

MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC#

076-2019

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Dan Gelber and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: February 7, 2019

SUBJECT: Ocean Drive TOPS Program

This Letter to Commission is written to notify you that the off-duty police patrol program for Ocean Drive that is known as the "Tourist Oriented Police Services" (T.O.P.S.) will begin this weekend and extend through the last weekend in February between 9 and 11 Streets. TOPS will be temporarily suspended during the Spring Break enhanced staffing program that the MBPD regularly deploys each March, but it will begin again during the first weekend in April.

The TOPS off-duty program will place an additional four officers and a supervisor on Ocean Drive, with the primary purpose of these officers to patrol the west side of the street. The days and hours of this program are as follows:

Thursdays: 9pm-3am

Fridays: 9pm-3am

Saturdays: 9pm-3am

Sundays: 5pm-1am

TOPS was originally begun as a pilot program for 12 weeks during the summer of 2018 and proved to be very effective in reducing crime and increasing uniform visibility on weekend evenings on Ocean Drive. TOPS assignments must be filled by officers who volunteer to work during their off-duty hours. Recruiting officers and supervisors for these positions each weekend can be a challenge. The Police Department expects that as this program gets back underway, the needed positions will eventually be filled with regular volunteers.

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