



Islander

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MAY 2022

A MESSAGE FROM THE Mayor

“ Sunny Isles Beach
is undergoing yet
another renaissance. ”



Dana Robin Goldman
Mayor

After 25 years, and more recently following the pandemic, we are experiencing a greater presence of “nesters” and full-time residents. This translates into additional activity in our residential buildings, shopping centers, sidewalks, roadways, and of course our precious beach.

It's natural for cities to evolve over time. With only 25 years behind us, Sunny Isles Beach's ecosystem is changing again. It is no surprise that with a healthy economic region, high quality services and amenities, a consistently A-rated school, and attractive year-round weather, our community is becoming the destination of choice for more full-time residents.

This metamorphosis is a major reason why we need to take stock of where we are as a community and what we envision for the next 25 years. As the city grapples with how best to acclimate to these changes, we are attempting to respond timely and efficiently. Many of the Commission's recent actions are a result of our changing population. We are at a turning point and we must put a greater focus on zoning,

planning, programming, services and public safety by making long-standing improvements now.

Already in 2022 we have accomplished a lot behind the scenes. We have engaged with an objective zoning professional to take a hard look at our Comprehensive Plan and our Zoning Code to ensure that we do not overbuild what our founding Commission envisioned 25 years ago. We are contracting for a Parks Master Plan to set the course for future park and public space needs based on this increased population. And with the appointment of our new Chief of Police, Edward Santiago, we are working toward accreditation and an evaluation of staffing levels and public safety needs.

Even with all of these new initiatives, we are still left with some unanswered questions. How will increased activity impact our city in the long-term? What will Sunny Isles Beach look like as a result? What direction do we want to go in to best suit our residents? These are all questions your City Commission and City staff are looking into and addressing as we plan for the future.

Contact Mayor Dana Robin Goldman at mayor@sibfl.net or [305.792.1753](tel:305.792.1753).

Winston Towers 400 Condo Board Elections as an Example for our City

Commissioner Jerry Joseph

In January 2022, while I was a candidate for Commissioner, I was contacted by several condo owners at Winston Towers 400 regarding certain practices being conducted by the Condo Board that did not adhere to their by-laws affecting their upcoming board elections. At the same time, the same condo owners contacted our Mayor and State Ombudsman, Spencer E. Hennings, Esq., whom, at the time, I was not familiar with. Our Mayor, being a condo attorney, chose not to get involved, but remained cc'd on emails between the condo owners and the Ombudsman, as did I. Apparently, there was enough odd goings on regarding this election that the Ombudsman decided to get involved.

On March 30, 2022, the Winston Towers 400 election was conducted. Spencer Hennings and his team of watchers and counters arrived and had to unseat the counters that the current Board President had placed. I was proud to have

been present, as a City representative, outside watcher, to witness a FAIR election in the process, leading to a FAIR process, regardless of the winners or losers. I commend Mr. Hennings, Karolina Betancourt and their team of watchers and counters for their excellence and professionalism throughout this arduous process.

Any condo owner in Sunny Isles Beach who has a similar condo election issue and has difficulty connecting with the Ombudsman's office, please do not hesitate to contact me for assistance. Not every instance will come under the Ombudsman's purview, but FAIR elections in Florida is a priority of our Governor, and as your Commissioner, I concur 100%.



Contact Commissioner Jerry Joseph at seat1@sibfl.net or [305.792.1754](tel:305.792.1754).

Remarkable Recognitions

Commissioner Alex Lama

It is with great pleasure and admiration that I bring attention to some great deeds and accomplishments by our own Sunny Isles Beach residents and employees.

Ocean Rescue Team:

On February 23, 2022, Louis and Douglas from our Ocean Rescue Team Tower #174 rescued a resident who was swimming in the ocean and caught in a rip current, which dragged her into the deep. She panicked, started to get tired and was becoming disoriented. Our fine ocean rescuers braved the waves and currents and pulled the resident to safety.

Mika Shevit:

Mika holds the record for most consecutive half marathons (13.1 miles) ran. As of this writing, he has ran 13.1 miles a day for 381 days in a row, and his progress is documented in the exercise app Strava. Mika started running to set an example for his kids to show them that we are stronger than we think.

Social Seniors:

The "Social Seniors" team from Alonzo and Tracy Mourning High School participated in the FTX Charity Hackathon, in which teens developed ideas that would improve mental or physical health. The team presented an idea that would bring high school seniors and senior citizens together with the goal of promoting meaningful relationships, life skills and memories in order to improve mental health and wellness. The team, lead by 2019 MDCPS Teacher of the Year, Molly Winters Diallo, won \$500,000 in seed money to develop their idea. Team members Anthony Vega, Lucas Caicedo, Andres Gonzalez and Michael McKenzie won \$15,000 each in scholarship money.



Thank you very much for your tenacity, dedication and inspiration. Please keep doing what you do.

Contact Commissioner Alex Lama at seat2@sibfl.net or [305.792.1752](tel:305.792.1752).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

Blood Pressure & Glucose Screening

Thursday, May 5

9 - 11 AM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Mount Sinai Medical Lecture Series

Thursday, May 5

11 AM - 12 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Light lunch provided after lecture.

Pre-registration required.

Lunch n' Learn with Florida Historian, Cesar Becerra

Tuesday, May 10

FREE

11 - 11:45 AM

Gateway Center,
151 Sunny Isles Blvd.
Snacks will be available
for purchase.

Pre-registration required.



May 11 and 25

Wednesday | 3 - 4 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Bike to School With a Cop

Friday, May 13

7 - 8:15 AM

Senator Gwen Margolis Park,
17815 N Bay Road

Helmets and registration are required.

Pre-registration required.



Blood Drive

Friday, May 13

10:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

Presented by OneBlood.

Appointments are required.

Register at oneblood.org/donate-now.

Teens Only: Cooking Class

Friday, May 13 | 7 - 9 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

FREE

Gateway LIVE

Forever Simon & Garfunkel

Saturday, May 14

7:30 - 9 PM | FREE*

Gateway Park, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

*Free with valid City-issued Sunny Isles Beach Resident ID Card. \$10 without.

Mobility & Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee Meeting

Monday, May 16 | 10 AM

Government Center 1st Floor Meeting Room,
18070 Collins Ave.

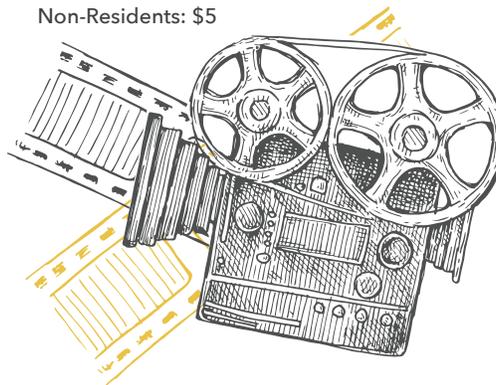
Modern Era Movie: Cruella

Monday, May 16 | 10 AM - 1 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Residents: FREE

Non-Residents: \$5



Full Moon Yoga

Monday, May 16

7:45 - 8:45 PM

Samson Oceanfront Park (on the beach),
17425 Collins Ave.

Residents: FREE

Non-Residents: \$5

Pre-registration required.

Concert in the Park Brothers of Others

Wednesday,
May 18

7:30 - 9 PM | FREE

Samson

Oceanfront Park,
17425 Collins Avenue



Regular City Commission Meeting

Thursday, May 19

6:30 PM

Commission Chambers
Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

25th Anniversary: Walk N' Roll

Saturday, May 21 | 5:30 - 9 PM

More details on [page 6!](#)

Federal Holiday: Memorial Day

Monday, May 30

City Facilities Closed. SIBshuttle will not run.



Mobility & Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 31 | 10 AM

Government Center 1st Floor Meeting Room,
18070 Collins Ave.

**FOR COMPLETE EVENT
DETAILS, VISIT**
sibfl.net/events

SPOTLIGHT ON...

OCEAN RESCUE

We are proud to spotlight the Ocean Rescue division this month. Keeping our beach and ocean safe is the name of the game, and our elite Ocean Rescue is the best in the business. From educating the public on proper safety measures to providing first aid to saving lives, the Sunny Isles Beach Ocean Rescue team is on the beach every day, 365 days a year.

May is Water Safety Month and our lifeguards want you to know some important beach safety tips:

- Always swim in a guarded area.
- Check warning flags daily and ask a lifeguard about the surf and beach conditions.
- Do not overestimate your swimming abilities, stay close to shore.
- Do not dive or jump into unknown waters.
- If you are caught in a rip current, the most important thing is to avoid panicking. Try to signal for help and swim parallel to the shore until the current releases you.

For more information and safety information, visit sibfl.net/BeachSafety.

INSIDE THE Isles

Resident ID Cards

Don't miss out on the 25th Anniversary Celebration!

Make sure your Resident ID Card is up-to-date!

With your valid City-issued ID Card you'll receive amazing perks that are reserved only for card holders. You'll receive:

- Exclusive access to 25th Anniversary Celebration event tickets
- Free gifts
- Reduced pricing on programs & activities
- Access to Gateway Center amenities

Apply or renew your card today by applying online at sibfl.net/ResidentID.



2022 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



GABRIELLA ZAKEN

"Moving to Sunny Isles Beach at the age of four was one of the defining moments of my youth, and it is certainly this wonderful city that has shaped who I am today."

Gabriella Zaken is graduating from Mast@FIU and plans on attending Florida International University in the fall to study computer science and cybersecurity. Her extracurricular and volunteer experience includes being a counselor-in-training at the Sunny Isles Beach summer camp and junior lifeguard camp, secretary of the speech and debate team, co-founder of the volleyball team, member of the National Honors Society, and violinist for retired seniors in nursing homes.

ARINA ZHIRKOVA

"I came to Sunny Isles Beach as an immigrant from Russia in third grade, and since then considered it as my home and a place I feel safe and comfortable."

Arina Zhirkova is graduating from NSU University School, has been accepted into seven universities so far, and is waiting to hear back from more until making her final decision. Her extracurricular and volunteer experience includes founding the Sunny Isles Beach Cleanup, varsity tennis, National Honors Society, Marine Science Club, Green Sharks Project Get Green, and Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) Volunteer. Her efforts with the Sunny Isles Beach Cleanup have been featured on Local 10 News, University of Miami TV, South Florida Media Network, and Voyage MIA Magazine.

MEET YOUR NEW CHIEF OF POLICE

We are delighted to welcome Edward Santiago as Sunny Isles Beach's new Chief of Police. For those who do not know Chief Santiago, he was among the founding members of the SIBPD back in 1998, starting out as an officer. Over the next few years, Eddie was promoted to Detective, Corporal and then Sergeant. He became a Lieutenant in 2019, and then Captain in 2020, before being appointed as Interim Chief of Police in February 2022.

GET TO KNOW CHIEF SANTIAGO

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO BECOME A POLICE OFFICER?

I first became a police officer because of my father. Unfortunately, he passed away after a prolonged battle with cancer, but he was a hard worker who always provided for his family. I pledged at a young age to become the same father and husband he was. He was able to watch me achieve my dream and of being a good family man and giving back to my community as a police officer.

WHAT OR WHO INSPIRED YOU TO ASSUME THE ROLE OF CHIEF OF POLICE?

I had the pleasure of working for former Chief Fred Maas for the majority of my police career. He was an integral part of my development as a police officer and I was able to observe what true leadership meant. With each promotional opportunity that was available, I put forth the same effort to hopefully emulate the same leadership I was accustomed to. When the opportunity was available to assume command of the department, I did so with the sole intention of continuing the leadership philosophies this department knew so well. I was excited for the opportunity to apply my energy and enthusiasm for public safety to all residents and visitors of Sunny Isles Beach and hopefully continue that strong leadership philosophy this department has. As a former resident of Sunny Isles Beach and original member of this police department, I care about this community and pledge to give it my all.

WHAT IS A MAJOR PROJECT YOU ARE EXCITED ABOUT FOR THIS UPCOMING YEAR?

One major project I want to accomplish in the next year is to have the Sunny Isles Beach Police Department become an accredited agency



with the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. That would standardize many of our policies and procedures in accordance with the best practices established by the Commission. Additionally, I would like to continue and expand the use of technology to keep our community safe. I want to expand the automatic license plate reader project that alerts officers to the presence of certain wanted vehicles and provides investigators with much needed leads when investigating criminal matters. I would also like to refresh and expand our CCTV project and deploy analytical cameras at strategic locations.

WHAT IS YOUR LEADERSHIP PHILOSOPHY?

To lead by example. With each leadership role I have had at the department, I am willing to assist in whatever capacity needed. Whether it is directing traffic or assuming command of a major incident, I am a team player and will do whatever necessary to get the job done.

WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT OUTSIDE OF WORK?

I am very passionate about spending time with my family. One thing I love to do is take them on Disney vacations.

WHAT IS SOMETHING OUR COMMUNITY MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT YOU?

One thing you might not know about me is that I am an avid baseball player and play on the police softball team. Go Bacon Bombers! And actually, back in 1987 after my senior year of high school, the New York Yankees wanted to sign me as a free agent to play for their minor league organization, but I decided to go to college, get my education and have baseball pay for it.

5th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATORY EVENTS

WALK N' ROLL

2.5k Community Walk

May 21 | 5:30 PM

Grab your walking shoes or roll on out with your bike or scooter as we stay fit as a community! Then join us for a carnival-style event with rides, games, food, and more.

WALKING?

Walk begins at 5:30 PM from Pelican Community Park

NOT WALKING?

Roll on over to the carnival at Gateway Park from 6 - 9 PM

FREE with valid City-issued Resident ID Card

\$10 without

THE ISLES AFTER DARK

A Charity Gala

June 4 | 6 - 9 PM

Gateway Center

Sip on our signature cocktail as you enjoy a sophisticated evening of dining, live entertainment, and more.

\$75 with valid City-issued Resident ID Card

\$125 without

Open to residents and non-residents 21+.

CELEBRATION OF THE ISLES

June 12 | 5 - 9 PM

Gateway Park

You won't want to miss out on Celebration of the Isles!

With special musical guest performances, delicious food trucks, and fun activities, the event will be a memorable experience for the whole family.

LIVE MUSIC | ACTIVITIES FOOD TRUCKS | FIREWORKS

WRISTBANDS:

FREE with valid City-issued Resident ID Card

\$15 without

FIREWORKS BEGIN AT 9:30 PM ON THE BEACH

Fireworks will be launched from the ocean (near 174th Street) and can be viewed from anywhere on the beach.

VISIT SIBFL.NET/ANNIVERSARY FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Islander

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