



# SIB *islander*

CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

Follow us @CityofSIB |     YouTube

JUNE 2020

## A MESSAGE FROM THE Mayor

“ June marks the unofficial beginning of summer here in Florida, and this year, it’s looking quite different than usual. Even though we are still encouraged to stay home as much as possible to slow the spread of the Coronavirus, there are still a multitude of reasons and ways we can celebrate the new season. ”



George “Bud” Scholl  
Mayor

Many of our young residents are graduating this month from elementary, middle and high school as well as undergraduate and graduate programs. Though your ceremonies may be smaller and online, this is still an exciting time to commemorate your success with your family. As you end one chapter, a new one is right on the horizon just teeming with new opportunities.

June 1 also is the start of hurricane season. While you prepare your homes, supply kits and emergency plans, the City is doing the same. We have three portable pumps ready to deploy in case of flooding during strong storms, our trees have been trimmed, and we have a sandbag program in place to distribute to residents in the event of a storm. We also procured several contracts to accelerate the hurricane recovery process including debris removal contracts and debris monitoring in the event we should need them.

Though summer can bring some stormy weather, it is also the perfect time to get outside and connect with nature when the sky is clear and the sun is out. With select parks open, we know that our residents can safely venture outside to get active and play. You might not score a winning goal in a soccer game with all your teammates and playgrounds will be closed to your young ones for a little while longer, but you can still make the best of this time.

Take this summer to learn a new skill, reconnect with your family, or study a new subject. There are many ways to grow

personally from your own home. The City is regularly posting new recreation classes and programs on our social media pages and SIBTV that you can do right from your living room. And while you’re on your computer, don’t forget to fill out the census! It takes no more than five minutes and you can do it all online at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov). Without your input, the City may be left out of millions in future state and federal funds. Remember, we all count; homeowners, renters, anyone residing in Sunny Isles Beach as of April 1, 2020.

Even though we are separated, we can still find connections. I know the last few months have been difficult. Some of us have been tested in ways we never thought imaginable. And as we see more reopenings across the City and County, it might seem natural to lower your guard. We have been fortunate enough to have a low number of reported cases in Sunny Isles Beach, and that is largely due to our residents following the stay-at-home order, social distancing, and CDC guidelines. Let’s continue to keep our count down.

As I have said before, there is no one size fits all solution during a time like this. I appreciate the cooperation, kindness and respect for each other that I have seen from most of our residents throughout this challenging time. There is still plenty to do while wearing your mask and keeping that six feet of distance between others.

I hope everyone finds enjoyment this summer while continuing to stay safe.

# Message from the City Manager

Christopher J. Russo

The reopening of the beach has been postponed by Miami-Dade County and will remain closed until County Mayor Carlos Gimenez lifts the nightly curfew. That being said, the City is still preparing for the beach to safely reopen to the public. We are in especially troubling times, so following the set guidelines is imperative. We have all seen some of the worst-case-scenario stories on the news about other beaches reopening to hordes of people ignoring social distancing guidelines and crowding together. To ensure that does not happen in our city, we will be strictly following and enforcing the operating guidelines set forth by Miami-Dade County.

The beach will be open seven days a week from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. You will not be required to wear a mask on the beach if you are able to keep a proper social distance of six feet from other individuals, however beach goers must have a facial covering ready to use at all times and show upon request by a City or County staff member. The magic number here is six. If you cannot achieve social distancing of six feet, except with members of the same household and when in the water, then you must wear a



facial covering. This is concurrent with facial covering and social distancing regulations for public places in Miami-Dade County. It is important to note that wet facial coverings are ineffective, and we encourage you to bring an additional clean and dry replacement covering.

Most typical beach activities will be permitted as long as you maintain social distance and gather with no more than 10 people. Walking, jogging, and swimming are all permitted as long as six feet of social distance between people of different households is maintained. Sunbathing is also permitted, however when setting up your own beach chair or towel, you must be a minimum of six feet apart from anyone in a different household.

Condos and hotels will be allowed to set up their own beach chairs and concessions for residents and guests, but with some new requirements. Distancing of at least six feet must be kept between patrons not of the same household, towels must be changed after each guest use and sent for laundering, and furnishings must be cleaned and disinfected after each guest use.

There are some activities that will not be permitted on the beach. No group greater than 10 may congregate and different households may not share equipment. You will not be allowed to set up canopies or tents, and all organized or group activities



involving groups of two or more are prohibited. No special events or group picnics will be permitted and, as always, no fishing and no dogs or pets are allowed on the beach.

Under the current state, beach goers must be mindful of the increased risks associated with rescue and resuscitation, to both the patron in distress and those that may try to assist them. Ocean Rescue will continue their regular schedule to guard the beach from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and like every trip to the beach, you are urged to exercise caution when in the water.

When the County reopens the beach, we will also be reopening the Newport Fishing Pier with adjusted hours from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. daily. Samson Oceanfront Park hours will also be extended to 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. to accommodate the beach hours. The Pier will have delineated fishing spots 10 feet apart from each other and Samson Oceanfront Park will remain open only to Sunny Isles Beach residents, except those passing through to the beach. Additionally, the restrooms at the Pier, Samson Oceanfront Park, and the Trump I and Bill Lone beach accesses will be open, with facial coverings required inside.

You can read the complete guidelines for the beach and pool reopenings on our website at [sibfl.net/reopening](http://sibfl.net/reopening) and the County's website, [miamidade.gov](http://miamidade.gov). We expect all residents to respect their neighbors and family members by adhering to County and City guidelines. Our lifeguards, police, code officers and County staff will be enforcing all County guidelines to keep our community safe. Remember that if you do not follow these guidelines, we are at risk of the County closing the beach. The success of these reopenings relies on the shared responsibility of us all. As summer begins, we all want to have fun, but remember it is also important to stay safe.

# Re-Imagining Collins Avenue

*Where pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists peacefully co-exist*

*Commissioner Dana Goldman*

COVID-19 has disrupted virtually every aspect of our lives, including our city streets. The stay-at-home order and travel restrictions have dramatically curtailed motorist activity and increased recreational walking, jogging and bicycling activities. Much has also been made about telecommuting and work-at-home programs that will keep more city dwellers in place. We are diverse, comprised in part of youth, elderly, visitors and recreational enthusiasts, all of whom are non-motorists. There is latent demand for alternative modes of transportation on our city streets. We must work with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to enhance accessibility and safely protect our walkers and bicyclists.

We have a pedestrian bridge that successfully connects 172 Street to 174 Street through North Bay Road and provides mobility for families to and from Norman S. Edelcup SIB K-8. Now re-imagine how Collins Avenue can be engineered

to offer safer passage for bicyclists and walkers and connectivity to Aventura. I recently advocated to FDOT for temporary lane closures and reduced speed on Collins Avenue. We must find ways to adapt to growing residents' demands for walking and cycling.

In the long run, pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists can only peacefully co-exist with multimodal planning that includes a "road diet." The road diet will reduce the number of lanes on Collins Avenue so we can widen our sidewalks and create more sustainable pedestrian, cycling and transit connectivity. The road diet can only be accomplished with vision, political will and FDOT's consensus.

Please contact me at [dgoldman@sibfl.net](mailto:dgoldman@sibfl.net) or at 786.512.6364 for more details.



# Our Youth Need Our Help – It's a Matter of Life

*Commissioner Alex Lama*

As we face the health and economic challenges of the Coronavirus pandemic, it is important to point out that a mental health crisis is devastating young Americans, with an increasing number suffering from depression and death by suicide. Suicides among Americans 10 to 24 years of age have spiked by 56% from 2007 to 2017 per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Suicide is now the second leading cause of death among young people with approximately 16 young people taking their life each day.

Mental health conditions are major factors leading to youth suicide; however, relationship problems, pressure to achieve, and daily life stressors are also contributing conditions.

The American Psychological Association notes that annually one in five teens seriously considers suicide. Warning signs include:

- A sudden change in behavior
- Talking or writing about suicide
- Rage and mood swings
- Agitated/anxious behavior
- Change in eating or sleeping patterns
- Decline in academic or work performance

We must be as comfortable discussing and seeking professional help for mental illnesses and suicide as we are about physical illnesses.

We can help a person who is displaying suicidal behavior by:

- Encouraging them to seek professional help. Use resources such as a school counselor, social worker or medical provider to point you in the right direction.
- Dialing the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: [800.273.8255](tel:800.273.8255).
- Speaking openly about your concerns and letting the person know that you care and want to help.
- Taking action. If someone is about to harm themselves, immediately dial 911 or go to an emergency room.

It's time to act now to save our kids.

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



## City Commission Workshops & Meetings

### Virtual Town Center North District Update

Thursday, June 4 | 4 PM

For more information, visit [sibfl.net/tcn-workshop](http://sibfl.net/tcn-workshop)

### June Regular City Commission Meeting

Thursday, June 18 | 6:30 PM

More details will be posted at [sibfl.net/events](http://sibfl.net/events)

## From the Convenience of Your Home



### Nominate a Veteran!

Each year we add new names of Sunny Isles Beach residents who have served in the US Armed Forces to our Veterans Wall at Heritage Park.

Nominate a veteran online today.  
[sibfl.net/veterans](http://sibfl.net/veterans)

### Renew or Apply for Your SIB Resident ID Card

An SIB Resident ID Card allows residents streamlined access back into the City if a lockdown occurs after a hurricane as well as additional discounts and benefits.

Be prepared, apply online now!  
[sibfl.net/residentid](http://sibfl.net/residentid)

### Submit your best photos for the 2020 Photo Contest

Your photos may be featured in the 2021 City calendar, social media, or our publications like this one!

[sibfl.net/photocontest](http://sibfl.net/photocontest)



## MAKE YOURSELF COUNT

Sunny Isles Beach currently has one of the lowest Census response rates in the County.

**Respond to the 2020 Census today!**  
**Help shape your future.**

Shape your future  
START HERE > | **United States®  
Census  
2020**

[2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov)

## Your City at Work: Flood Protection

As we enter the rainy season, it is important to be aware of potential flash flooding throughout the City and County. While everyone can do their part to help prevent flooding, the City is actively pursuing measures to protect our City streets from heavy rainfall and stormwater.

### Flood Adaptation Assessment

An assessment, which identifies flood vulnerabilities and what adaptive measures will be most effective. Our goal is to leverage the study's findings to plan new capital improvement projects and secure funding from the county, state and federal governments.

### Stormwater Retention Study

This study is an analysis of FDOT-owned stormwater retention areas in Sunny Isles Beach to determine if and how the stormwater holding capacity of these retention areas can be increased.

We are also studying the potential for construction of additional drainage structures, deep wells or injection wells, in these multiple locations, all of which have the potential to provide a higher capacity to hold stormwater, in turn alleviating flooding on our streets more quickly.

In the meantime, the City is putting in two deep drainage wells along 172 Street to help alleviate the flooding in this area. We also purchased three high capacity diesel pumps on trailers, which are prepared to be used anywhere in the City at any time and which have been deployed during the recent storms. And in preparation of hurricane season, we cleaned and cleared our storm drains early in May.



### How You Can Help:

- Do not dump or throw anything into the ditches or streams. Every piece of trash contributes to flooding.
- If your property is next to a ditch or stream, please do your part and keep the banks clear of brush and debris.
- If you see dumping or debris in the ditches or streams, contact the Public Works Department at [305.792.1711](tel:305.792.1711).

## Miami-Dade County Reopening: Phase I

Beach Reopening Postponed by Miami-Dade County  
(until the countywide curfew is lifted)

Hotels & Pools Now Open

### BEACH GUIDELINES

Beach will be open 7 days a week, 7 AM - 8 PM

#### Facial Coverings

- All beachgoers must have a facial covering ready to use at all times
- Facial covering required when social distancing of 6 feet cannot be achieved, except for members of the same household or while in the water
- Facial covering required in restrooms

#### Activities Allowed

- Walking
- Jogging
- Swimming
- Sunbathing (with a minimum of 6 feet apart)
- Eating among members of the same household

#### Activities Not Permitted

- No groups larger than 10
- No shared equipment among different households
- No canopies or tents
- No special events, group picnics
- No dogs/pets
- No fishing on the beach

### SWIMMING POOL GUIDELINES

- Situate hand sanitizing stations and/or disinfectant wipes around the pool deck area and in public restrooms
- Establish a one-way flow into and out of the pool deck if there is a single entry/exit point, complemented by directional tape and personnel to monitor
- Remove chairs and lounge chairs on the pool deck to achieve appropriate spacing between guests

\*View the complete rules and regulations for the beach and swimming pools at [sibfl.net/reopening](https://sibfl.net/reopening).

### BUSINESSES NOW OPEN

Retail	Office Spaces
Restaurants	Shopping Centers
Personal Grooming	Warehouses
Arts & Culture	Trade & Logistics
Manufacturing	Hotels

See all guidelines for businesses to reopen in Miami-Dade County's *The New Normal – A Guide for Residents & Commercial Establishments*.

Complete County reopening details and guidelines: [miamidade.gov/global/initiatives/coronavirus/openings.page](https://miamidade.gov/global/initiatives/coronavirus/openings.page)

Complete Sunny Isles Beach reopening details and guidelines: [sibfl.net/reopening](https://sibfl.net/reopening)

## Closures, Cancellations & Restrictions\*

(Until further notice)

### CLOSURES

- Golden Shores Park and Pelican Community Park (including the office)
- NSE/SIB K-8 School
- Private educational facilities, casinos, and other recreational and entertainment activities
- Bars, and lounges
- Sunny Isles Beach Visitor Center

### CANCELLATIONS

- City programs
- City in-person meetings
- City events

### RESTRICTIONS

- Select businesses allowed to reopen with capacity and safety rules per MDC Emergency Order 23-20. See [miamidade.gov](https://miamidade.gov) for details.
- Hotels and pools open with safety guidelines. See [sibfl.net/reopening](https://sibfl.net/reopening) for details.
- Select City parking lots are open to residents only. Visit [sibfl.net/parking](https://sibfl.net/parking) for details.
- SIBshuttle service is by appointment only
- Building, Code Compliance & Licensing, and Planning & Zoning departments' services are by appointment only
- Short-term vacation rentals shall not accept any reservations, regardless of when they were made, or extend existing reservations, except for essential lodgers
- Certain restrictions are placed on active construction sites. See City Emergency Order 04-20.
- Facial coverings are required in city facilities, parks, grocery stores, restaurants, pharmacies, construction sites, and when social distancing is not possible
- Screenings required for access to all City facilities
- Select City parks open for passive activity for residents only. See [sibfl.net/parks](https://sibfl.net/parks) for details.

\*Conditions are subject to change with Phase 1 reopening, visit [sibfl.net/reopening](https://sibfl.net/reopening) for complete updates.

## COVID-19 RESOURCES

#### Florida Department of Health (FDOH)

24-hour hotline for questions concerning the Coronavirus: **1.866.779.6121**

**Miami-Dade County Office of Emergency Management:**  
[miamidade.gov/global/initiatives/coronavirus/home.page](https://miamidade.gov/global/initiatives/coronavirus/home.page)

**Individuals in Miami-Dade County who believe they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should call the FDOH at 305.470.5660.**

**City information and updates:** [sibfl.net/coronavirus](https://sibfl.net/coronavirus)

# CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH HURRICANE *PREPAREDNESS*

JUNE 1 - NOVEMBER 30

## PRE-STORM PREPARATION

Disaster kits and emergency supplies should be fully stocked by June 1, the start of hurricane season.

### A few basics to keep stocked are:

- 1 gallon of drinking water per person per day
- First Aid Kit
- Flashlight
- Non-perishable canned and dry foods
- Sanitation Products

For more information on what to keep in your kit, please visit

[sibfl.net/hurricane](http://sibfl.net/hurricane)



## SIBAlert

Sign up for storm alerts and City updates delivered straight to your phone or inbox at

**SIBALERT.NET**

**FOLLOW US** @CityofSIB

