

September 15, 2020

Hello Mayor Gelber and City Manager Morales; I hope you find time to read my attached letter. It is written with the best of intentions...

Cordially Ray C. Condo President

Good morning Mayor Gelber and City Manager Morales. I've sent you 2 or 3 prior emails containing similar residents' concerns and hope you can appreciate the frustrations felt by all of us regards the decaying vision of South Beach by long time residents and past visitors as well...I'm only reflecting on the ones mirroring our collective constructive comments and observations worth conveying...

- **Enforce the City Noise Ordinance on car radios playing full blast/Freebie ride golf cart vehicles which attract potential patrons by blasting loud music/multi-riders golf cart rentals with blaring large speakers/cars with train air horns. I know it's hard to believe but I can provide you with pictures, name and unit # of a resident here in our building that his 1st floor window shattered due to a loud car boom box at 1:00 am parked below his bedroom window and the repair invoice with testament from the repair contractor as to the cause is available.**

- **Enforce the Resident Zone Parking posted areas which are from 6:00 pm to 6:00 am 7 days a week with zero enforcement in our Zone 5 since April 3rd when they furloughed (a euphemism for what the city refers to them instead of fired without pay) 90 % of the Parking Patrol Officers and only 9 remain to cover 3 citywide shifts 24/7, which is realistically impossible since some of the 9 officers may be**

absent for a myriad of reasons such as court appearances, sick leave, vacation, not to mention the imposed 1 day off per month without pay for the past 5 months.

Unfair to residents who paid exorbitant annual fees to park on the street, especially the most expensive Zone 5 which is the entertainment district and has not been enforced since April 3rd due to the suddenly fired 90% patrol staff that day and it's the most expensive zone to pay the annual fee for the right to park, of course the most popular since it's in the entertainment district chronically used by non-resident violating visitors that go unpunished due to the lack of Parking Enforcement staffing.

One particular day it took the Parking Dept. 4 hours to remove a vehicle blocking our condo entrance – exit garage gate because of the then imposed bureaucracy of requiring a supervisor's presence for towing approval which coincidentally happened at 2:30 pm so unacceptably delayed due to their 3:00 pm shift change.

We had to disengage and raise our alley gate so residents can traverse during the 4 hours parking saga exposing our building's safety from uninvited pedestrians...

On the corner of 7th Street and Collins Avenue there's a very large Road Closed sign to alert drivers that Ocean Drive is closed for vehicular traffic, and routinely drivers get out of their car, drag the huge sign and cones onto the side walk or tip it on it's side in order to illegally park in front of the hydrant.

Parking Officers would tell me they can only cite the vehicle

and not tow due to the shortage of officers and required supervisor's presence to assess and permission...Hopefully that policy is being given second thoughts...

An important fact worth mentioning is that prior to the covid pandemic I would walk 3 miles a day in the morning and early afternoon and I would stop by and say hello to many city employees to include Parking Officers and I realized that the average e.t.a. from the time they would call for a tow truck to remove violating vehicles in such areas as the Freight Loading Zones, Blocking Alleys, Double Parking, Fire Hydrant parking violators, etc. that the average tow truck arrival time was usually 45 minutes, how dysfunctional, ineffective and time wasted sitting idle in their vehicles is that and of no fault of their own !!!

- **The South Beach residents and in particular those of us who live in the Entertainment District and pay our dues and taxes feel entitled to live in a safe community and feel protected by law enforcement and we can freely meander in a peaceful environment, which we haven't in such a long time...**

My wife and I in particular wouldn't dream of walking on Ocean Drive, Collins Ave. or Washington Ave. after sunset...further compounded by the 80% + disrespectful no mask wearing multitudes in the Entertainment District.

I live on Collins Ave and 7th Street which at anytime I can take a poll of passerby pedestrians from my 4th floor balcony, so it's an accurate visual account.

- **Now that Washington Avenue has been reshaped, all the county buses and trolleys have been rerouted to Collins**

Avenue without any thought for traffic congestion since there aren't any assigned places for these huge buses to pull up to the sidewalk, so they back up all the impatient horn blowing traffic, not to mention safe passage for the handicapped when having to take their walkers from the sidewalk as in the past onto the street to reach the bus entrance.

That will change when someone falls, hurts themselves and files a litigious injury claim for this unsafe practice.

- **I've seen multiple rental scooters over time riding on Ocean Drive with impunity and in very few occasions a police warning at most, which they laugh it off after the officer lets them go, even taking selfies.**

I wonder what excuse was found acceptable since there are at least 7 or 8 green neon warning barricades on each side street, but I understand it's just done on a dare for the fun and social media ha ha ha postings....

The old adage of What Happens In Vegas ... One day I called the Parking Dept. regards 21 rental scooters (Yes 21) parked on the 7th street zone 5 at 8:00 pm and was told by the dispatcher they're shorthanded and aren't any available officers to respond for at least 2 hours since there was only 1 officer on duty covering the entire city (and it was a Saturday night).

I have pictures and 15 short videos of an assortment of egregious incidents if anyone is interested including this particular one of the 21 scooters ...

- **Out of state or friends living abroad call or text me asking: Is**

it safe to go to South Beach since we've read so many negative reviews and aggressive videos on Social Media ??? I do explain that I understand we've lost the allure we once had...Social Media is a wonderful tool but can be equally destructive due to positive past memories and recollections or indelible unpleasant recent experiences, which of course is magnified when passed along...

- **Styrofoam coolers, glass bottles, dogs on the beach are a daily occurrence. The word out there is to say the dog is a service or emotional animal, you didn't bring the paperwork or I. D. so Park Rangers or Code Officers don't challenge you and leave you alone...**

- **In the last 3 months we've had 3 long term tenants move once their lease is up due to the increasing night street noise, loud car speakers, loud yelling, cussing, screaming, fights, trash and now an elderly owner who's been here since the building was built in 1966 placed his unit up for sale saying enough is enough....South Beach is no longer safe !!!**

Personally, my wife and I travel miles to Key Biscayne 5 days a week, pay a toll and exercise there in the 2 soccer fields where the residents are more respectful of the mask mandate and distancing, not to mention they have an assigned police officer to that park on peak hours, then sometimes we then go to nearby Hobie Beach for a secluded dip. Can you imagine that !!! and we live 100 yards from the beach here ...

Even a police officer from another jurisdiction told me he hadn't been to SOBE in a while and when he turned from 5th to Collins Ave. on a Saturday evening, he decided to pull over and put up his convertible ragtop, that his instincts told him to

do so...

• Don't get me started with the “ambassadors of good will” soft approach to the curfew....On any given night you're lucky if the visitors don't adhere to the curfew for at least 45 minutes to 1 hour after curfew...They finally leave when they're bored, (not concerned with curfew violation repercussions even as the police officers broadcast over their P.A. that it's an arrestable offense, they know better by now).

Luckily, Ocean Drive businesses are shutting down at curfew and usually do so not to risk a City Code violation.

The other night I called the Police Dispatcher at 10:45 pm asking for an officer to come to 7th Street between Ocean Court and Collins Ave. due to a rowdy 20+ partiers, yelling, red solo cups drinks or liquor bottles in hand, dancing on the street to their loud music, 2 cars blocking the road to create a street party atmosphere. I was asked by the dispatcher to give my name and phone and to describe the partiers as much as possible, what they looked like, what they're wearing, etc.. I said madam I know you're reading a required script but it's impossible to describe the partiers, so please just send a unit to my intersection and see for themselves... She said that at the moment there were more pressing calls throughout the city and that it would take quite some time to respond...

They never came !!!!

• I'm sure you're aware that even small communities like for example Key Biscayne have “permanent tag readers” as you drive into the Village to alert a monitoring person of possible cars entering the town which the tag reflects that the driver or

the vehicle have issues, and it's worked out quite well. Drivers with illicit intentions or tag reflecting issues are aware of this by experience or by word of mouth.

- **Now we have MED MEN a marijuana dispensary ready to open at 550 Collins Avenue, just what we needed in the entertainment district...**

In summary, to every problem there's a solution and our long term solution is actually quite simple, reverse what Miami Beach has overlooked and neglected in recent memory, enforce the State laws and City ordinances 24/7- 365, not just on expected spiked events due to anticipated large crowds for advertised functions or simple long weekends relaxation, return South Beach to its former glory and welcome all visitors that possess good intentions... Just like Ft. Lauderdale, Panama City and the like have done over time, and make every visitor's experience equally pleasant any time of the year...

If a visitor has good intentions they should welcome a safe place to visit and enjoy their visit to this once great city and have a safe and memorable experience.

Oh gosh, I'll treasure the memories of the not too distant yet foregone past here in South Beach ...

Respectfully Yours, Ray C. Condo President

