

MIAMI BEACH

NO. LTC# **541-2021**

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Honorable Mayor Dan Gelber and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Alina T. Hudak, City Manager



DATE: December 28, 2021

SUBJECT: **RE-OPENING OF OCEAN DRIVE**

The purpose of this Letter to Commission is to provide you with an update on the re-opening of Ocean Drive to southbound traffic.

Multiple City departments have been working closely to implement the re-opening of southbound traffic on Ocean Drive from 5th Street to 13th Street. Additionally, a pedestrian only plaza is being implemented between 13th Street to 14th Place. The purpose of this letter is to update the Commission on the status of the project.

Ocean Drive from 5th Street to 13th Street: The contractor has completed all the directional white striping for southbound vehicles and is currently completing all necessary signage. In addition, all bike lane pavement markings for the northbound and southbound bike lanes, including the yellow divider stripe have been completed. The only item remaining is the green bike lane paint. This work will commence the week of January 3rd, 2022 and will be completed within a maximum timeframe of 12 working days. The delay in completing the green paint is due to bonding insurance requirements and the specialty contractor's personnel not being available during the holidays. Given that the Administration committed to opening a fully functional project to the Residents, Mayor and Commission, we will open Ocean Drive to southbound traffic on Monday, January 24, 2022 at 6:00 AM EST.

Ocean Drive Pedestrian Plaza from 13th Street to 14th Place:

As per the update provided by the Administration at the December 8, 2021 City Commission Meeting, staff completed the design and commenced the Miami-Dade County approval process for temporary pedestrian plaza on Ocean Drive between 13th Street and 14th Place. The signage and devices necessary for the creation of the plaza are currently in production and will be installed the week of January 3rd to ensure that the plaza is active on January 24, 2022. The City has hosted various meetings with area stakeholders to share the temporary concept and details on the operations.

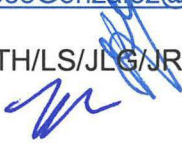
As part of the implementation of the plaza, the City will be reversing the flow of Ocean Court (alleyway) between 14th Place and 13th Street. The City will be posting regulatory signage and wayfinding signage to ensure that drivers follow the new traffic pattern.

Pursuant to the City Commission direction at the October 27, 2021 City Commission Meeting, City staff is also working on finalizing the planning analysis for the interim plaza. The interim plaza planning analysis is evaluating improvements to emergency vehicle access, improvements to fire suppression infrastructure, pavement murals, and other aesthetic/tactical urbanism features to ensure the success of the project. Additionally, the Tourism and Culture staff has initiated high-level conversations with the Chair of the Art Deco Cultural District, Jonathan Plutznik, regarding future opportunities to activate the plaza. Following these initial conversations, staff will be meeting in early January with members of the Ocean Drive Association and neighborhood stakeholders to discuss further the willingness to have

thoughtfully curated programming to enhance the neighborhood for the community. This analysis is scheduled to conclude in January 2022. The interim plaza design and aesthetic features will be shared with area stakeholders to obtain input.

If you have any questions, please reach out to either Joe Gómez, Public Works Director at JoeGomez@miamibeachfl.gov or José González, Transportation Director at JoseGonzalez@miamibeachfl.gov.

ATH/LS/JLG/JRG

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'JLG', is written over the initials 'JLG' in the distribution list.