



# Islander

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MAY 2023

## A MESSAGE FROM THE Mayor

“ Ethical government is different from everyday ethical behavior; it is not about being “good” or “a person of integrity.” ”



Larisa Svechin  
Mayor

Behavior that is commendable outside of government, like helping a family member get a post or repaying a favor one has been given, is considered wrong in a government setting.

Government ethics is the area of decision-making involving conflicts between the obligations government officials have toward the public, and their obligations to themselves and their family, their business associates, and others with whom they have a special relationship (known as "conflicts of interest").

It is not just the reality of these responsibilities and actions, but also the appearance of these obligations and relationships. As elected officials, we make certain sacrifices to show the community that we are acting in the best interest of the community rather than for ourselves and those we hold as special. To some officials, this seems unfair. After all, elected officials have already sacrificed, serving as low-paid legislators and giving up their precious time for the community. Why should they have to sacrifice more? The reason is obvious. With power and authority comes responsibility and obligations. Obligations require sacrifice.

It is critical officials recognize that government ethics is not only beneficial to a community's residents, but also to them. It protects the mayor and commission by providing rules and best practices, allowing us to deal with our obligations to others in situations that may be very uncomfortable. It takes just one decision that appears self-serving to lose the respect and trust of the community.

Government ethics' primary goal is to promote the public's trust in their elected officials, to put their personal interests aside in favor of the public interest. Without this trust, residents tend not to participate; they feel disconnected from their government and start to believe the government is designed to benefit the members of the commission, rather than serve the community. The opposite of trust is not distrust, which we need to keep our representatives accountable, but a lack of trust. A lack of trust causes people not to accept their government's decisions as fair. A democratic government does not thrive when there is a lack of trust in those who govern it.

As your Mayor, I, along with the commission, am tasked with preserving institutional rather than personal integrity. In short, we are held to a higher ethical standard.

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

# Advocating for Our Waterways

Vice Mayor Jerry Joseph



On April 1, 2023, it was my pleasure to ride marine patrol with Sgt. Rob Ostrov on a six-hour tour of Sunny Isles Beach Intracoastal waters. My goal was to determine how I could better serve our residents through discussions with our marine Sgt. Ostrov and better understand, through him, what steps could be taken to further safeguard the manatees. We see wake issues due to the time of year changes from IDLE to no restriction on speed in the Intracoastal from the Lehman Causeway Bridge to 163rd Street.

to Sunny Isles Beach residential, condo and commercial waterfront properties will be less abused and better for wear with these restrictions. I will also work with FWC for better signage highlighting the IDLE speed requirement and for the lowering of music when passing residential properties.

The cities of Hallandale and Hollywood have worked through the Florida Wildlife Commission to have YEAR-ROUND IDLE SPEED ZONES along their entire Intracoastal. Our sea walls, docks and backyards belonging

I will advocate for an additional marine patrol officer so that Sunny Isles Beach has seven day a week waterfront presence, and with the addition of our second marine vessel due by November 2023, this vision is quite possible.

Contact Vice Mayor Jerry Joseph at [seati@sibfl.net](mailto:seati@sibfl.net) or [305.792.1754](tel:305.792.1754).

# Mental Health is Health

Commissioner Alex Lama



May is National Mental Health Awareness Month in the United States and the importance of mental health needs to be emphasized and brought to the forefront in our society, especially now that depression, anxiety, and other mental health concerns have been amplified by the COVID pandemic and current societal and economic issues. This crisis is affecting everyone including adults, teens, and children from all backgrounds and economic levels. It is up to us at the individual, family, institutional, and governmental levels to understand the magnitude of this problem and contribute to mitigating the mental health issues that are taking a toll on our communities.

- Almost 6 in 10 people with mental illness do not get treatment.
- More than 40,000 Americans die annually from suicide.

Sources: National Alliance on Mental Health, Mental Health America, John Hopkins University, CDC, National Institute of Mental Health.

**The severity of this crisis cannot be ignored or casually confronted when we are seeing that:**

- The second leading cause of death among people 15-24 is suicide.
- 1 in 5 adults experience mental illness yearly, and less than half receive treatment.
- 42.5 million Americans suffer from anxiety disorders.
- 20% of all teens suffer from depression before reaching adulthood.
- 55% of US counties do not have a single practicing psychiatrist

We need to be cognizant and recognize that mental health concerns are not particular to certain groups or people, but are prevalent among many of us – our families, friends, acquaintances, and the people we love most. It is time to seek help and offer help. These are crucial steps in helping yourself or someone experiencing mental disorders or suicidal thoughts. For help, you can call or text the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988 or chat online at their website [988lifeline.org](https://www.988lifeline.org).

Remember that you are not alone; someone is always there for you and willing to help.

Contact Commissioner Alex Lama at [seati@sibfl.net](mailto:seati@sibfl.net) or [305.792.1754](tel:305.792.1754).

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

## Bike to School Day with Sunny Isles Beach PD

Wednesday, May 3

7 AM | FREE

Gwen Margolis Park, 17815 North Bay Rd.



May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Wednesdays | 3 - 4 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

**GATEWAY MARKET**

May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
Wednesdays  
5:30 - 10 PM  
Gateway Park, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

**FREE EVENT**



## Mount Sinai Lunch and Learn

Thursday, May 4

11 - 1 PM | FREE

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Pre-registration required.

## Full Moon Yoga on the Beach

Friday, May 5

7:45 - 8:45 PM | FREE

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

Pre-registration is encouraged.

## Teen Talk

Tuesday, May 9

6 - 8 PM | FREE

The Spot, 215 185 St.

## Beach Cleanup

Saturday, May 13

8 AM - 12 PM

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

## Doc Chats:

*Blood Pressure Balance*

Wednesday, May 17

11 AM - 1 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

## Regular City Commission Meeting

Thursday, May 18

6:30 PM

Commission Chambers, Government Center,  
18070 Collins Ave.

## Teen Event:

*E-Gaming Party*

Friday, May 19

4 - 7 PM | FREE

Pelican Community Park, 18115 N Bay Rd.

Pre-registration is required.

## Gateway LIVE!

*Featuring The Beatlemaniacs*

Saturday, May 20

7:30 PM

Gateway Park

151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Residents: FREE

Non-Residents: \$10

Pre-registration is required.

## Midday Movies: *Jungle Cruise*

Monday, May 22

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Pre-registration is required.

Lunch is included.



## Special Election: Proposed Amendments to City's Charter

Tuesday, May 23

7 AM - 7 PM

Multiple Locations: For more information,  
visit [sibfl.net/clerk-election](http://sibfl.net/clerk-election).

## International Festival

Tuesday, May 23

6 - 8 PM | FREE

NSE Sunny Isles Beach K-8 School Cafeteria

## Senior Roundtable

Wednesday, May 24

12 - 1 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Pre-registration is required.

**MEMORIAL DAY**

Monday, May 29

City facilities closed. | SIBshuttle will not run.

**HONOR & REMEMBER**

**FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF EVENTS, VISIT**

[sibfl.net/events](http://sibfl.net/events)

# SPOTLIGHT ON...

## OCEAN RESCUE

May is Water Safety Month and we want to spotlight our Ocean Rescue team. Ocean Rescue guards our beaches 365 days a year, protecting residents and visitors. Our lifeguards are trained to provide the utmost safety service.

As summer approaches, that means more time spent in the pool or at the beach. It is important to be smart when you or your children are in the water. Before going to the beach, you can check the daily warning flag, high and low tides, air and water temperatures, wind direction, and UV index on our website at [sibfl.net/current-beach-conditions](http://sibfl.net/current-beach-conditions).

Our Ocean Rescue team recently participated in the United States Lifesaving Association Southeast Region 17th Annual Swim and 2K Run series, taking 1st place overall. Several members of the team also took home medals in the Open Men's Division and Senior Men's Division. Congratulations to our stellar Ocean Rescue division!

# INSIDE THE *Isles*

## Veterans in Sunny Isles Beach

Every November we honor the Sunny Isles Beach veterans who served in the United States military at our Veterans Day Ceremony. We invite the community to nominate their family, friends or loved ones who served in the U.S. military to be featured on the city's Veterans Wall at Heritage Park.



To nominate a qualifying Sunny Isles Beach veteran, you must submit proof of honorable discharge from military service as well as proof of the veteran's residency in Sunny Isles Beach in the form of a Resident ID Card or utility bill.

**Nominations are accepted through September 1 and veterans will be honored at our annual Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11.**

For more information and to nominate a veteran, visit [sibfl.net/veterans](http://sibfl.net/veterans).

# SPECIAL ELECTION



The City is holding a Special Election on the proposed amendments to the Charter on Tuesday, May 23, 2023. Polling locations will be open from 7 am - 7 pm. Residents must vote at their regular assigned precinct. However, Miami-Dade County has temporarily changed the polling locations for precincts 002 and 003 to Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

The deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot is Saturday, May 13, 2023. Vote-by-mail ballots must be received by Miami-Dade County Elections by 7 PM on Election Day.

Visit [miamidade.gov/elections](http://miamidade.gov/elections) for registration and vote-by-mail ballot information.

## VOTER TRANSPORTATION

The City will offer a special shuttle service on Election Day from 6:45 AM - 7:15 PM. Look for our black van, which will run within city limits only. SIBshuttle will run as normally scheduled.

## SPECIAL ELECTION POLLING LOCATION CHANGES

The Miami-Dade County Supervisor of Elections (SOE) has temporarily changed the polling location of the following precincts:

### PRECINCT 002

*Previous*

St. Mary Magdalen Church

*New Temporary Location*

Gateway Center

151 Sunny Isles Beach Blvd.

### PRECINCT 003

*Previous*

Winston Towers 100

*New Temporary Location*

Gateway Center

151 Sunny Isles Beach Blvd.

These changes will take effect for the upcoming May 23, 2023 Special Election.

Registered voters in these precincts can expect to receive a "Temporary Polling Place" card to use when voting.

**For more information, please call the Miami-Dade County Supervisor of Elections at (305) 499-VOTE (8683), or the Office of the City Clerk at (305) 792-1703.**



26<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

# BEACH BASH

SUNDAY, JUNE 11 | 6 PM

LIVE MUSIC | FOOD & DRINK | DRONE SHOW

For more information, visit [sibfl.net/anniversary](http://sibfl.net/anniversary).



## 2023 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

We want to give a big congratulations to our 2023 College Scholarship Winners! The City awarded four scholarships this year to outstanding high school seniors who demonstrated excellence in service, arts, and athletics.

The selection process is always rigorous and this year's winners exemplify strong passions for their respective scholarship. We are proud of our Sunny Isles Beach high school graduates and know they have bright futures ahead.



**Angela Luca**  
Chief Fred A. Maas  
Athletic Accomplishment  
Scholarship



**Anna Fridkin**  
Service  
Scholarship



**Catalina Rodriguez**  
Service  
Scholarship



**Jasmine Parsons**  
Mayor Norman  
S. Edelcup Excellence  
in the Arts Scholarship

For more information on our scholarships visit, [sibfl.net/scholarships](http://sibfl.net/scholarships).

# SUMMER

# CAMP

JUNE 12 - AUGUST 11

8 AM - 6 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, VISIT  
[ACTIVITIES.SIBFL.NET](http://ACTIVITIES.SIBFL.NET)



SUNNY ISLES BEACH

# SENIORS

ARE

# SPLASHING

INTO

# SUMMER

Summer session is just around the corner! Make sure to check out our Senior program offerings and sign up early to reserve your spot.

**REGISTER TODAY!**  
[ACTIVITIES.SIBFL.NET](http://ACTIVITIES.SIBFL.NET)

*Islander*

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