



Islander

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AUGUST 2022

A MESSAGE FROM THE Mayor

“ Every year the City adopts a Comprehensive Budget & Five Year Capital Improvement Program for the upcoming fiscal year. Our fiscal year begins October 1, but the preparation and work begins much earlier. ”



Dana Robin Goldman
Mayor

We commence budget season in April and every department and division is involved in the process. The budget is driven first and foremost by you – our residents. All members of the Commission prepare their top priorities for the budget based on what we learn from speaking with and listening to the citizens of Sunny Isles Beach. Each Commissioner meets with the City Manager and department heads to direct staff on these priorities. In the months to follow, departments work on putting their budgets together. The goal is always to keep costs low without sacrificing the high level of service and quality the City is known for.

The budget is one of the City's most important annual responsibilities as it identifies and prioritizes projects for the upcoming fiscal year. Though it may seem intimidating at 300+ pages, the budget provides a blueprint for departments as they navigate daily and long-term projects throughout the year.

As in previous years, the Commission directed City administration to reduce the millage rate, but in doing so, continue to expand services and programs for residents. In a nutshell, doing more with less. The millage rate is how the City's property taxes are determined. Breaking it down, the millage rate is one tenth of a percent, which equates to \$1 in taxes for every \$1,000 in home value. Reducing the millage rate by .1 saves a homeowner \$1 for every \$1,000 in property value. To calculate property tax, you multiply

the total taxable value of the property by the millage rate. As an example, a property valued at \$200,000 with a millage rate of 2.1 would pay \$420 in property tax to the city (e.g., $200,000 \times .0021 = 420$). Whereas that same property with a millage rate of 2.0, our proposed millage rate, will pay \$400 in property tax to the city. The lower the millage rate, the lower your property taxes. The City aims to lower the millage rate again this year, while maintaining and improving upon our offerings.

The budget is a City responsibility that each and every department and division plays a significant role. I want to especially recognize the Finance Department, led by Finance Director Tiffany Neely, for their hard work and long hours dedicated to the budget process. It is no simple or easy feat putting together the budget. The Finance Department reviews every number and calculation down to the penny with focus and precision.

This month we will hold a budget workshop where the Commission will review and discuss the budget and capital improvement program for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. In September, we will host two Special City Commission Meetings to review and formally adopt the proposed budget. I invite you to attend or watch online to gain a better understanding of how the budget is put together and approved. More details will be posted on sibfl.net/events and our social media pages as well as sent via email in the coming weeks.

Contact Mayor Dana Robin Goldman at mayor@sibfl.net or 305.792.1753.

Beware of Fentanyl

Commissioner Alex Lama

Fentanyl overdose has become the leading cause of death in the U.S. for adults ages 18-45, per the CDC, with deaths involving synthetic opioids, mostly fentanyl, rising from 50,000 in 2020 to 71,000 in 2022. Fentanyl is a synthetic drug that is very cheap to manufacture and can be 100 times stronger than morphine and 50 times stronger than heroin. It is so potent that two milligrams of the drug, the equivalent of five grains of salt, could kill an adult.

Making the problem worse, dealers often mix the fentanyl with other synthetic drugs to increase the addictiveness of their product. Another grave issue is that other illegal drugs such as cocaine, meth and heroin are mixed with fentanyl to increase product volume. As a result, many users may be unaware they could be consuming a deadly dose of fentanyl.

In November 2020, a 19-year-old Hollywood, Florida resident died from ingesting Xanax laced with fentanyl he bought on social media; and during this past 4th of July weekend, residents of a small rural town outside of Tallahassee were shocked when nine people from their community died due to fentanyl consumption and another nine were treated for apparent fentanyl overdose.



According to the Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement, 5,086 people died from fentanyl in the state in 2020, with South Florida accounting for the highest number of deaths. It is imperative we are all aware of this epidemic and understand we need to be vigilant and help mitigate its deadly effects on our society.

Helpful Resources:

Street words used for fentanyl:

Apache, China Girl, China Town, China White, Dance Fever, Goodfellas, Great Bear, He-Man, Jackpot, Murder 8, and Tango and Cash.

DEA chart decoding drug emojis on social media:

dea.gov/sites/default/files/2021-12/Emoji%20Decoded.pdf

Substance abuse and mental health help:

hopeforhealingfl.com

sfwn.org

myflfamilies.com/APathwaytoProsperity

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

An Elevator Service Alert For All Hi-Rise Condo Owners

Commissioner Jerry Joseph

Recently I was contacted by a pregnant hi-rise condominium owner who was asking for assistance regarding repeated and daily service issues with the freight and passenger elevators in her building, causing pregnant, elderly and infirm residents to continually get stuck in faulty elevators or to walk up numerous flights of stairs. I told the resident that elevator inspections and maintenance issues come under Miami-Dade County supervision and I promptly contacted Commissioner Sally Heyman's office where the professionalism and concern for the issues at hand exceeded my expectations.

Inspections of the building elevators were immediately undertaken finding expired certifications and old equipment for which parts were not readily available. It was determined that management was not properly maintaining the aged elevators in a safe manner, and playing

a shell game to keep the outdated elevators running. Miami-Dade County took steps to force management to ensure the replacement of equipment where necessary.

Any Sunny Isles Beach resident having similar elevator problems in their hi-rise should freely contact me for immediate assistance. Being an advocate for the residents of Sunny Isles Beach and to take on previously unaddressed issues that concern resident safety, speeding, noise control, smoke-free outdoor dining, park expansion and revision, and Biscayne Bay pollution causing beach closures, is why I ran to be your Commissioner, and I can be depended upon to work tirelessly for everyone.



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

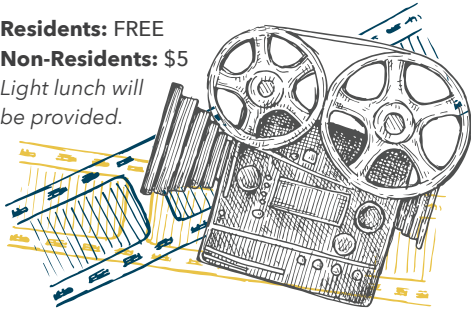
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST

Modern Era Movie: *It's A Wonderful Life*

Tuesday, August 2 | 10 AM - 1 PM
Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Residents: FREE
Non-Residents: \$5
Light lunch will
be provided.



National Night Out

Tuesday, August 2
6:30 - 8:30 PM

Gateway Park, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

As a part of the Sunny Isles Beach Police Department's community policing initiative we are celebrating with a parade and activities for kids.



August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

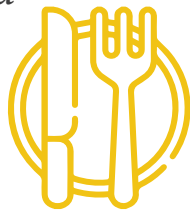
Wednesday | 3 - 4 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Lunch n' Learn with Florida Historian, Cesar Becerra

Tuesday, August 9
11 - 11:45 AM
FREE

Gateway Center,
151 Sunny Isles Blvd.
Snacks will be available
for purchase.
Pre-registration required.



Full Moon Yoga

Wednesday, August 10

7:45 - 8:45 PM

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

Residents: FREE
Non-Residents: \$5

Pre-registration required.

Teens Only: Dash N' Splash

Friday, August 12 | 7 - 9 PM | FREE

Pelican Community Park, 18115 N. Bay Rd.

City Commission Budget Workshop

Tuesday, August 16 | 10 AM

Commission Chambers Government Center,
18070 Collins Ave.

Concert in the Park Riverdown

**Wednesday,
August 17**
7 - 9 PM

FREE

Samson
Oceanfront Park,
17425 Collins Ave.

Senior Roundtable

Wednesday, August 31

12 - 1:30 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.
Pre-registration required.

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

Thursday, August 11

5:30 - 8:30 PM

FREE

Pelican Community Park,
18115 N. Bay Road

We're celebrating back to school Sunny Isles Beach style. Join us for music, games, school information, rides, and more.

**FOR COMPLETE EVENT
DETAILS, VISIT**

sibfl.net/events

SPOTLIGHT ON...

IT DEPARTMENT

This month we spotlight our hardworking Information Technology department. Cybersecurity and connectivity are a 24/7 commitment, and our IT department is always up to the task.

The IT Department is currently spearheading the deployment of a citywide fiber optic network. This project has been in the works for the last 10 years, beginning with placing conduits underground throughout the city for this use. Until now, the city has relied on wireless for connectivity between all city facilities, without any physical infrastructure connecting our locations.

This project will interconnect every city property using 26,500 feet of fiber to provide superior redundancy and resiliency that will offer better service to our staff and residents. The final phase of this project will commence this year and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

INSIDE THE *Isles* Parks Master Plan

Our Cultural & Community Services department is in the process of developing a Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The purpose of this is to develop a comprehensive park system plan that will define the direction, development and delivery of the City's parks and recreation services over the next 10 years.

Driven by community needs, wants and priorities, the plan will feature four stages: Learning, Exploring, Envisioning and Implementing. We are working with AECOM Technical Services - a subsidiary of AECOM, the world's trusted infrastructure consulting firm - who deliver professional services throughout the project lifecycle - from planning, design and engineering to program and construction management.

Residents will be encouraged to participate beginning around September and October as we collect feedback on our parks and recreation services through a series of public engagement opportunities, including focus groups, surveys, public meetings and workshops, and a virtual meeting room.

We are excited to embark on this project and look forward to sharing more details with you soon!

More information and periodic project updates will be shared online at sibfl.net.

AUTISM OUTREACH PROGRAM



Help our Sunny Isles Beach Police Department officers better serve those in our community who live with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Through this program, we hope to maintain a database of Autistic individuals we may interact with in hopes of improving our response. Participation is voluntary.

Fill out the online form with information about the person with ASD. By submitting the form, the information regarding the individual with ASD will be sent directly to Sunny Isles Beach Police Department's Communications Unit to input into our database. Your information will be maintained in accordance with Florida Public Records law. As such, any information that is confidential or exempt will not be released to the public.

This process will allow officers who are responding to an incident involving a person with ASD to appropriately prepare for and handle the situation. Ultimately, through the Sunny Isles Beach Police Department's Autism Outreach Program, we will be improving these interactions for all parties involved

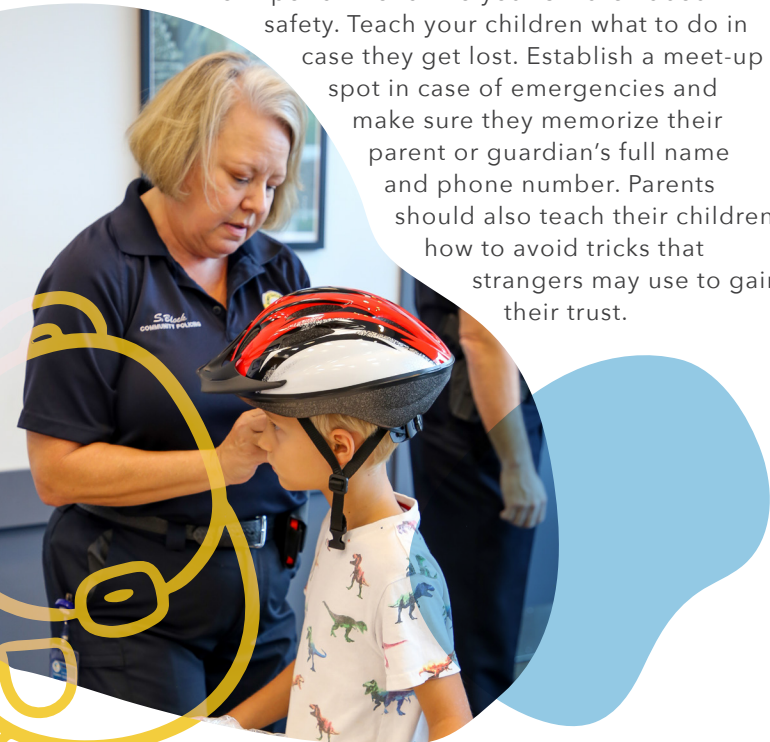
The Autism Outreach Program is only available for individuals who reside in the City of Sunny Isles Beach. For additional information, please email autism@sibpd.net.

REGISTER NOW

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

August marks the start of another school year and we want to ensure your children's safety.

It's important to talk to your children about safety. Teach your children what to do in case they get lost. Establish a meet-up spot in case of emergencies and make sure they memorize their parent or guardian's full name and phone number. Parents should also teach their children how to avoid tricks that strangers may use to gain their trust.



VACCINATIONS

Vaccination is also an important part of back-to-school safety. You have the power to protect against vaccine-preventable diseases. Vaccines are safe, effective, and the best way to provide immunity before children are exposed to potentially life-threatening diseases. Help prevent the spread of disease by working with your doctor to stay up to date on recommended vaccines.

Learn more about the vaccines your child is eligible for on the [CDC's website](#). Setting the right example for your children to follow will make our school and community that much safer. We hope you join us in making the 2022/2023 school year safe, happy, and productive!

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY DROP-OFF & PICK-UP

Stay alert and avoid distracted driving, walking or riding.

- If walking your child to school, please use pedestrian crosswalks and obey crossing guards.
- If biking, make sure your child always wears a properly fitted helmet and bright clothing.
- If driving, obey school zone speed limits and follow the school's drop-off and pick-up procedure.

If you are using the school drop-off and pick-up lane, make sure your student exits only from the passenger side of the vehicle in a timely manner so the line can move efficiently. No parking or dropping off your child in the RKC shopping plaza is permitted and your car will be subject to towing by the private property owner.

Learn more at sibfl.net/schooltraffic.



FALL PROGRAMS

REGISTRATION

Resident: Aug 2 | Non-Resident: Aug 16

As summer comes to a close, we are gearing up for fall programming. This season is jam packed with programs, services and events for every age. We have expanded programming across the board for youth, adults and seniors.

New youth programs include a mommy and me art, modern and ballroom dance, and theater.

Our more creative adults can join one of six art workshops and our adults looking to stay in shape can join a new fitness class.

And we are offering more programs for our seniors than ever before. Cultural trips are back and we have some exciting excursions planned. There will be an expanded set of medical lectures, new classes, and more events just for seniors. One special perk we are introducing for seniors through this expanded programming is offering a free lunch opportunity every week at various programs.

REGISTER TODAY
activities.sibfl.net

YOUTH PROGRAMS

ADULT PROGRAMS

SENIOR PROGRAMS

Check out all youth, adult and senior programs at activities.sibfl.net.
Save the date for fall events by visiting our event calendar at sibfl.net/events.

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MEDIA DIVISION

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