Miami Beach United Letter to Commission High Impact Weekend Family of Ordinances (R5-G, H, I, J, K) May 8, 2019

In addition to the resolutions attached to this email, Miami Beach United would like to share thoughts on the family of ordinances proposed in response to the unfortunate events of March 2019 and other similar high-impact weekends over the past few years.

We don't suppose to know what the silver bullet might be to resolving the issue of behavior which ranges from threatening and a nuisance, to downright violence, and which affects not just residents and business owners in and around the MXE district, but also affects visitors and our global brand. We appreciate that you are trying to find the right combination of tools to ensure that we don't have such problematic weeks going forward.

As the only 501(c)4 organization representing residents across the city, we feel it our role to share and amplify the two consistent requests we are hearing repeatedly from residents to be included in the mix of actions as you move forward.

The first is to ensure consistent enforcement of rules and laws already on the books, every day, equally across the city, at all times. This will go a very long way in sending a message, setting expectations, and making it crystal clear what sort of behavior is tolerated, at any time, in the city of Miami Beach.

The second is the preparatory anticipation of, and counter-programming for, high impact weekends where there are not already significant organized public access activities. Consider, for instance, the difference between Memorial Day weekend before the addition of the Air and Sea show, when visitors used to come down to a giant blank canvas that turned into a giant stretch of chaos, vs now, when visitors come and can choose to participate in a significant event based in and around the MXE. The city is not shut down, all are still welcome, and we still have an enormous influx of guests in town for the long weekend. However, even if visitors choose to not participate directly, this programming still flavors and sets the tone for the weekend, and unruly behavior has been significantly minimized versus years prior.

We are confident that with a judicious eye to applying existing regulations and with bold thinking about future events, this repeat crisis can be mitigated going forward, and its memory confined to the dustbin of history.

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