



# SIB *islander*

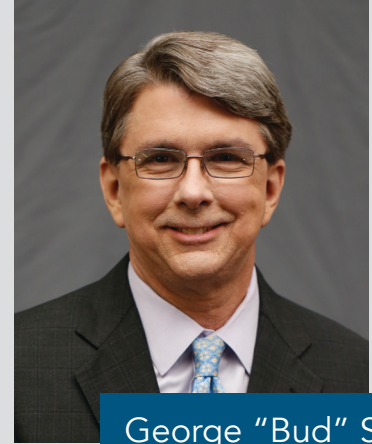
CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

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OCTOBER 2020

## A MESSAGE FROM THE Mayor

“ In the wake of the pandemic, times have been hard for all of us, especially local businesses and cultural institutions. We all agree that the economy needs a major boost due to the significant effects of COVID-19, and one of the simplest ways to help is by purchasing from locally owned businesses, thus keeping money in our community. ”



George "Bud" Scholl  
Mayor

Sunny Isles Beach is home to a plethora of local stores and restaurants, many owned by SIB residents. And Miami-Dade County is ripe with shops you can help support.

Also just as important to support are the cultural institutions that have become fixtures of art, education and history in our community. As the County reopens, we must remember the value that these cultural institutions have in our lives and in our community. In Sunny Isles Beach, access to the arts has been a top priority through the Art in Public Places program, the establishment of the Public Arts Advisory Committee, and the creation of various cultural programs such as our Gateway LIVE! series. And as residents of Miami-Dade County, we've always had access to world renowned art, museums, and cultural events.

But places like the Frost Museum of Science, Vizcaya Museum and Gardens, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, and the Perez Art Museum are all taking a toll due to shutdowns and temporary closures.

This is why the County Commission allocated \$10 million in COVID-19 relief funds to support the arts and cultural business sector. These funds will be a lifeline for many institutions, but may not be enough. In addition to regular operating costs, many of these institutions face high maintenance costs due to the nature of their facilities. If you are in a position to help, I encourage you to do so by donating, visiting in-person, purchasing an annual membership, or registering for a virtual activity.

You can help support our local businesses by ordering dinner from the restaurant down the street from your home, stopping by the family-owned store rather than the chain, or entertaining your kids with in-person and virtual resources at the museums and cultural institutions all around us.

If we do not provide support now, these businesses and institutions may not be around in the years to come. To keep our economy thriving and get back on track, our local businesses and organizations need our support now more than ever.

# Message from the City Manager

*Christopher J. Russo*

On September 18, 2020, the proposed budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 was adopted by the City Commission. It is nearly impossible to overstate the magnitude of the challenge COVID-19 has presented; this pandemic will probably have lingering effects for a long time. Although we are estimating the cost of the pandemic to our City Budget to be about \$5 million, we are able to withstand the financial effects of this emergency situation with our unallocated reserves.

The filing of the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Budget reflects an assessed value of \$11,915,512,092, which increased by \$347 million from last year. Our budget keeps the same millage rate at 2.2 mills per \$1,000 of assessed value, resulting in an unprecedented 5th year that our city proposed a tax rate below the roll back rate. It is important to note that this includes \$597 million of property value decrease reassessments and over \$943 million of new construction added to the tax rolls in our city this year. Our city's assessed property value will continue to increase over the next three to five years as the new construction continues on a much slower pace than previous years.

There are currently nine approved development projects, six of which are under construction. Three projects were completed, adding 628 residential units, and 95,000 square feet of office space in the Milton Tower. These projects contribute to our increased revenue from such sources as Building Department fees, bonus payments, funds from Transferable Development Rights, impact fees, and ultimately property tax revenue.

The revenue for the fiscal year 2020-2021 General Fund is \$37,983,070, however, we are estimating to be short in the General Fund by approximately \$3 million caused by COVID-19. It is my intent to balance the budget during the course of the 2020-2021 fiscal year by holding back on nonessential hiring and reducing expenditures.

The proposed General Fund budget expenditures increased to \$40,240,554, up 8.8% from last year. Expenditures have gone up primarily due to increased costs for retirement system contributions and workers' compensation, election expenses and increased capital outlay needs. We will be directing our revenue from growth of our tax base to utility undergrounding, storm drainage, facilities, new park development planning, and transportation and pedestrian safety initiatives.

The Police Department, under Chief Snyder has continued its push to focus on pedestrian and vehicular safety in our City. The plans for the pedestrian bridge over Collins Avenue at 180th Street are expected to be completed and out to bid by the end of the calendar year due to delays by new State requirements and COVID-19. We obtained the necessary easements to commence planning and design of the pedestrian bridge over Collins Avenue at 174th Street to Samson Oceanfront Park, however COVID-19 has also significantly delayed this project. We were awarded grant funding of \$1 million through the State for this bridge, thanks to the help of our State Representatives. However, the Governor had to veto the appropriation along with over \$100 million of other awards, due to the increasing costs associated with the pandemic.



We are very excited about the completion of the Gateway Center this October. This facility will house our senior programs, adult programs, and other activities, along with a banquet room that will be available for local rental. But due to the pandemic, the Gateway Center opening has been delayed.

The City continues its utility undergrounding project with the installation of decorative streetlights throughout Collins Avenue. Of the 150 new fixtures for Collins Avenue, 112 bases are installed and 88 new streetlights are installed and operational. We are working daily with multiple crews and expect to complete the streetlight installation on Collins by the end of the year.

The Golden Shores undergrounding and street lighting design are progressing on schedule. Our engineers are working with FPL for their input in order to prepare the detailed plans and bid documents for this project. In the meantime, we are working with our engineering firm to expedite plans for the street lighting within Golden Shores. This process will include the preparations of bid specifications and bidding between now and the end of the year.

The Public Arts Advisory Committee adopted a Public Art Program to be recommended to the Commission this fall; the total budget is \$1.6 million. The program contains a Five-Year Strategic Work Plan. One of the first projects in that Plan is the creation of the meditation garden located in the western area of Town Center Park. Recently, a new digital interactive piece has been approved for purchase by the Commission for the Government Center.

The City has been successful in leveraging City dollars to obtain grant awards and legislative appropriations for some capital improvement projects. The capital projects, which total \$21,128,603, are recommended and funded by the Capital Improvement Program Fund.

The 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Budget is coming out at a time we hope is also an emergence from the immediate threat of this crisis. Our city will remain stabilized because of the reserves that we are fortunate to keep, and will continue to maintain our service levels and our ability to weather the next financial challenge, whatever it may be.

I want to express my thanks to our Mayor and Commissioners for their support throughout this crisis. The work of our dedicated managers and staff has been phenomenal. I would be remiss not to point out the incredible work of our Finance Department, under the leadership of Tiffany Neely, maintaining fiscal strength and stability while addressing all the needs in our fight against COVID-19. This budget enables the City of Sunny Isles Beach to continue its quality of life as a thriving and safe community that cherishes its location, unites in its diversity and evolves to meet the continuous challenges that greet us every day.

Read the City Manager's complete FY 2020-2021 budget message at [sibfl.net/budgetmessage20-21](http://sibfl.net/budgetmessage20-21).

# Condominiums and Climate Change

*Commissioner Dana Goldman*

Combatting the effects of climate change will present the most significant scientific, political and socio-economic challenges of our time. The immediate and urgent impact of rising temperatures and extreme flooding events affect the health of residents and community sustainability. Whether you are a unit owner, board member or association counsel, you can make choices about consumption and daily habits.

Some environmental actions include having FPL or an energy consultant evaluate condominium energy usage. An energy study can provide valuable input for achieving efficiencies and energy savings, implementing upgrades and exploring new technologies. It is important to identify available areas on the condominium property and plant more trees for heat absorption. Newer condominium projects may feature landscaping, green roofs, rooftop community gardens, and vertical vines to mitigate the harsh effects of rising temperatures and “urban heat island” effect.

There are many small changes condominium associations and residents can make starting now. If

your lawn maintenance provider uses herbicides with glyphosate, find an alternative; order eco-friendly cleaning supplies; reduce or eliminate staff single-use plastic usage; explore recycling options; and transition to a paperless office. Managing documents online, sending notices and newsletters electronically, and implementing electronic voting procedures eliminate unnecessary paper flow.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused transportation and industrial activity to reach record lows and pollution and greenhouse gas emissions to fall significantly. When the world economy finally rebounds, carbon and pollutant emissions are expected to rise again. These unprecedented times present an opportunity for us to reflect on our impact on climate change and take action to mitigate its harmful effects.

Please contact me at [dgoldman@sibfl.net](mailto:dgoldman@sibfl.net) or 786.512.6364 for more details.



## Here For You

*Vice Mayor Larisa Svechin*

We are all in this together and now is the time to lean on each other and find ways to support each other, while finding joy in helping others. While forced to adjust in response to restrictions, we are also still facing many challenges as a community.

Because I have been able to come into the office daily, I was able to pick up calls and answer emails both related to restrictions and everyday struggles. Our elderly have had a particularly difficult time due to isolation and loneliness. They and others needed help finding resolutions (from food insecurity and help renewing a driver’s license, to condo complaints). It was my honor to assist.

As August neared, the SIBPTSA took action and together we helped parents traverse the ever-changing school landscape—meal drives, pop up info desks, giveaways,

and just being there to listen. Our State elected officials have been phenomenal in helping me assist residents with everyday tasks that seem so much more daunting today than six months ago. I must commend Senator Jason Pizzo and Representative Joseph Geller, as well as our County Commissioner Sally Heyman. They inspire me to do better.

It has been my pleasure to witness SO many residents ALSO helping their next-door neighbors and the community at large. I urge you to reach out to me if you are struggling or if you want to help others at [lsvechin@sibfl.net](mailto:lsvechin@sibfl.net). Together we are stronger.



# Rebranding Sunny Isles Beach

We recently moved into the next stage of our rebranding project with phone surveys. Have you received a call asking you to participate in our phone survey? Look out for our call from telephone number 786.321.4877. Help us shape the future of our city by sharing your thoughts on our city, its brand and what you would like to see in the years to come. We'll also be sharing our online survey this October. If you didn't have a chance to participate in the phone survey, look out on our website, social media, or email blasts for the survey link.

**Learn more about Rebranding Sunny Isles Beach at [sibfl.net/rebranding](http://sibfl.net/rebranding)**

## Local Business Tax Receipt

All business owners in Sunny Isles Beach are obligated to obtain the required Local Business Tax Receipt and Certificate of Use prior to opening their business. Both the Local Business Tax Receipt and Certificate of Use must be renewed by September 30 each fiscal year and are valid until September 30 the following year. A penalty fee is charged for late renewals, and fines and penalties are issued to businesses that do not obtain the required licenses. A renewal is considered late starting on October 2.

Online renewal is now available for Local Business Tax Receipts and Certificates of Use. To initiate your renewal, send an email to [businesslicensing@sibfl.net](mailto:businesslicensing@sibfl.net) to request the portal access code for your company.

Renewals may also be submitted in person. Fill out an application and submit it to the Sunny Isles Beach Government Center, 3rd Floor, 18070 Collins Avenue. Applications are also available at the Sunny Isles Beach Government Center. Appointments are required for in-person service and can be made online at [sibfl.net/appointments](http://sibfl.net/appointments).

For more information, visit [sibfl.net/lbtr](http://sibfl.net/lbtr) or call 305.792.1875.

## Hurricane Season is Still Upon Us

Though the peak of hurricane season has passed us, we want to remind all residents that hurricane season lasts until November 30. Keep your supplies stocked, have an emergency plan in place, and continue to monitor the weather and news for storm activity. Preparedness is key.

Read more about resources for hurricanes at [sibfl.net/hurricane](http://sibfl.net/hurricane).

## October Meetings

### Town Hall Meeting: Town Center North District

Wednesday, October 14 | 6 PM  
Learn more about the Town Center North District at [sibfl.net/towncenternorth](http://sibfl.net/towncenternorth).

### Regular City Commission Meeting

Thursday, October 15 | 6:30 PM

### Special Magistrate Hearing

Thursday, October 29 | 10 AM

View additional details at [sibfl.net/events](http://sibfl.net/events).

# HAVING FUN

— WHILE —

# Staying Safe



## WEAR A MASK



Masks are required in all public places in Miami-Dade County. Be sure you don your facial covering when leaving the house. And don't forget, in addition to all business and retail locations, you must wear the mask in all common areas of your condominium or apartment building and outside in public.

## BE SMART



Though cases in Florida may be dropping, now is not the time to drop your guard. We all must keep social distancing, wearing a facial covering when in public places, avoiding crowds, and washing our hands frequently. We must be smart as we begin to reopen our city more. If you are feeling COVID-19 symptoms or have been around another individual who has tested positive, you should visit one of the many testing locations around the County. See coronavirus testing resources at [sibfl.net/testing](http://sibfl.net/testing).

## SIBeHealthy VIRTUAL PROGRAMS



Each month, we are still airing live virtual programs on SIBTV and then rebroadcasting those classes on YouTube. From yoga to Tai Chi to basketball skills, follow along and see the full schedule at [sibfl.net/sibehealthy](http://sibfl.net/sibehealthy).

## KEEP OUR STREETS CLEAN



As we wear masks and gloves, it is important to properly dispose of them. Do not throw your PPE on the street or sidewalk when you leave a store. Find a public trash can or wait until you're home to remove your mask or gloves.

## COVID-19 RESOURCES



**STAY HOME**



**WEAR FACIAL COVERINGS**



**NO CONGREGATING IN ANY AREA**



**SOCIAL DISTANCE**

### City Resources

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

### City Reopening Information

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

### Florida Department of Health (FDOH)

24-hour hotline for questions concerning the Coronavirus: **1.866.779.6121**

### Miami-Dade County COVID-19 Information & Updates

[miamidade.gov/global/initiatives/coronavirus/home.page](http://miamidade.gov/global/initiatives/coronavirus/home.page)

Individuals in Miami-Dade County who believe they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should call the FDOH at **305.470.5660**.



# NOT YOUR AVERAGE

# BOOOGIE

**THIS YEAR, OUR HALLOWEEN CELEBRATIONS ARE GOING TO BE SOCIALLY DISTANCED AND SAFE FOR EVERYONE.**

Each week in October, we're running a different social media contest for our followers to participate in. Post your best photos in line with the week's

theme and we'll choose our favorite to win a special prize! And we have three different socially distanced, family-friendly events for residents this month!

## SOCIAL MEDIA CONTESTS

Contest entries should be posted on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram using #Booogie2020. Don't forget to follow us on these platforms as well, @CityofSIB. Each contest will begin on Monday at 8 am and end Sunday at noon.

### WEEK 1: ALL TREATS, NO TRICKS

OCTOBER 5 - 11

We want to see your best Halloween-inspired food creations. From breakfast to dinner to desserts, the spooky possibilities are endless!

### WEEK 2: THE GREAT SUNNY ISLES BEACH PUMPKIN

OCTOBER 12-18

Carving a pumpkin for Halloween? We want to see it! Share your pumpkin carving masterpiece for the city to see.

### WEEK 3: YOUR HAUNTED HOME

OCTOBER 19 - 25

Post your favorite photos of your home decorations. Whether it's outside or inside, we want to see how you are showcasing your Halloween spirit.

### WEEK 4: DRESS TO IMPRESS

OCTOBER 26 - NOVEMBER 1

Even if you're not trick-or-treating, show us your costume. Pose in your favorite Halloween costume, and don't forget your furry friends too. Pets are always welcome to join your photos!

## SOCIALLY DISTANCED EVENTS

### MOVIE NIGHT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10 | 7 PM

PELICAN COMMUNITY PARK BASEBALL FIELD

MOVIE: SPOOKY BUDDIES

*Open to Sunny Isles Beach Residents Only.*

Enjoy a night out with the family at our socially distanced Halloween movie night. Families will be directed to designated areas to ensure a safe distance between groups. Pre-registration is required online at [activities.sibfl.net](http://activities.sibfl.net).

### HALLOWEEN HUNT

OCTOBER 28 - 31

VARIOUS LOCATIONS AROUND THE CITY

The hunt is on! Go on a hunt around Sunny Isles Beach to collect 10 different clues. Snap a photo with all the clues to win a spooky prize. Clues will be available starting October 28.

### HAUNTED TRAIL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31 | 7 - 9:30 PM

UNDER THE WILLIAM LEHMAN CAUSEWAY

*Open to Sunny Isles Beach Residents Only.*

This family-friendly drive-thru trail is full of fun and frights. Pre-registration is required online at [activities.sibfl.net](http://activities.sibfl.net).

For complete event details, visit

**SIBFL.NET/BOOOGIE**