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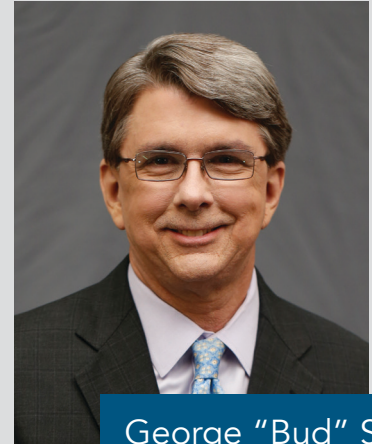
CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

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APRIL 2021

## A MESSAGE FROM THE Mayor

“ With the State of Florida expanding eligibility for the coronavirus vaccination, we are working toward reaching a fully vaccinated community. But the risk of COVID-19 is still present. ”



George "Bud" Scholl  
Mayor

As the coronavirus spreads over time, it is more susceptible to mutation, which is how we are seeing new variants arise around the world. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is collaborating with other public health agencies to detect and characterize emerging variants. There are several variants circulating globally since fall of 2020, including the UK, South Africa, and Brazil variants. Scientists are studying these variants to gain a better understanding of how easily they can spread and how effective the currently authorized vaccinations are against them.

There are several potential consequences of the emerging variants in the U.S. One of the main concerns is that these variants have the ability to spread more quickly in people. It has also been suggested, based on current evidence, that the UK variant may be associated with an increased risk of death compared with other variants. However additional studies are needed to confirm this finding. Variants may also have the ability to evade natural or vaccine-induced immunity.

While more individuals are receiving the vaccine, the need to stay vigilant is still strong. The FDA

has authorized the use of three vaccines to prevent COVID-19, and according to the CDC, people are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose in a two-dose series, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine.

But there are unknown answers about whether those vaccinated can still spread the virus. This is why it is important to take care in protecting yourself and your family. Facial coverings should still be worn in public, you should still maintain six feet of distance between those not in your own household, and avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces.

It is still recommended that you avoid medium or large-sized gatherings, as well as delay domestic and international travel. If you have been around someone who is sick or you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, you should get tested, stay home, and stay away from others.

We need to reduce the risk of being exposed to the virus and spreading it to others. Get vaccinated, follow the CDC's guidelines, and together we can work toward a safe and healthy community.

Contact Mayor George "Bud" Scholl at [mayor@sibfl.net](mailto:mayor@sibfl.net) or [305.792.1751](tel:305.792.1751).

# Message from the City Manager

Christopher J. Russo

Given the nature of our roads, population, and location, traffic volume and congestion are inevitable. We can all agree that additional measures on the road better protect our community. I want to share what action the City is taking to make the streets of Sunny Isles Beach safer for everyone.

Though it may seem as if traffic and pedestrian safety have become a more prevalent issue for the City in the last few years, what residents might not know is that we have been addressing traffic and pedestrian safety concerns in a multitude of ways over the last 10 years. The Sunny Isles Beach Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program was created in May 2010 and has consistently promoted safety measures and awareness. The Program has hosted more than 50 community events with these goals in mind. Furthermore, when the administration of the Police Department changed back in 2018, they began a formal effort to increase traffic enforcement and implement zero-tolerance for law breakers.

Most recently, PD began conducting High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) details on Collins Avenue to promote and educate our community about traffic laws that protect the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists. The detail is specifically from the 17000-18900 blocks along Collins Avenue and will run until May 14, 2021, but you will continue to see an increased presence around the entire City moving forward. PD's zero-tolerance policy remains in place, with officers stopping all identified motorists who are not following the law. Last month, we started issuing updates regarding traffic and pedestrian safety initiatives, statistics, events and news. The Road Reports are posted regularly on our social media pages and sent via email blast, but you can also view the complete archive on our website at [sibfl.net/trafficsafety](http://sibfl.net/trafficsafety).

When looking at the data, it is evident that our police department's efforts are working. Between February 11 and March 16, 2021, just over one month, our Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) detected approximately 2.3 million vehicles traveling through Sunny Isles Beach, a considerable amount when you consider our population of just over 23,000. During that period there were 44 traffic crashes and 1,286 moving violations issued. When you break those numbers down, many can be attributed to minor accidents, incidents happening in parking lots and medians, not necessarily on the road or involving pedestrians.

During the peak of the pandemic in 2020, we saw a drastic decrease in traffic, which resulted in less crashes, citations, and violations. But as we reopened, we did see traffic return to a more normal level. In 2020, there were 511 total traffic crashes in SIB, whereas in 2017, prior to procedural changes increasing police presence and enforcement, there were 729 total traffic

crashes. Last year, our police department issued 194 careless driving citations, 175 speeding citations and 136 stop sign citations. Since January 1, 2021 and our increased HVE details, PD issued 259 speeding citations, 190 red light citations and 157 stop sign citations. They are also issuing upwards of five tickets a day in our school zone, more than ever before.

As much as we would like all our officers on the streets at all times, the reality is that they cannot be everywhere at once. PD must still respond to calls for service, such as domestic issues, criminal activity, and civil complaints. In 2020, we received 33,847 total calls for service that one or more officers responded to. During the pandemic, they have also been enforcing County and City orders, having made approximately 11,000 contacts regarding mask issues alone.

Off the streets, we have spoken with the District 6 Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) along with State representatives to move forward and implement new measures to help keep our community safe. FDOT provided us with a series of improvements to put more awareness on the Sunny Isles Boulevard signalized crosswalk; some you will see within the next three months and others over the late summer. They agreed to add pavement markings, warning signs, and flashing lights. Even more initiatives are in the works along Sunny Isles Boulevard and Collins Avenue. FDOT is expediting money to buy and install a stationary radar that catches speed on Sunny Isles Boulevard, and the City has received FDOT approval to add new speed monitors on Collins Avenue.

On March 25, we hosted a Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Forum where residents joined our panel of City, County and State representatives to share their questions, comments and concerns regarding safety on our roads. Moving forward, we will work together with traffic experts, engineers, planners and law enforcement in charge of our roadway to explore how to begin putting the most feasible, FDOT-approved ideas into effect.

The voices of our residents are being heard. As much as they can, our officers are patrolling the roads and enforcing the law. I also want to remind residents that safety is everyone's responsibility. No matter your role on the road, everyone must follow the law and obey all signs and signals. I encourage you to sign up for emails at [sibfl.net/notifyme](http://sibfl.net/notifyme) and follow @SIBPD on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/SIBPD) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/SIBPD) to receive our Road Reports and additional updates regarding safety in Sunny Isles Beach.



Contact City Manager Chris Russo at [crusso@sibfl.net](mailto:crusso@sibfl.net) or [305.792.1701](tel:305.792.1701).

# The Importance of Home Rule

Commissioner Alex Lama

At the end of January 2021, I watched with alarm as State legislators introduced bills that intend to erode local government's abilities to protect and improve their communities. The relentless pursuit of certain Tallahassee legislators to exert power over municipalities' own affairs is distressing and should remind local leaders and communities that we must be steadfast in protecting our Home Rule rights.

Home Rule provisions in the Florida Constitution give municipalities powers to deal with local issues as elected officials and residents best see fit for the community. In essence, we know what solutions and ideas are best for our own home.

Two troubling bills are being considered during the 2021 legislative sessions. Senate Bill 522 and its companion, House Bill 219, will preempt regulation of short-term rentals to the State, effectively annulling the home rule right for municipalities to enact regulations on short-term rental management. House Bill 403 and Senate Bill 266 will take away a city's right to regulate and license home-

based businesses, basically allowing for unregulated home businesses that will affect the balance between business and residential use.

Seeing how both bills could negatively affect the quality of life of our residents, the City Commission passed resolutions in strong opposition. Municipalities also have the support of friendly state legislators who filed amendments restricting the preemptions. These resolutions and amendments are not anti-short-term rental or anti-home-business. These are meant to defend the right of a local municipality and its residents to decide what regulations and solutions are best for us.

I invite you to visit [floridaleagueofcities.com/sign-up-for-league-publications](https://floridaleagueofcities.com/sign-up-for-league-publications) to sign up for legislative alerts and learn how to oppose or support bills that will affect our quality of life.

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



# Making Our Roads Safer for Pedestrians and Bicyclists

Commissioner Dana Goldman

Among the tragedies that have rocked our community this past year, two stand out. The motorist collisions with a bicyclist on Collins Avenue and a pedestrian on Sunny Isles Boulevard, both fatal and both involving minors who live here, have shaken our residents to the very core. Words cannot adequately express our sorrow for the families of these two boys. The vulnerabilities on our busy roads and the dangers to our pedestrians and bicyclists have been laid bare.

It's been often stated that we are a car-centric culture. Motorists first, with pedestrians and bicyclists way behind and all too often competing for the same space. Collins Avenue and Sunny Isles Boulevard are designed and maintained to get the most vehicles through in the shortest span of time. They exist and function like highways. Yet at the same time, as we have developed in 20+ years, we have an ever-increasing number of

pedestrians and bicyclists in our city.

We all want a more walkable city. We all want our families, children, guests, and visitors in our resort community to be able to get around our streets, sidewalks, and crosswalks safely. Increased traffic enforcement and education is the platform for immediate and measurable progress. Then identifying warranted improvements with Miami-Dade County and FDOT for implementation, including signage, lighting and crosswalk functionality are in queue. We must reduce the speed limit where we can and improve our intersections, sidewalks and bicycle pathways. There must ultimately be a fundamental change of mind about how we view Collins Avenue and Sunny Isles Boulevard.

Contact Commissioner Dana Goldman at [seat3@sibfl.net](mailto:seat3@sibfl.net) or [786.512.6364](tel:786.512.6364).



# SPRING SCRAMBLE

*The Ultimate SIB Scavenger Hunt!*

Hunt begins at noon on Monday, March 29 & runs through noon on Saturday, April 3

## HOW TO PLAY

- ★ Download the free app, Goose Chase.
- ★ Enter our unique game code, SPRINGSCRAMBLE, & password, SPRINGSCRAMBLE.
- ★ Create a team or join as an individual.
- ★ Start completing the missions to collect points.
- ★ Complete all missions to collect your prize on Saturday, April 3 from 12 - 3 pm at 182 Drive.

FOR ADDITIONAL EVENT DETAILS, VISIT [SIBFL.NET/SPRINGSCRAMBLE](http://SIBFL.NET/SPRINGSCRAMBLE).

## April Meetings & Activities

### Virtual Lecture: Peripheral Vascular Disease

Presented by Mount Sinai Medical Center

Thursday, April 1 | 11 AM

[Live on Facebook](#)

### Blood Drive

Thursday, April 15 | 10:30 AM - 5 PM

SIB Government Center

*Appointments are required.*

### Hybrid Regular City Commission Meeting

Thursday, April 15 | 6:30 PM

### Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony

Friday, April 23 | 10 AM

Gateway Park Butterfly Garden

### Hybrid Special Magistrate Hearing

Thursday, April 29 | 10 AM

For complete meeting and activity details, visit [sibfl.net/events](http://sibfl.net/events).

## MULTI-AGENCY COLLECTION DAY | ELECTRONICS RECYCLING, SHRED-A-THON & DEA DRUG TAKEBACK

**Sunday, April 25 | 10 AM - 1 PM**  
**Bill Bird Marina at Haulover Park**  
**10800 Collins Avenue**

As part of our dedication to being ECOMMMITTED, the Sunny Isles Beach Police Department is partnering with multiple local agencies to provide residents a safe way to dispose of their personal documents, prescription medications, and recycle any old electronics. Participating residents will receive an ECOMMMITTED giveaway!

*Facial coverings are required & social distancing measures will be in place.*



For additional details, visit [sibfl.net/collectionday](http://sibfl.net/collectionday).



# BE SAFE & SMART

## IN SUNNY ISLES BEACH

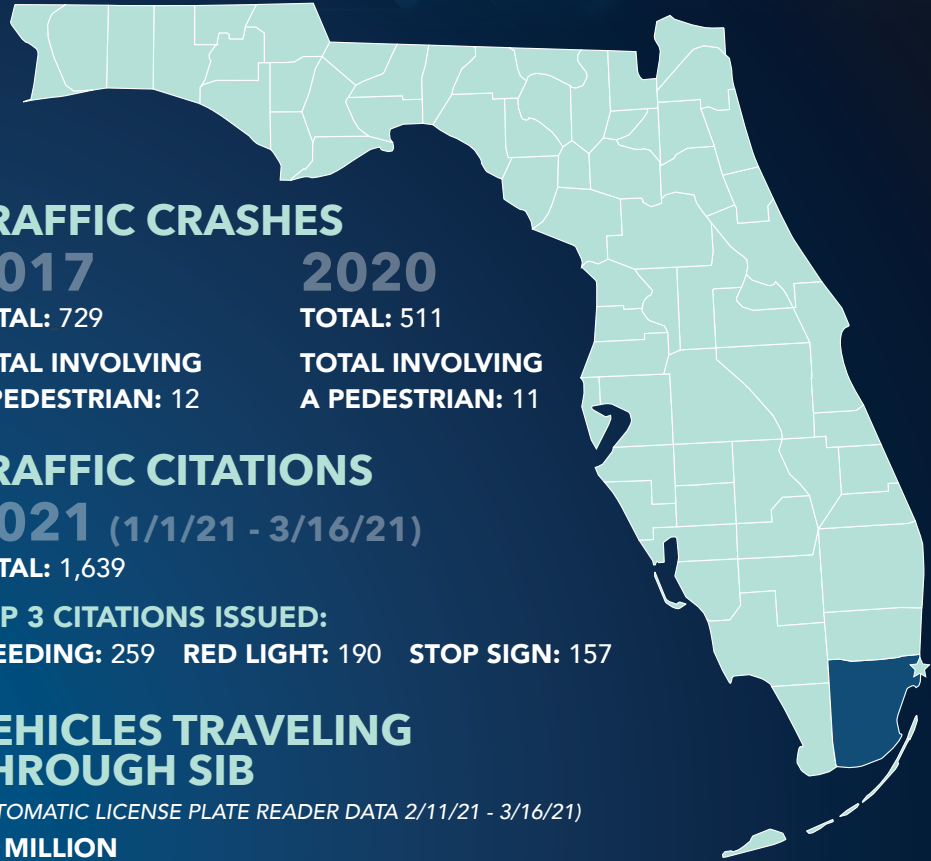
### A MESSAGE FROM SIBPD CHIEF DWIGHT SNYDER



The mission of the Sunny Isles Beach Police Department is to keep our community safe. In part due to recent traffic incidents, we have stepped up our presence with zero-tolerance enforcement and vigilance with High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) details along Collins Avenue and Sunny Isles Boulevard. Not only are we closely monitoring these hot spots, but we have increased enforcement and education across the entire city as an ongoing effort to promote the safe behaviors of all road users.

Kicking off the HVE detail on February 26, our officers made contact with 450 pedestrians, 63 cyclists, and 87 motorists between the 17000-18900 blocks on Collins Avenue. We will continue to educate and enforce the rules of the road throughout the entire city.

Sunny Isles Beach is your home. Our streets are where your children walk to school, where you bike for exercise, where you commute to work. We want every resident, visitor and traveler to feel safe when driving, walking, or bicycling in our city.



### SAFETY REMINDERS



**Whether you are a motorist, bicyclist or a pedestrian, you must follow the rules of the road. Obey all signs & signals.**

**Follow the speed limit & use extra caution when driving in hard-to-see conditions, such as nighttime or storms.**

**Eliminate distractions & keep your eyes on the road. When driving, cycling, or walking, do not be distracted by your phone.**

### PARK YOUR PHONE IN THE POUCH

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Distracted driving is a dangerous activity that puts your life and the lives of others at risk. Our mobile devices are never far away, but looking at your phone while driving can have dangerous consequences. We encourage all drivers to 'Park Your Phone in the Pouch,' whether that be in your bag, purse, or glove compartment, or one of the City's phone pouch giveaways. Need an extra pouch? Stop by the Government Center main lobby to pick one up all month long.



# SUNNY ISLES BEACH IS ECOMMITTED

This April, it's all about being ECOMMITTED. What positive changes are you making in your daily life to help ensure a thriving planet for generations to come? With Earth Day and Arbor Day this month, we want to see how you are committing to more eco-friendly behaviors. For more information about our ECOMMITTED campaign, visit [sibfl.net/ecommitted](http://sibfl.net/ecommitted).

## RECYCLING DO'S & DON'TS

If you are not recycling, it's time to start. Recycling is a simple way to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills, conserve natural resources, and save energy.

### DO

Recycle plastic bottles, cans, paper, cardboard and magazines.

Replace caps on plastic bottles before recycling.

Empty food & beverage containers completely before recycling.

Break down cardboard boxes before recycling.

### DON'T

Don't place non-recyclable garbage into recycling containers. This increases the cost of the recycling process as well as the garbage and recycling collection service.

Don't recycle materials with food or drink in them.

SIB does not collect glass objects. Place glass in the trash.

Read more about recycling in Sunny Isles Beach at [sibfl.net/recycling](http://sibfl.net/recycling).



## SEA TURTLE SEASON

Sea turtle season begins April 1 and ends on October 31. Sea turtles are protected in Florida under federal, state and local laws. Did you know all sea turtles are either threatened or endangered due to encroachment of coastal development, pollutants and marine debris, boating traffic, plastic ingestion, and artificial lighting? When you are on the beach, it is important to take preventative measures to protect sea turtles.

**1** Avoid using flashlights/flash photography on the beach at night.

**3** Remove all items from the beach at night, including beach chairs.

**2** Turn off or shield lights & close drapes/blinds to prevent lights from shining on the beach.

**4** Steer clear of marked sea turtle nests. Do not disturb nesting sea turtles, hatchlings or their nests.

Learn more about sea turtle season at [sibfl.net/seaturtles](http://sibfl.net/seaturtles).

**NEW!**

## POLYSTYRENE BAN

Polystyrene is all around us. Used to make Styrofoam, polystyrene can be found in cups, bowls, plates, trays, meat trays, egg cartons and other single-use packaging. Though ubiquitous, polystyrene is non-recyclable, non-biodegradable and poses a threat to waterways, wildlife, and the public drainage system.

Recognizing that polystyrene is harmful to the environment, the City Commission is taking action to limit it wherever possible within their purview. This resulted in a ban on the use or carrying of expanded polystyrene food articles, such as bags, containers, bowls, plates, lids, coolers, trays, cartons, cups, straws, and lids containing expanded polystyrene on City property or facilities, including our beach, parks, or Government Center, for all individuals.

Learn more about the polystyrene ban at [sibfl.net/ecommitted](http://sibfl.net/ecommitted).