



# Islander

Follow us @CityofSIB |     YouTube

JUNE 2023

## A MESSAGE FROM THE Mayor

“ Our City Charter is the founding document for Sunny Isles Beach. It is our citizens’ bill of rights, defines our form of government and city boundaries, and outlines how the city administration and legislation should be run. ”



Larisa Svechin  
Mayor

Reexamining the Charter is an important part of our local democracy. Per our founders’ prudence, we must establish a Charter Revision Commission, made up of five citizens and one non-voting City Commission member, every 10 years to propose changes to the Charter. In December 2022, we appointed the Charter Revision Commission to begin the review process and on May 23, we held a special election for citizens to vote on the 14 proposed charter amendments.

This was the charter’s third revision by a Charter Revision Commission since incorporation in 1997, and all amendments were passed. Though many of the changes may not affect your day-to-day lives, the review process is imperative for our municipality.

Below are summaries of the amendments and what they mean for our city. You can read in more detail about each amendment at [sibfl.net/proposed-charter-amendments](http://sibfl.net/proposed-charter-amendments).

1. The Vice Mayor is to be nominated by the Mayor and approved by the Commission.
2. Commission member terms now start on the 14th day (or first Monday) after the member is elected or immediately after results are certified from a special election.
3. Candidates running for Mayor or Commission must pay a qualifying fee of \$200.
4. Should all members of the Commission be removed by resignation, recall, disability, or death, the special elections called for are pursuant to the Charter and Code of Ordinances.
5. Compensation for the Mayor and Commissioners will increase annually according to the South Florida area’s Consumer Price Index.

6. No member of the Commission is eligible for appointment as City Manager until five years after the term they are elected for ends.
7. The Mayor nominates the City Clerk, and the Commission confirms by majority. The City Clerk reports to the Commission and may be removed by a majority vote.
8. The Mayor nominates an individual attorney or law firm to act as City Attorney and the Commission confirms by majority.
9. No former elected City official may hold a compensated appointive City office or employment until three years after their term has ended.
10. Special elections should be governed in the same manner as run-off elections.
11. The Charter has removed a provision that allows the ballot title of a measure to differ from its legal title.
12. The next Charter Revision Commission will be appointed at the first City Commission Meeting in January 2033, and every 10 years after.
13. Charter amendments must be submitted to the City Commission within 150 days after the Charter Revision Commission is appointed. The City Commission will submit them to the City at the next regularly scheduled general election, or call a special election.

Having you, our citizens, vote on these amendments is crucial to maintaining a representative government. Though a special election for a referendum may not seem as paramount as an election for a candidate, participating in your local government is essential for our city to operate at its highest capacity.

I hope you will choose to exercise your right to vote at the next election. Whether it be electing a new Commissioner or amending our city’s founding document. Your vote matters.

Contact Mayor Larisa Svechin at [mayor@sibfl.net](mailto:mayor@sibfl.net) or [305.792.1753](tel:305.792.1753).

# MESSAGE FROM THE City Manager

Stan Morris



Many residents wonder what their city does to serve them. Often, police and fire rescue services come to mind, but we do so much more. Parks, landscaping, lighting, street and sidewalk maintenance, and storm water maintenance are some of the less glamorous but much needed services we provide.

Your expectations, like ours, are extremely high. We live and work

in the most beautiful city in South Florida. Through future videos and messages, we will share with you the many things that we do to maintain our world class city!

Though we live in a world of negativity and complaints, we want to share the real narrative of the hard work our staff does daily to benefit you and welcome your feedback.

We service and maintain 11 fabulous parks and are working to add to our inventory. From the farmers market on Wednesdays at Gateway Park to pressuring cleaning sidewalks and bus benches on nights and weekends to installing new faucets at the fish cutting tables on the pier, we are always working to improve our services to you, our residents.

Fast Fact - Our Finance Department just completed a yearly required comprehensive audit. This audit, by an independent firm, presents the findings at a public meeting to the City Commission. The audit showed that we are on track and all our spending and handling of your money is proper, safe, and true.

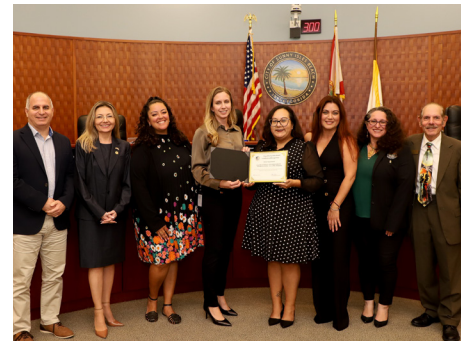
Related and of great importance,



our Finance team was recently awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 15th consecutive year. They were also awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 13th consecutive year. These awards are from outside agencies that look deeply into our budget and financial reporting. These are high standards to meet, and our Finance Department exceeded them.

The definition of 'behind the scenes' is truly our Media Division.

Always behind the camera or strategically writing and designing in an office, this creative group is likely the ones you interact with most. They design, draft, and publish all the communications for the city. They leave their mark on everything you see, hear, and read. After years of producing quality materials, they finally entered their material for an award and were recognized for their quarterly publication, Live and Play, from the National Association of Government Communicators. This magazine is used by thousands of residents to learn about all of the events and activities that take place in Sunny Isles Beach.



Other notable accomplishments in recent months include the launch of the Digital Plan Review by the Building Department and the commencement of advisory committee meetings. We also welcomed three new businesses in Sunny Isles Beach. Egg Scramble hosted over 2,000 guests in April for a morning full of spring fun. Registration is now open for summer camp, and we are planning for fall programming with some input from the Parks and Recreation Master Plan that is nearing completion.

If you have any questions about your city, please come in and meet with us.

Visit our YouTube page to see more behind the scenes footage of Your City At Work at [youtube.com/cityofsib](https://www.youtube.com/cityofsib).

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

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## JUNE

### Mini-FLOW for Seniors 55+ and Teens 17 & under

**Thursday, June 1**

**9:30 AM - 1 PM**

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

### Full Moon Yoga on the Beach

**Saturday, June 3**

**7:45 - 8:45 PM | FREE**

Samson Oceanfront Park (on the beach),  
17425 Collins Ave.  
Pre-registration is encouraged.



**June 7, 14, 21, 28**

**Wednesdays | 3 - 4 PM**

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

### Gateway Market

**Wednesdays, June 7, 14, 21, 28**

**5:30 - 10 PM | FREE**

Gateway Park, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

**26<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

## BEACH BASH

**SUNDAY, JUNE 11 | 6 PM**

Join us at one of three locations, beachside.

Join us on the beach for live music, activities, food and drinks, a drone show, and more! Bring your beach chairs, towels, and blankets and find a spot on the beach.

**RESIDENTS | FREE**  
*with valid City-issued Resident ID Card*

**NON-RESIDENTS | \$30**

Wristbands required per location, with access to all three locations. Meal included with wristband registration.  
One registration per resident.  
**Wristbands will not be sold on-site.**

### Lunch n' Learn with Florida Historian Cesar Becerra

**Tuesday, June 13**

**11 AM - 12 PM | FREE**

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.  
**Residents: FREE | Non-Residents: \$5**  
Pre-registration is required.  
Light refreshments included.



### Summer Movie Series: Grease

**Tuesday, June 13 | 12 PM**

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.  
17425 Collins Ave.  
Pre-registration is required.  
Light refreshments included.

### Teen Talk

**Tuesday, June 13**

**6 - 9 PM | FREE**

Pelican Community Park  
18115 North Bay Rd.  
Snacks and drinks will be served.



### Regular City Commission Meeting

**Thursday, June 15**

**6:30 PM**

Commission Chambers, Government Center,  
18070 Collins Ave.

### Cultural Trips: MOCA

**Friday, June 16 | 10:30 AM**

770 NE 125 St, North Miami, FL 33161  
Bus departs Gateway Center at 10:30 AM  
**Residents: \$15 | Non-Residents: \$25**  
Pre-registration is required.

### Federal Holiday: Juneteenth

**Monday, June 19**

City facilities closed.  
SIBshuttle will run regularly.

### Summer Movie Series: Megan

**Tuesday, June 20**

**11:30 PM | FREE**

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.  
Pre-registration is required.  
Light refreshments included.

### How to do Business with the City Workshop

**Thursday, June 22**

**11:30 AM**

First Floor Meeting Room, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.  
To register, email [purchasing@sibfl.net](mailto:purchasing@sibfl.net)

### Cultural Trips: Superblue

**Friday, June 23 | 10 AM**

1101 NW 23 St, Miami, FL 33127  
Bus departs Gateway Center at 10 AM  
**Residents: \$15 | Non-Residents: \$25**  
Pre-registration is required.

### Casting with a Cop

**Sunday, June 25**

**8 AM - 3 PM | FREE**

Newport Fishing Pier, 16501 Collins Ave.  
Pre-registration is required.

### Senior Roundtable

**Wednesday, June 28**

**12 - 1 PM**

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

### Cultural Trips: PuttShack Mini Golf

**Friday, June 30 | 10:15 AM**

701 S Miami Ave, Miami, FL 33131  
Bus departs Gateway Center at 10:15 AM  
**Residents: \$25 | Non-Residents: \$40**  
Pre-registration is required.



## SENIOR SUMMER CAMP

New activities, classes and events at Gateway Center every week, all summer long.

Visit [activities.sibfl.net](http://activities.sibfl.net) to register.

**FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF EVENTS, VISIT**  
[sibfl.net/events](http://sibfl.net/events)



# CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS JUNE 1 - NOVEMBER 30

## AT THE BEGINNING OF HURRICANE SEASON

Hurricane season starts June 1, which means it's time to get prepared. Because Sunny Isles Beach is in the Zone B floodplain, a hurricane may cause storm surge, high winds, tornadoes, flooding or loss of utility

services. There are many resources for residents to ensure you are prepared this hurricane season. Read below for more information on how you can prepare your family and home before, during and after a storm.

## BEFORE THE STORM HITS

It is imperative you have a plan in place for your family this hurricane season. Know that Sunny Isles Beach is in Storm Surge Planning Zone B and at risk for storm surge for Category 2 or higher storms. If the storm's threat is significant enough, Zone B may be evacuated due to storm surge. Have an evacuation plan in place should an order be issued. Plan your route and identify how you would get there.



## HURRICANE SUPPLY KIT

A supply kit is an important part of your hurricane plan. Most items can be found in your home, but you should contain them in one specific place. Below are some suggested items to include in your kit.

- 7-day supply of non-perishable foods & water
- Flashlights with extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Cash
- Battery-powered portable television or radio with extra batteries
- Sanitation and hygiene items
- Extra clothing, blankets and sleeping bags
- Kitchen accessories and cooking utensils, manual can opener
- Photocopies of important documents

*This includes identification, insurance, prescriptions, household inventory, credit cards, utility bill, birth certificates, adoption certificates, marriage licenses, divorce papers, Social Security cards, passport, green cards, will, bank statements.*

- Prescription medications, eyeglasses, contact lens solution and hearing aid
- Batteries
- Formula, baby food, diapers and pacifiers
- Pet carriers, leashes, shot records, and food for each animal evacuating with you



# BEFORE THE STORM *CONTINUED*

---

## *Tree Preparation*

In the months prior to hurricane season, be sure to properly prune your trees. Never “top” or “hatrack” any tree. Hatracking is when a tree is cut or chopped so badly that it is left with few or no leaves on the branches. Do not remove more than 25 percent of the tree canopy. Remove mainly the interior branches. Make sure to correctly dispose of all tree cuttings and schedule a bulky waste pickup.

# DURING THE STORM

---

If a storm is threatening our area, we will post the latest information on city closures, evacuation orders and updates, on our webpage at [sibfl.net/emergency](http://sibfl.net/emergency) and our social media platforms.

When a storm is announced, make sure your home is prepared with the following steps:

- Remove balcony and yard items.
- Cover up windows and doors.
- Dispose of yard trash properly and declutter drains and gutters.
- Be ready to turn off your power if you see flooding, downed power lines, or you have to leave your home.
- Fill clean water containers with drinking water. *You can also fill up your sinks and bathtubs with water for washing.*
- Check your carbon monoxide (CO) detector’s battery to prevent CO poisoning.
- Keep your cell phone and electronics charged.
- Check with neighbors, senior adults, or those who may need additional help securing hurricane plans to see how you can be of assistance to others.

## *Pets*

When you make plans for your family, don’t forget your furry friends. If evacuating or riding out the storm at a friend or family member’s house, remember to take your pets with you. Animal Services also operates some pet-friendly shelters during emergencies where you can bring your pets if evacuating.



## *Evacuations*

If Miami-Dade County orders Zone B to evacuate, all residents and visitors are required by Florida law to evacuate. Upon receiving a mandatory evacuation order, you should leave as quickly as possible as evacuation routes become severely congested. Be prepared to be self-sufficient for the first 72 hours after a storm. Utilities could be damaged and unavailable for extended periods of time, and high winds and water could isolate those residents for long periods of time. There will be no emergency services available once Sunny Isles Beach is evacuated.

**PLEASE NOTE:** the County provides free transportation to open Hurricane Evacuation Centers from predetermined pickup locations in Sunny Isles Beach: Arlen House Condominiums, Winston Towers, Golden Shores area, and Ocean View Condominiums.

**Evacuate if ordered. Sunny Isles Beach is on a barrier island where even in moderate storms, flooding from storm surge and strong winds can be life-threatening.**



# AFTER THE STORM PASSES

The City will communicate important updates and closures via email, social media and our webpage, [sibfl.net/emergency](http://sibfl.net/emergency). Before returning home after an evacuation, make sure that the authorities have declared the area safe.

## Safety Tips

- Electrical power and natural gas or propane tanks should be shut off to avoid fire, electrocution or explosions.
- If you suspect a gas leak, turn off the main gas valve, open all windows and leave the house immediately. Then call your gas company.
- Do not drive or walk through standing water.
- When using any power equipment, always wear a safety face shield or eyeglasses and gloves.
- Use battery-powered lanterns and flashlights instead of candles.
- If you must use candles, put them in safe holders away from curtains, paper, wood or other flammable items.
- Photograph or videotape your home - inside and outside; take inventory to determine and record losses.
- Contact your insurance agent. Keep good records of repair and cleaning costs.



## Fighting the Flood

Sunny Isles Beach is particularly susceptible to flooding from major rain events and storm surge. The City lies close to sea level and its underground water supply is just below the ground surface. Major rain events can sometimes leave rainwater nowhere to drain, causing flooding in some areas of the City. To find out if your home lies in an area susceptible to flooding,

please call the Building Department at [305.947.2150](tel:305.947.2150). Floods are dangerous, and even though they appear to move slowly, a flood two feet deep can knock a person off their feet and float a car. It is imperative residents protect themselves, their families, and their homes from flooding.

**Do not wait for the next flood to buy insurance protection. There is a 30-day waiting period before National Flood Insurance Program coverage takes effect. Visit [sibfl.net/flood-protection](http://sibfl.net/flood-protection) for information on flood protection in Sunny Isles Beach.**

# STAY INFORMED

**Hurricane resources from Miami-Dade County**  
[miamidade.gov/hurricane](http://miamidade.gov/hurricane)

**Hurricane resources for Sunny Isles Beach residents**  
[sibfl.net/hurricane](http://sibfl.net/hurricane)



Sign up for storm alerts and City updates delivered straight to your phone or inbox at

[SIBALERT.NET](http://SIBALERT.NET)

**Sign Up for Miami-Dade County Emergency Alerts & Download "Ready MDC" Mobile App**

Alerts is a free service that enables Miami-Dade County residents to receive emergency texts and/or emails regarding public safety issues, recommended public protective actions, hurricane alerts, or other emergency information.

[miamidade.gov/alerts](http://miamidade.gov/alerts)

Follow us @CityofSIB |     YouTube

# Islander

**PUBLISHED BY THE CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH  
MEDIA DIVISION**

18070 Collins Avenue, Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160  
[305.792.1706](tel:305.792.1706) | [sibfl.net](http://sibfl.net)