

# MIAMI BEACH

## COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City  
Commission

FROM: Commissioner Mark Samuelian

DATE: February 10, 2021

SUBJECT: REFERRAL TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND QUALITY OF LIFE  
COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS THE SOBESAFE RESOLUTION ON  
PUBLIC SAFETY.

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### ANALYSIS

On January 26, 2021 SOBESafe issued its resolution urging the City of Miami Beach to enact procedures that would enhance the visibility and expeditious implementation of technology initiatives in support of public safety (resolution is attached).

This item asks that the Neighborhood and Quality of Life Committee review and discuss the points mentioned in this resolution.

### SUPPORTING SURVEY DATA

N/A

### Applicable Area

Citywide

**Is this a "Residents Right  
to Know" item, pursuant to  
City Code Section 2-14?**

Yes

**Does this item utilize G.O.  
Bond Funds?**

No

**Legislative Tracking**  
Commissioner Mark Samuelian

### Sponsor

Co-Sponsored by Commissioner Michael Gongora

### ATTACHMENTS:

#### Description

- ▣ [SoBeSafe Resolution](#)



## SOBESAFE.ORG

SOBESafe is aware and grateful for the improvements in Miami Beach City operations supporting a safer and more civil Art Deco Cultural District and the City overall. The pace and quality of operations have been improving steadily for the last several months, and we note a significant uptick since the New Year. For this we thank you.

But the challenges to our law and code enforcement will not diminish quickly or easily. While the final week of the 8-week plan that enhanced staffing in the ADCD will soon end, the challenges that made that plan necessary will remain - those who break our laws and attack our quality of life will not depart any time soon. Both for the present and for the longer term, and for reasons both operational and financial, our enforcement departments need and deserve the most effective technology-based tools delivered on the shortest practical timeline.

That goal is not accomplished easily. Although we claim no special knowledge in these areas, our inquiries suggest numerous obstacles. Without greater visibility into current plans and schedules, where they are on or off schedule and why, into the process by which the city reassesses needs and available solutions to changing conditions, we can't have full confidence in an optimal outcome.

The obstacles, as we understand them, are many: requirements for agreement and coordination both among City departments and with State and County counterparts whose priorities may not be identical to ours; the expertise required of hard-pressed departments to evaluate rapidly changing technologies (and the laws that regulate them); a

normal reluctance to implement short-term “low hanging fruit” solutions in deference to longer-term planning; and the usual constraints on budgets and already taxed personnel.

Meanwhile the public safety challenges continue to grow and evolve, suggesting that solutions planned or underway would benefit from review. The rolls of those signing our Petition for greater public safety, originally comprised primarily of ADCD residents, have recently been augmented by those from SOFI, Flamingo, West Avenue and beyond as they have experienced assaults on their safety and quality of life.

It is clear that bad behavior cannot be bottled up in one neighborhood. As recent excellent police reporting indicates, the lawless primarily visit us via causeways from the mainland. They roam up and down the streets of our island in owned and rented vehicles. They are dangerous for our police to pursue. Surely the best tools that would advantage our enforcement departments should be among our highest priorities. We need not invent them: Cameras, real-time monitoring, and lighting high crime areas are conventional tools. But which ones, how implemented, and on what schedule?

**Therefore be it resolved that we call upon our leaders to implement two processes:**

**1. Prepare a 90-day short-term incremental, innovation plan to pick the low-hanging fruit. This plan will cover only those innovations that are not part of the City’s current operations but which will produce meaningful results, and which meet four other criteria:**

- **relatively modest incremental resources**
- **currently available technology**
- **can be done entirely on authority that resides with the City**
- **realizable within 90 days from the time the plan is finished.**

As an example of new items, we call for lighting in those areas documented by police reports as high crime: cross streets and alleys in the ADCD and parts of Collins Ave. Surely, even temporary Christmas lighting is better than dark streets.

**2. Document and report regularly and publicly on all current and currently-approved security implementations pertaining to cameras,**

**real-time monitoring, and street lighting, including those that extend beyond the 90-day window, in the form of a dashboard. This would describe the activity, the originally planned timeline and current status, and issues that are preventing successful outcomes.**

Such a review will give our civic leaders and our residents the opportunity to better understand current activity and where their questions and interventions might support better and more timely solutions.

Although we have no claim to expertise in selecting applications and technologies, we feel strongly that immediate commitments, budgets and schedules must be made for:

- Lighting in Lummus Park
- Staffing for real time monitoring of cameras
- Commitment to a schedule and resources for the integrated crime monitoring center

Wherever the timing is feasible it makes good sense to accelerate the crime-fighting technologies covered by the GO Bond, both as part of this Action Plan, and under follow-on efforts.

*In conclusion, we can imagine few areas of governance, at this time, in this city, that are more worthy of transparency and discussion than technology implementation for public safety. Our dark streets are not the only areas that would benefit from a little illumination. These are issues where skillful implementations will pay big dividends for residents, visitors, our business community and our financial well-being.*

For SOBESafe  
Ken Koppel, Chair