 300 DPI to be considered. Horizontal photos are preferred. For best resolution, a digital camera should be used.

The photo must be of a scene taken in Sunny Isles Beach, Florida (*between 156 Street and 195 Street and the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway*).

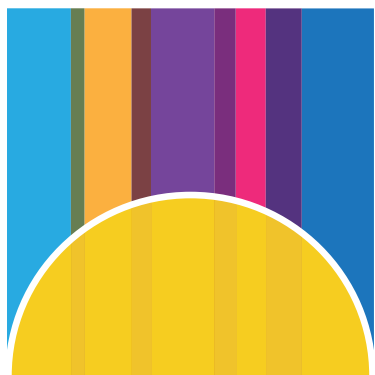
SUBMISSIONS DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2025

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS AT [SIBFL.GOV/PHOTOCONTEST](https://sibfl.gov/photocontest).





SUNNY



SPACES

ART CONTEST

Calling all Sunny Isles Beach artists! Showcase your talent and leave a lasting mark on our community with the Sunny Spaces Art Contest.

This year's theme, **Living in Motion**, celebrates the energy and excitement sparked by events like the upcoming 2026 FIFA World Cup and Winter Olympics.

Artists are invited to submit an original 8" X 8" painting or hand-drawn piece that creatively captures the spirit of movement and activity. If selected, the artwork will be recreated at the Gateway Artway at Gateway Center.

We are excited to see your submissions and to have our local artists' work showcased for all Sunny Isles Beach to enjoy.

This contest is open to Sunny Isles Beach Resident ID Cardholders.

For contest rules, please visit **[SIBFL.GOV/SUNNYSACES](https://sibfl.gov/sunnyspaces)**.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

September 30, 2025

SUBMISSION LOCATION:

Sunny Isles Beach Visitor
Center, 18070 Collins Avenue





Islander

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Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160

ELECTED OFFICIALS

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VICE MAYOR Alex Lama

COMMISSIONER Jerry Joseph

COMMISSIONER Fabiola Stuyvesant

COMMISSIONER Jeniffer Viscarra

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MANAGING EDITOR Michael Rojas

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