



Islander

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JANUARY 2023

A MESSAGE FROM THE City Manager

Stan Morris

“ As 2023 begins, I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year. We look forward to another prosperous year in Sunny Isles Beach. ”

2022 concluded with elections for Mayor and two Commission seats. I want to congratulate Mayor Larisa Svechin, Vice Mayor Jeniffer Viscarra, and Commissioner Alex Lama on their successful campaigns. They are ready to hit the ground running and expand on all the progress we made last year.

There are many moving parts that must work together for an election to succeed. General and special elections are managed as a cooperative effort between the City Clerk's Office and the Miami-Dade County Elections Department, with our City Clerk, Mauricio Betancur, serving as the supervisor of elections for city elections. Both offices share the common goal of ensuring that all elections are conducted in a fair, transparent, and efficient manner.

The election process begins with the City Clerk's office qualifying candidates who wish to run for

office. They provide each candidate with the required forms, deadlines, and general information needed for their campaigns. The Clerk's office also publishes and distributes public notices to keep our residents informed during the election cycle.

Fair and transparent elections are two of the pillars of our democracy. Voting is a fundamental right that makes our community and our country better. Exercising your right to vote is an important way to preserve the integrity of the democratic process. On behalf of the City Commission and the employees of the City of Sunny Isles Beach, thank you to everyone who made their vote count last year.

We celebrate this past year of successes while we are excited for what is to come in Sunny Isles Beach this new year.

Contact City Manager Stan Morris at smorris@sibfl.net or [305.792.1701](tel:305.792.1701).

Charter Revision Commission: *An Amazing Opportunity for Civic Engagement*

Vice Mayor Jeniffer Viscarra



First and foremost, I want to wish all our residents a very happy and prosperous New Year. I am starting 2023 as the re-elected Commissioner for Seat 4, an accomplishment that is only possible with the support of the community, for which I am grateful. Thank you!

If you watched the December meeting, you are aware that the City Commission appointed a Charter Revision Commission (CRC) consisting of five persons including four from the Residential Areas from which the City Commissioners were elected and the Mayor's appointment who may reside anywhere in the City. Congratulations to all appointees who were unanimously ratified by the City Commission. In addition, the Mayor may appoint one Commissioner serving their second consecutive term to serve as a non-voting CRC member. I am honored to have been chosen by my colleagues as that person.

The CRC shall commence its proceedings within 45 days after appointment by the Commission and shall have 120 days from the date of appointment to present their recommendations to the City Commission. The City Commission will then submit the recommendations to voters. In 2013, the CRC considered strengthening the proof of residency requirements for political candidates, the City Manager's scope of authority over certain positions, and the requirement to use the services of Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department. I look forward to hearing what the 2023 CRC brings forward. For voters, this will be a once-in-a-decade opportunity to shape what is, in essence, the city's constitution. I hope you take the time to get informed and use your voice in this very important undertaking!

Contact Vice Mayor Jeniffer Viscarra at seat4@sibfl.net or [305.792.1750](tel:305.792.1750).

Decorum

Proper behavior that shows respect and good manners

Commissioner Fabiola Stuyvesant



As established in chapter 74 of our Code of Ordinances, the Commission shall be governed by Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure. Below are some of these rules in a nutshell:

Order of Business: There shall be an official agenda for every meeting of the Commission, which shall determine the order of business conducted at the meeting.

Public Hearings: Any citizen shall be entitled to speak on any matter appearing on the official agenda under the section entitled "Public Hearings" subject to the Citizens' Bill of Rights and these rules of procedure.

Addressing Commission: All remarks shall be addressed to the Commission as a body and not to any member thereof. No

question shall be asked to a Commissioner except through the presiding officer.

Decorum: Any person making impertinent or slanderous remarks or who becomes boisterous while addressing the Commission shall be barred from further appearance before the Commission by the presiding officer, unless permission to continue or again address the Commission is granted by the majority vote of the Commission members present. No clapping, applauding, heckling or verbal outbursts in support or opposition to a speaker or their remarks shall be permitted.

Therefore, in order to have productive Commission Meetings, please abide by those simple rules. It would be much appreciated.

Contact Commissioner Fabiola Stuyvesant at seat3@sibfl.net or [305.792.1751](tel:305.792.1751).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY



New Year's Day

Sunday, Jan. 1 & Monday, Jan. 2

City facilities closed.

SIBshuttle will not run on Sunday, January 1. Only the SIBshuttle Orange Line #1 will run on Monday, January 2.

Bingo

January 4, 11, 18, 25

Wednesdays | 3 - 4 PM

\$2 per game

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Gateway Market

Wednesday, January 4, 11, 18, 25

5:30 - 10 PM | FREE

Gateway Park, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Special City

Commission Meeting:

Official Mayoral Swearing-in

Thursday, January 5 | 3 PM

4th Floor Conference Room,
Government Center

Full Moon Yoga

Friday, January 6

5:30 - 6:30 PM | FREE

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

Pre-registration encouraged.

Family Movie Night on the Beach: Luca

Saturday, January 7

7:00 PM | FREE

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



Mount Sinai Lunch & Learn

Monday, January 9

11 AM - 1 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Pre-registration is required. Lunch is included.

Lunch n' Learn with Florida Historian Cesar Becerra

Tuesday, January 10

11 - 11:45 AM | FREE

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Lunch is included. Pre-registration required.

Residents: FREE | Non-Residents: \$5



Teen Talk

Tuesday, January 10

6 - 9 PM | FREE

The Spot, 215 185 St.

Snacks and drinks will be served.

Cultural Trip: Coconut Creek Casino

Wednesday, January 11

Bus departs Gateway Center at 9 AM.

Coconut Creek, FL

Residents: \$5 | Non-Residents: \$10

Pre-registration required.

Mayoral Swearing-in Ceremony

Thursday, January 12 | 6:30 PM

Commission Chambers,
Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

Adult Game Night:

Wheely Big Trivia

Friday, January 13

5:30 - 6:30 PM | \$2 per game

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Beach Cleanup

Saturday, January 14

8 AM - 12 PM

Pier Park, 16501 Collins Ave.

Federal Holiday:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, January 16

City facilities closed.

Only the SIBshuttle Orange Line #2 will run.

Doc Chats:

New Year, Same You

Wednesday, January 18

11 AM - 12 PM | FREE

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Lunch is included. Pre-registration required.

Hygiene Pack Distribution Program

Thursday, January 19

12 - 1 PM | FREE

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Residents only. Pre-registration required.

Regular City Commission Meeting

Thursday, January 19 | 6:30 PM

Commission Chambers, Government Center,
18070 Collins Ave.

Arbor Day Celebration

Friday, January 20 | 10 AM

Pelican Community Park, 18115 North Bay Rd.

Teen Event: *Laser Tag*

Friday, January 20

7 - 9 PM | FREE

Pelican Community Park, 18115 North Bay Rd.
Pre-registration required.

Bike Safety Giveaway: *Helmets, Lights & Vests*

Sunday, January 22

9AM - 1 PM | FREE

First Floor Meeting Room, Government Center
18070 Collins Ave.

Midday Movies: *Eat, Pray, Love*

Monday, January 23

10 AM - 12 PM | FREE

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Lunch is included.

Doc Chats:

Holiday Spending Recovery

Wednesday, January 25

11 AM - 12 PM | FREE

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Lunch is included. Pre-registration required.

Senior Round Table

Wednesday, January 25

12 - 2 PM | FREE

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Pre-registration required.

**FOR A COMPLETE LIST
OF EVENTS, VISIT
sibfl.net/events**

SPOTLIGHT ON...

CITY CLERK & ELECTIONS

As we enter the New Year, we want to spotlight our hardworking City Clerk's Office. The department has been especially busy the last few years, overseeing several special and general elections. Coordinating and preparing for elections is no small feat, but the department of three successfully managed six elections in the last two years.

In addition to overseeing municipal and special elections, the City Clerk's Office, led by City Clerk Mauricio Betancur, serves the city with access to public records, preparing agendas and recording minutes for all Commission Meetings, and preserving all documentation of the City Commission's actions.

The Office of the City Clerk acts as a gatekeeper to the City's most important archives and information. They continue to provide excellent and efficient service to both the City Commission and Sunny Isles Beach residents.

Want to learn more about the City Clerk's Office?
Visit sibfl.net/office-of-the-city-clerk.



2023 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Attention All High School Seniors:

The Sunny Isles Beach College Scholarship program is awarding scholarships to four outstanding high school seniors.

This year, our scholarship program also includes the *Mayor Norman S. Edelcup College Scholarship for Excellence in the Arts* which will be awarded to a deserving student who exhibits a passion for the arts, and the *Chief Fred A. Maas College Scholarship for Athletic Accomplishment* which will be awarded to a student who displays a passion for sports.

The scholarships will award points for the student's activities outside of the classroom related to arts and sports, while also taking grades and service into consideration.

Applicants must be a graduating high school senior, a current resident of the City of Sunny Isles Beach for at least one year prior to January 1, 2023, and perform a minimum of 100 hours of community service, preferably with the City of Sunny Isles Beach.

For more information and to apply, visit sibfl.net/scholarships.

January 2023

INSIDE THE *Isles*



2023 Desktop Calendar

Looking to keep track of 2023? You're in luck! The City produces a free desktop calendar every year. With stunning photography by residents, visitors and employees, the 2023 calendar features 17 unique images from 14 talented photographers, all taken in Sunny Isles Beach.



Copies of the desktop calendar are available for free at the Sunny Isles Beach Government Center, Pelican Community Park, and Gateway Center.

Have you taken an amazing photo of our beautiful city? We accept photos for the photo contest year-round! Submissions for the upcoming calendar year are due on September 1. Learn more at sibfl.net/photocontest.



Applications must be complete and submitted by **Tuesday, February 21, 2023 by 5 PM.**

POLICE ACCREDITATION BY CHIEF SANTIAGO

A member of the community (and good friend) asked me a simple question, "what is police accreditation?" It was then I knew that it needed to be explained to the community. The community has been served since 1998 by a group of dedicated and well-trained officers from various backgrounds. These officers have always strived to be professional and compassionate. How does the police department improve upon such a dedicated workforce? The answer - accreditation.

This is a major project that will take several years to complete, but will be the most worthwhile investment the agency has ever made. To obtain accredited status is a significant accomplishment that we will achieve. Read on to better understand the meaning of police accreditation and why it is needed.

The Florida Legislature enacted Florida State Statute 943.125, which provided the framework for the accreditation of public safety agencies to include law enforcement. Essentially it defines the purpose of accreditation, who will manage the process, and what aspects of law enforcement need to be addressed.

The purpose of law enforcement accreditation per state statute is to "maximize the capability of law enforcement agencies to enforce the law and control criminal activities." This is accomplished by voluntarily adopting standards that are designed to enhance the professionalism of the agency. It was important to the Legislature that this process was managed by an independent entity. It could not be a law enforcement agency who is responsible for the oversight and administration of the accreditation of agencies. The Legislature also decided the accreditation program must address at a minimum the following:

Vehicle pursuits	Collection and preservation of evidence
Seizure and forfeiture of contraband articles	Recruitment and selection
Recording and processing citizen complaints	Officer training
Use of force	Performance standards
Traffic stops	Law enforcement disciplinary procedures and rights
Handling natural and man-made disasters	Use of criminal investigative funds
Special operations	Access to and use of personal identification information
Prisoner transfer	

Once the standards are adopted by the agency's Chief Executive, they become a guide for officers. It gives them direction, which enhances their confidence and effectiveness. These standards are always available electronically to the officers. It provides clear and concise guidance on various issues they may encounter while working.

If I were reading this article, the next question I would ask is how close is the Sunny Isles Beach Police Department to achieving accredited status? Fair question. I was made your Chief of Police on April 4, 2022. At the May 2022 Commission Meeting I brought your elected officials an agreement with Doug Robertson, an accreditation manager with 32 years of accreditation experience, to achieve accredited status for our agency. He is also a former Chief of Police and current accreditation manager of a local agency with a stellar reputation. I thought it was important to have an outside manager look at our practices and enhance them to conform with accreditation standards. The agreement provided a blueprint on how to achieve accreditation. His contract is financed through forfeited funds acquired from drug investigations from our detached detectives. This contract is not an added expense for taxpayers.

The first step was to sign a formal agreement with the accrediting agency, the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. I signed the agreement on June 1, 2022, and Mr. Robertson went to work. Since signing the agreement, we are 97% complete with policy development and 66% complete with our internal review of the policies. Once the policies are completed and conform to the accreditation standards, we will begin to document compliance with the standards. Moving forward, we have a goal of scheduling a "mock assessment" of our agency in August 2023. During this mock assessment, assessors will come to the agency and evaluate our revamped policies and practices to determine if they will pass a formal assessment. The next goal would be to have the formal on-site assessment in September 2023. Once this is complete, we will be presented to the accrediting entity in hopes of becoming formally accredited.

I hope this explains the importance of police accreditation. As your Chief of Police, I will do everything I can to continue to offer the community a well-trained and professional police force. Accreditation will just support and optimize the service you have been accustomed to.





PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

New Heights for Parks, Culture & Community




The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is well underway as the Cultural & Community Services Department seeks to gain important feedback from residents to build a longstanding future for the City's parks and recreation services.

We are launching a public engagement platform for residents to provide input on the needs and priorities for the parks and recreation facilities in our community.

A Virtual Open House will be available on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan website, oursibparksplan.com, beginning in January. We encourage you to watch the welcome video, view information boards, and participate in various engagement exercises to share your input.

In addition to the Virtual Open House, we are also offering an online survey for you to complete. Help us by identifying your park, open space, and recreation needs and priorities. The survey is voluntary and will take approximately 10-12 minutes to complete. Your answers will remain completely confidential.

You can access the Virtual Open House or complete the survey at any time. Share the link with your friends and neighbors and help establish your community vision!



Check out our
Virtual Open House at
oursibparksplan.com.

Learn more about our parks master plan and our virtual open house at oursibparksplan.com.

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