



# Islander

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SEPTEMBER 2024

## A MESSAGE FROM THE Mayor



Larisa Svechin  
Mayor

As we kick off another school year, I am filled with pride to see our students returning to NSE Sunny Isles Beach K-8, an A-rated school that has become the cornerstone of our community. The school, governed by the Miami-Dade County Public School (MDCPS) system, is a product of the vision and determination of past city leaders, both elected officials and residents, as well as supporters from outside our city—a journey that began over two decades ago.

In the early 2000s, families with school age children began moving to Sunny Isles Beach. It became clear that building a school within our city limits was not a priority but a necessity. In 2004, the Sunny Isles Beach Commission approved a plan that would change the demographic makeup of our city. This concept directed us to partner with MDCPS, offering both resources and land, with an investment of a \$12 million grant to the school district, helping acquire a 2.1-acre site for the school. They knew then that a land investment is key for future community needs.

This passion and commitment was instrumental in bringing this vision to life. When NSE/SIB K-8 opened its doors in 2008, it immediately set a high standard of excellence. The

founding principal was committed to creating an A-rated school, knowing that this required both talented teachers and top-performing students. To achieve this, she recruited the best educators from nearby schools, but also brought in high achieving students from Eastern Shores and surrounding areas, setting NSE/SIB K-8 on a path to success from the very beginning. At that time, we did not have enough students to fill the school. Well, that lasted only one year.

As the school's reputation for excellence grew, so did enrollment, leading to overcrowding as quickly as the second year. To address this, transfers into the school from outside the designated boundaries are no longer being authorized. This measure ensures that our local children continue to have the best access to high-quality education.

Our school is the cornerstone of our community. It is what brings us all together and sometimes provides for animated discussions. It is a place where our children receive top-notch education in a nurturing environment. As we move forward, I ask for your support and cooperation to keep this school the best place for Sunny Isles Beach kids. Ensuring that our children have access to the best education possible is a responsibility we all share.

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

# Day of Remembrance of the October 7 Massacre and Subsequent Gaza War

*Commissioner Fabiola Stuyvesant*

During the August Commission Meeting, I proposed -- and it was adopted -- to proclaim October 7, 2024, as “Day of Remembrance of the October 7 Massacre and Subsequent Gaza War” in the City of Sunny Isles Beach. We are now planning a solemn event to commemorate this day. Here are some excerpts from the Proclamation:

**WHEREAS**, on October 7 of this year, a tragic massacre and subsequent conflict erupted, marking a dark chapter in the history of Israel. The City of Sunny Isles Beach (the “City”) stands in solidarity with the people of Israel as they endure the pain of this violent incursion and the ongoing war against Hamas; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is committed to honoring the memory of the brave servicemen and women who have sacrificed their lives in defense of Israel, as well as the innocent civilians who were brutally murdered during this horrific attack; and

**WHEREAS**, the grief and sorrow felt by our community and by people around the world can and must be transformed into a powerful force for good. It is in the spirit of resilience and unity that we gather to remember and to take action, affirming that love is stronger than hate, and that life will always triumph over destruction; and

**WHEREAS**, the incredible resilience of the people of Israel inspires us all to stand together in the face of adversity, showing that hope can and will prevail even in the darkest of times; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is dedicated to supporting the land and people of Israel, particularly during these challenging times, and is committed to ensuring that future generations understand the importance of standing with those who seek peace and justice.

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



# Legislative Insights: What Happened and What We Can Expect

*Commissioner Jeniffer Viscarra*

I strongly believe that helping people feel seen, included, and informed contributes significantly to the strengthening of a community. That is why most of my projects, as an elected official and private citizen, are either focused on education, children, or both.

I often think about opportunities I wish I had, and I try to bring that to the table for others. That’s how the well-received Residents’ Academy came into being, and it’s why I continue to work diligently on its spin-off – the Community Legislative Advocacy Program (CLAP). Little by little, we are moving from emails through my SIB Ajenda (not a typo) newsletter to a funded and functioning city initiative. Gradually, people who were looking for ways to become more involved are finding their voice and becoming more empowered.

To that end, I recently hosted a Town Hall with Scott Dudley, the

Florida League of Cities Director of Field Advocacy and Federal Affairs, titled *Legislative Insights: What Happened and What We Can Expect*.

I was happy to see neighbors, graduates of the Residents’ Academy, and some new faces in attendance. We were also joined by Senators Jason Pizzo and Jennifer Bradley, who were invited to contribute to the discussion.

Together, we addressed legislation that had passed and bills that were successfully blocked in the last legislative session. Some bills will come back for a second and third bite at the apple. With elections, the voting members change, and what may have failed one year may succeed the next. The battle is ongoing. We will fight it together.

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



# CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER OF EVENTS

### Federal Holiday: Labor Day



**Monday, September 2**

City facilities closed.  
SIBshuttle will not run.  
Parks open regular hours.

### Special City Commission Meeting: First Budget Hearing

**Tuesday, September 3**

**5:30 PM**

Commission Chambers, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

### City Commission Workshop

**Wednesday, September 4**

**11:30 AM**

1st Floor Meeting Room, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.



**September 4, 11, 18, 25**

**Wednesdays | 3 - 4 PM**

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

### Teen Talk

**Tuesday, September 10**

**6 - 7:30 PM**

The Spot, 215 185 St.



### Special City Commission Meeting: Second Budget Hearing

**Thursday, September 12**

**5:30 PM**

Commission Chambers, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

### TEENS ONLY

## ULTIMATE

### Teen Gamefest

Friday, September 13

7 - 9 PM

The Spot, 215 185 St.

### City Commission Workshop

**Tuesday, September 17**

**10 AM**

Fourth Floor Conference Room, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

### Full Moon Yoga

**Tuesday, September 17**

**7 - 8 PM**

On the beach by Samson Oceanfront Park, 17425 Collins Ave.

*Pre-registration is encouraged.*

### City Commission Workshop

**Thursday, September 19**

**3 PM**

Commission Chambers, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

### Regular City Commission Meeting

**Thursday, September 19**

**6:30 PM**

Commission Chambers, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

### Beach Cleanup

**Saturday, September 21**

**8 - 11 AM**

Newport Fishing Pier, 16501 Collins Ave.

### Senior Roundtable

**Wednesday, September 25**

**12 - 1 PM**

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



**Saturday, September 28**

**5:30 - 9 PM**

Gateway Center,  
151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Taste delicious cuisine from around the world and enjoy vibrant cultural performances as we transport you across continents!

*Pre-registration is required.*



*Disclosure: Events are subject to change.*





# TRAFFIC TALK

Safety starts with all of us. To keep our roads safe, we'll cover essential tips - whether you're driving, scooting, riding, or walking in Sunny Isles Beach. From school traffic reminders to scooter safety and red-light camera enforcement, let's work together to ensure a safer community for all.

## School Zone Traffic

Sunny Isles Beach is home to Norman S. Edelcup/Sunny Isles Beach K-8 School, located at 201 182 Drive. The community around the school should anticipate different traffic patterns. Expect increased traffic in this area before and after school. To ensure safety and smooth commutes, please allow extra time when driving near the school during arrival and dismissal times.

Remember to always follow the designated 15 mph speed limit in school zones and stay alert for pedestrians and crossing guards.

To learn more, visit [sibfl.gov/schooltraffic](http://sibfl.gov/schooltraffic).



## Drop-Off & Pick-Up Procedures

**Driving:** Obey school zone speed limits and follow the school's drop off and pick-up procedure. The designated drop-off and pick-up point is on the east side of the school on Atlantic Blvd. Make sure your child exits or enters from the passenger side of the vehicle in a timely manner to keep the line moving efficiently.

**Parking:** Do not park or drop off your child in the school's parking garage or the RK shopping plaza. Your car could be subject to towing by the private property owner.

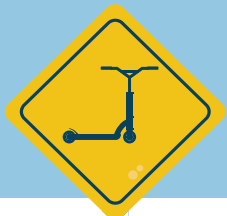
**Walking:** If walking your child to school, please use pedestrian crosswalks and obey crossing guards.

**Bicycles and Scooters:** If your child bikes or rides a scooter to school, make sure they always wear a properly fitted helmet.

**DID YOU  
KNOW...**

Miami-Dade County school buses are now equipped with cameras to ensure student safety. These cameras capture drivers who illegally pass a stopped school bus when the red stop signs are swung open. Violators can face a minimum fine of \$200, so please drive safely and follow the law to protect our children.





# SCOOTER SAFETY

As part of our ongoing *Scoot Safe! Sunny Isles Beach* program, it's essential that all motorized scooter riders not only register their scooters—so they can be easily identified by police if lost, stolen, or involved in an accident—but also adhere to the safety rules.

**Obey Traffic Signals:** Just like any other vehicle, riders must obey all official traffic-control signals and signs.

**Adhere to Speed Limits:** Motorized scooters should not exceed 15 miles per hour on sidewalks and should not exceed 20 miles per hour on the roadway.

**Helmet Required:** If you're under the age of 16, you must wear your helmet.

**Solo Ride:** Scooters are meant for one person at a time. No tandem riding allowed.

**Follow Traffic Flow:** Scooters must ride with the flow of traffic and follow all traffic signals, using extra caution around intersections and driveways.

**Stay in Line:** If you are riding alongside another scooter rider, you must ride in a single file line - no side-by-side riding.

**Stay Alert:** Put away your phone, headset, headphones, or any listening device, except for a hearing aid. Keep ears open and focus on your surroundings.

**Be Visible:** Your scooter should sport a reflective front white light, visible from 500 feet away, and a reflective rear red light, visible from 600 feet away.

To register your motorized scooter, visit [sibfl.gov/scootsafe](http://sibfl.gov/scootsafe).



## RED LIGHT CAMERAS

**Warning period is over - violations commenced on 9/1/24.**

To reduce the number of traffic violations, crashes, and injuries caused by red-light runners, the City has implemented the Intersection Safety Camera Program. These cameras were placed, primarily along Collins Avenue, where we often see drivers passing through and committing infractions in our community.

The goal is to encourage safer driving habits by ensuring more drivers obey traffic signals and stop on red. Starting September 1, any vehicle caught running the red light will result in a \$158 civil violation.

### Violations must be paid:

- Online at [secure.redlightviolations.com](http://secure.redlightviolations.com)
- By phone at 877.204.0904
- By mail as indicated on the notice
- Violations cannot be resolved by contacting the City directly.

For more information, please visit [sibfl.gov/intersection-safety-camera-program](http://sibfl.gov/intersection-safety-camera-program).



### Locations

- Eastbound Sunny Isles Blvd. at Signaled Pedestrian Crosswalk (200 block)
- 183 St. and Collins Ave. (north and southbound lanes)
- 193 St. and Collins Ave. (southbound lanes only)
- 159 St. and Collins Ave. (north and southbound lanes)

### To date

Since the program's warning period started on August 1, it has been averaging

**85**  
violations  
per day.



# SUNNY ISLES BEACH INTRODUCES NEW FLOOD RISK PORTAL



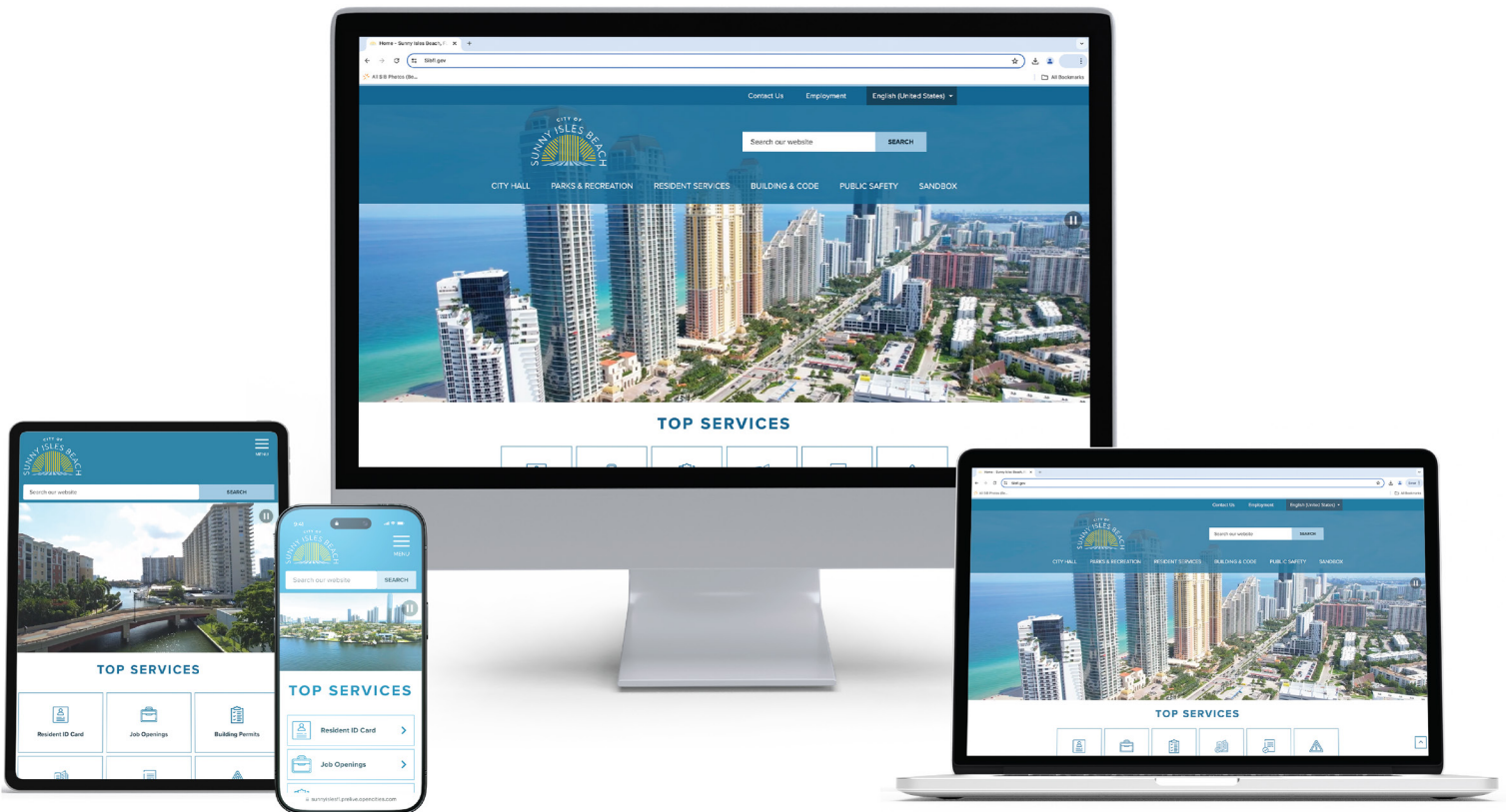
Sunny Isles Beach has launched a new flood risk portal to help residents, real estate professionals, and developers easily find information about flood risks for specific properties. This portal is part of the City's efforts to create a safer, more flood-resilient community.

The portal, powered by Forerunner, provides detailed flood risk data and important documents like elevation certificates. It's designed to make managing flood risks easier for both the City and the community.

Living in a coastal city like Sunny Isles Beach means being at high risk for flooding, especially during hurricanes. The new portal will help the City better prepare for these events and protect residents.

Also, with the upcoming addition of a full-time Floodplain Coordinator in the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the City is working to improve its current flood insurance rating, potentially leading to better flood insurance discounts for residents.

To access the portal, visit [sibfl.gov](http://sibfl.gov).



Visit our new website [Sibfl.gov](http://Sibfl.gov).



# Islander

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**COMMISSIONER** Jeniffer Viscarra

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