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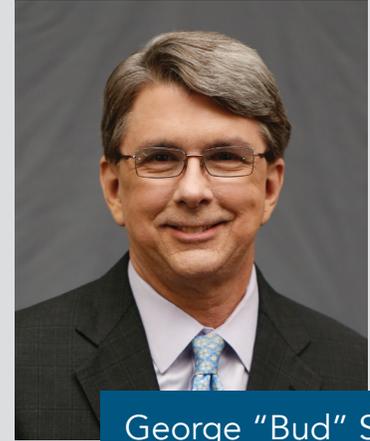
CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

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NOVEMBER 2020

A MESSAGE FROM THE Mayor

“ When times are difficult and we are feeling overwhelmed, it is easy to dwell on the negative and lose sight of the positive. But there is still much to be thankful for. This November, I want to express my gratitude for the staff who have kept our city up and running during the pandemic without skipping a beat. ”



George "Bud" Scholl
Mayor

From the offices in City Hall to the park technicians to the police and Code Compliance officers, our city staff has been particularly outstanding during the last eight months. Sometimes uncertainty can cause chaos, but here in Sunny Isles Beach, our city remained calm, adapted to the new changes, and continued to deliver excellent service to our residents.

Our police department remained vigilant keeping our residents safe around the clock. Knowing that you have a world class police force monitoring the city alleviates stress and bolsters your sense of security.

Our staff found alternative yet engaging ways to remain connected with the community while staying safe. With regularly scheduled recreation programs suspended, our Cultural and Community Services department identified creative ways to interact with residents via remote classes and events. They were even able to host a month of socially distanced Halloween activities in October. The Building department kept on track by scheduling virtual inspections, and our Public Works department ensured all public spaces were

safe by sanitizing bus stops and frequently touched surfaces in City Hall.

The holiday season is right around the corner and, unfortunately, we must make some adjustments this year. The Thanksgiving table may not be as crowded with extended family members and friends, but the sentiment will remain present. And I encourage you to still let those you love, whether near or far, know you are thankful for them. We can continue to use technology to stay connected without physically gathering for the holidays.

I am also appreciative to our residents and businesses who have embraced the new normal by following City, County and State guidelines. I have been impressed by our residents who took action to help their neighbors by assisting with groceries and other errands. To you, I say thank you.

We must keep adhering to the health guidelines of wearing a mask in public, social distancing, and avoiding crowded areas. Through unity we can protect our community, our families and ourselves. I hope everyone enjoys the holiday while continuing to stay safe.

Message from the City Manager

Christopher J. Russo

Approximately 97% of residents live in one of more than 100 condominium buildings in Sunny Isles Beach, and we have received many requests to assist in condominium complaints and disputes. Though condominiums may be within our city limits, Florida law (chapter 718 FSS) and Florida rules (chapter 61B FAC) govern the operation of condominium associations. Our state legislature created the Condominium Ombudsman Office in 2004 as a means to avoid and ameliorate problems in condominiums before they escalate to an unreasonable level. We recognize that complaints and disputes within condominiums is an ongoing concern for many residents and we want to help facilitate your access to the State Ombudsman to help solve these issues.



At the January 2020 Commission Meeting, the City Commission voted to petition the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) to have a representative of the Office of the Condominium Ombudsman provide services within our city. I'm happy to report that the DBPR will officially be bringing in an Ombudsman to City Hall every other Monday to

meet with residents, associations, and board members effective November 9, 2020. Appointments must be made ahead of time by calling my office at [305.792.1909](tel:305.792.1909).



The mission of the Office of the Condominium Ombudsman is to improve the quality of life for Florida condominium owners through prompt, professional and courteous service as a neutral, informative and accessible resource. The Office, which is part of the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, has three overarching functions: to investigate complaints, report findings, and work toward equitable settlements. In addition, they also monitor condominium elections, as misconduct during elections leads to significant complaints and costly disputes among unit owners.

Among other duties, the State Ombudsman office facilitates voluntary meetings between affected parties when the meetings may assist in resolving a dispute within a community association before the person submits a dispute for formal or administrative remedy; develops policies and procedures to assist unit owners; and acts as a resource for both the rights and responsibilities of unit owners, board members, and associations. Ultimately, the Ombudsman is a resource to provide a neutral and balanced perspective to address the competing interests in condominium law and regulation.

I want to say a big thank you to the DBPR who helped make this all possible. Director of the Division of Florida Condominiums, Boyd McAdams; Deputy Secretary of Business Regulation, Michael B. Johnston; and Secretary Halsey Beshears kept their word while coordinating this service and came through even during these trying times. Secretary Beshears has been working closely with the Governor during the pandemic and still managed to pull this off for our city.

You can read more information about the Ombudsman in Sunny Isles Beach at sibfl.net/ombudsman.

Thank You

Commissioner Alex Lama

I would like to express my gratitude to the great staff and police department we have in Sunny Isles Beach. City employees and our police officers have done a wonderful job in helping residents navigate the health and financial hardships we have endured the last seven months due to the coronavirus.

Throughout the pandemic, the city has remained open and operational under permissible CDC, State and County guidelines in order to continue services to our residents.

Here are some of the commendable programs that city employees and police officers have instituted and are diligently carrying out since March:

- Over 1,000 food deliveries made to seniors and low-income families.
- Drive-by food distribution in partnership with Farm Share.
- Welfare check phone calls to over 400 residents, particularly to seniors.
- Hosted free pediatric COVID-19 testing for residents in partnership with the University of Miami.
- Distributed masks through our Police and Code Compliance Departments.

- Production of free virtual programs for our youth, adults and seniors, ranging from fitness and meditation to trivia games.
- Communications informing residents about Federal, State and County financial help for individuals and businesses.
- Campaigns encouraging residents and city staff to shop locally to support our business establishments.



I would also like to extend my gratitude to our residents for their patience, understanding and cooperation during these times. It is gratifying to see friends and neighbors comprehend the severity of the situation and contribute by following medical guidelines, volunteering at food distribution events and by checking on neighbors and taking care of some of their chores.

Thank you very much.

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

A Great City Thanks to its Outstanding Community

Chief Dwight P. Snyder

I never miss the opportunity to express my pride in our community, as we always seem to rise above whatever adversity comes our way, from hurricanes and tidal issues to what we are experiencing now in this unprecedented year of 2020. Being part of this community is not just reserved for residents only. It also includes our business owners, hotels, clergy and community leaders, and especially the employees of the city, who are truly committed to our community.

As we know, the COVID-19 pandemic caused the entire globe to navigate through uncharted waters, including the City of Sunny Isles Beach. But as a great city, our leadership quickly responded to this state of emergency and took precautions to protect our citizens, visitors and employees from this virus. Our different departments literally learned new and innovative ways to provide the same level of customer service, while still managing

the strict protocols recommended by medical professionals.

For the police department, as a 24/7 public safety department, our officers responded to every call without interruption to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our residents. We learned new ways to perform our duties efficiently and, in some cases, found improved ways to complete the task.

I wish to thank all of our residents and business owners for complying with the emergency mandates. Your sacrifices and taking personal responsibility made all of us safer.

Until next time, stay safe!



We want to hear from you!

If you didn't get a chance to respond to our rebranding phone survey, we have another opportunity for you. Help us shape the future of Sunny Isles Beach by taking our online survey. Share how you feel about the city, its brand, and the future. And once you take the survey, share the link with your family and neighbors; we want to hear from everyone. The survey is available in English, Spanish and Russian. Participants who complete the survey will be entered for a chance to win a \$50 VISA gift card!

Take the survey now.

sibfl.net/rebranding

HOLIDAY SHOPPING SAFETY

WHEN PARKING

- Always park in well-lit areas and lock all your doors.
- Remove valuable electronics or packages from sight.
- Avoid parking near vehicles with covered cargo areas.
- Avoid carrying large handbags.
- Look around the parking lot for suspicious persons before you exit your vehicle.
- Don't get out of your vehicle until you are ready. If you don't feel safe, stay in the car or drive away.

WHILE SHOPPING

- Keep your money and credit cards in your front pocket and limit the number of cards and cash you're carrying.
- To avoid "identity theft," be aware of exposing credit cards, debit cards, and other identification at the cash register and ATMs. Thieves can scan your card information without your knowledge.
- Be cognizant of "distraction" crimes; one person gets your attention as another reaches into your purse or pocket.

RETURNING TO YOUR CAR

- Never leave the store with your arms full of packages.
- Have your car key in hand, ready to unlock your door.
- Do not return to your vehicle if you see people loitering nearby.
- Check the front and rear passenger seats inside your car before you enter it.
- Carry a whistle or other audible device. If you feel threatened, use it. Inside your vehicle, lock your doors and honk your horn to attract attention.

November Meetings & Events

Virtual Veterans Day Celebration

Wednesday, November 11
9:30 AM

Join us online as we honor our Military Veterans with a special presentation on SIBTV and our social media pages, @CityofSIB.

Regular City Commission Meeting

Thursday, November 19
6:30 PM

For complete details, visit sibfl.net/events.

City Offices Closed on the Following Dates:

Federal Holiday: Veterans Day

Wednesday, November 11

SIBshuttle does not operate.

Federal Holiday: Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 26

SIBshuttle does not operate.

City Holiday: Day After Thanksgiving

Friday, November 27

Only SIBshuttle Orange Lines will operate.

ONLINE CITY SERVICES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS



RESIDENT ID CARDS

New to the City? You will find many advantages to being a resident here. The first step is to apply for a Sunny Isles Beach Resident ID Card, which entitles you to free gifts, reduced pricing on activities and trips, advance registration for programs, and free entrance to selected events. Apply or renew your ID card today at sibfl.net/residentid.



GOVERNMENT CENTER SERVICES

If you need to meet with the Building, Code Compliance & Licensing, or Planning & Zoning departments, these city services are now offered by appointment only. Please book your appointment using one of the following links or call 305.947.2150 during regular business hours.

- [Building Permits](#)
- [New Construction Permits](#)
- [Code Compliance](#)
- [Business Licensing](#)
- [Parking Enforcement](#)
- [Planning & Zoning](#)

SIGN UP FOR A CITY PROGRAM

Program registration for all ages is available online at activities.sibfl.net. If it is your first time using this convenient service, please note that an account must be created first, whether resident or non-resident. Setting up the account may take up to three days to complete. For questions, call 305.792.1706.

SIGN UP FOR A CITY EVENT

It is easy to be efficient when organizing your family's schedule. Never miss attending a favorite event by using online registration at activities.sibfl.net. If you are not familiar with how quick and easy the service is, take a moment to go there now and request an account. You may request a resident account with your SIB Resident ID or a non-resident account without the ID.

MOUNT SINAI MEDICAL CENTER SHUTTLE PICKUP

The SIBshuttle is available for transportation to Mount Sinai Miami Beach. This free service is available by appointment only. Be sure to schedule your seat on the bus by noon the prior weekday. Book an appointment online at sibshuttle.net. You may also make an appointment by calling 305.792.1706.

SUNNY ISLES BEACH IS ECOMMITTED

FILL A BAG STATIONS

Turn your daily beach walk into a meaningful cleanup experience by picking up plastic and trash with buckets available at our new Fill A Bag stations. The Fill A Bag stations are located at Samson Oceanfront Park, Pier Park, and the Bill Lone beach access. Stop by when visiting the beach and help us keep our namesake clean and beautiful.

Share your experience with us by posting a photo using #ECOMMITTED.



RECYCLING RULES!

When we all recycle, we reduce the amount of waste going to landfills and incinerators, conserve natural resources, prevent pollution, and save energy. Around the City, there are recycling bins located in the parks and at our beach access points. The recyclables with the greatest impact are bottles, cans and paper. When it comes to plastic bottles, caps are now recyclable, but you must place them back on

the empty container before tossing them in the bin. Be mindful that placing non-recyclable garbage into recycling containers increases the cost of the recycling process and increases the cost of garbage and recycling collection service. All recycling bins collect cans, plastic bottles, paper, cardboard, and magazines. We do not, however, collect glass objects. Please be sure to place any glass in the trash can.

HELP KEEP OUR CITY CLEAN

Going to the park, the beach or on a walk around the City and have some trash? Be sure to throw it away in one of our trash cans. It is far too often that we see waste littered on the street and beach. We have placed trash bins in multiple locations across the City for residents to use. And be sure to properly dispose of your mask and gloves. Don't throw your used PPE on the ground when you leave a store or restaurant.

[SIBFL.NET/ECOMMITTED](https://sibfl.net/ecommitted)