RESOLUTION NO. 2022 - _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THAT THE CITY ADMINISTRATION, BY AND THROUGH THE MIAMI BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT, COLLABORATE AND COORDINATE WITH THE CITY OF MIAMI AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IN IDENTIFYING A HOLISTIC, MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL APPROACH TO ADDRESS ROGUE GROUPS OF BICYCLISTS THAT REPEATEDLY CONTINUE TO ADVERSELY AFFECT, AND FREQUENTLY TERRORIZE, THE RESIDENTS, VISITORS AND BUSINESSES IN THESE JURISDICTIONS; AND, ALSO, REQUESTING THAT THE CITY ENDEAVOR TO ESTABLISH A NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE IN ORDER TO IMMEDIATELY ADVISE THE OTHER JURISDICTIONS WHEN ONE OF THESE BICYCLE GROUPS MATERIALIZES; AND FURTHER, ENDORSING ANY PROACTIVE EFFORTS TO APPROPRIATELY PROVIDE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, THE ARREST AND PROSECUTION OF PERSONS IN THESE GROUPS OF BICYCLISTS WHO COMMIT ANY VIOLATION(S) OF STATE OR LOCAL LAW.

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach is a unique, coastal community of approximately 90,000 residents that consistently experiences an immense number of visitors, tourists, and other individuals entering the City each year; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of visitors come to the City to enjoy, and indulge, in the City's world-class beaches, restaurants, shopping, and arts and culture; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, the City (along with the City of Miami and Miami-Dade County) has also experienced an increased number of invasions from rogue groups of bicyclists ("bicycle groups") that appear more interested in intimidating those in their path and violating various laws; and

WHEREAS, regrettably, the hallmarks of these bicycle groups include dangerous stunt riding, weaving in and out of traffic nearly missing (and sometimes hitting) others, confronting pedestrians and the operators of other vehicles, and provoking (and often surrounding and attacking) other persons merely minding their own business before encountering these groups of bicyclists; and

WHEREAS, these bicycle groups often materialize very quickly and ride wildly in crowded areas such as Ocean Drive, Collins Avenue, Lincoln Road, and the Causeways; and

WHEREAS, in approximately just the last eighteen (18) months, there have been multiple reported instances of people being struck and/or brutally hit, kicked, punched or beaten by one or more riders in these bicycle groups; and

WHEREAS, the news media has even reported an affected individual as saying that "[e]very single person in the City of Miami Beach needs to be aware of what's going on and needs to be vigilant and needs to learn how to protect themselves from being assaulted"; and

WHEREAS, the City has a long-standing history and clear commitment to reducing crime, and protecting its residents and visitors from any form of abuse, harassment, and/or criminal activity or behavior; and

WHEREAS, by working in collaboration and coordination with the City of Miami and Miami-Dade County, the Police Department may receive more immediate and advance notice (warning) of the appearance of a bicycle group and, thereby, gain the ability to more proactively and effectively address and contend with these fast-moving and rapidly materializing bicycle groups in an effort to further protect the public safety and welfare.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED THAT THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, hereby request that the City Administration, by and through the Miami Beach Police Department, collaborate and coordinate with the City of Miami and Miami-Dade County in identifying a holistic, multi-jurisdictional approach to address rogue groups of bicyclists that repeatedly continue to adversely affect, and frequently terrorize, the residents, visitors and businesses in these jurisdictions; and, also, requesting that the City endeavor to establish a notification procedure in order to immediately advise the other jurisdictions when one of these bicycle groups materializes; and further, endorsing any proactive efforts to appropriately provide for public safety including, without limitation, the arrest and prosecution of persons in these groups of bicyclists who commit any violation(s) of State or local law.

PASSED and ADOPTED this _____ day of September 2022.

ATTEST:

_____
Dan Gelber, Mayor

_____
Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner Steven Meiner)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

for City Attorney MAF 9/7/22 Date

Man beaten up by group of bikers on Venetian Causeway intersection as his son watches

BY SHELDON FOX, DANNIELLE GARCIA

AUGUST 25, 2022

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MIAMI BEACH, FLA. (WSVN) - A drive home from a baseball game came to a violent stop on the Venetian Causeway in Miami Beach when a father said he was beaten up repeatedly by a group of bicyclists while his 8-year-old son watched in terror from inside the family's SUV.

"It was a gorgeous day," said the father, "just another wonderful day spent with my son."

But things took an ugly turn when a group on bicycles shared the causeway with the family.

"Between 15 and 25 teenagers on bikes," said the father.

The riders have been linked to several assault and battery cases in Miami and Miami Beach.

"They're doing wheelies, they're swerving, they're playing chicken with the various cars," said the father.

The father said he called police to warn them about the riders who zipped ahead of him in traffic.

But things turned dangerous for him when he stopped at the light on East Rivo Alto Drive.

"All of a sudden, a bunch of them came from behind and started banging on the car. They were not provoked," said the father. "I was just in the car with my young son, with the windows up."

The taunting made the victim's son upset.

"[He said], 'Daddy, daddy! Why are they doing this?' Screaming, screaming," said the father.

The father said he got out of the SUV. When asked why, he replied, "My son was in fear."

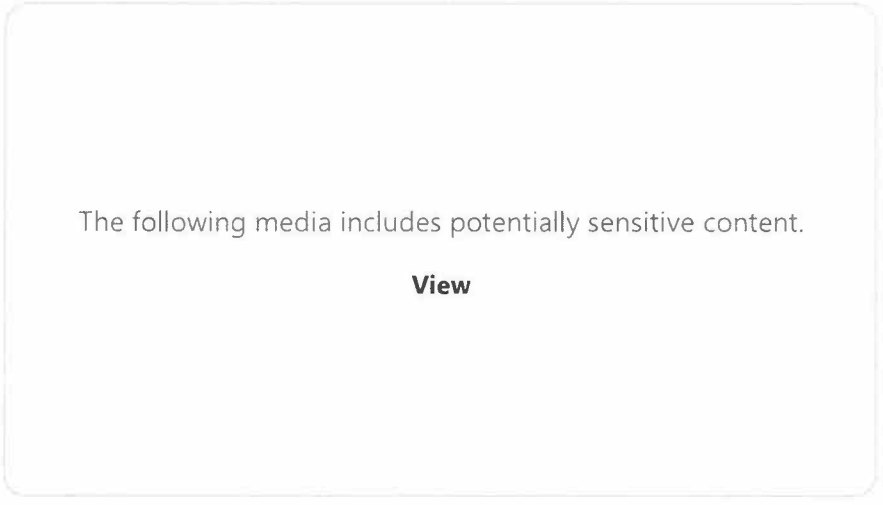
Boxed in by cars at the the light, the bikers crept closer to the father.

"Somebody came from the other side and knocked me to the ground," he said. "They were kicking me, they were stomping me, they were trying to run me over with a bike, they were trying to hit me with a bike."

Sheldon Fox-7 News
@fox_sheldon · **Follow**

Teens attacked a man on the Venetian cswy in Miami

way home from a Marlins game 8/13. The riders got away. **@wsvn** **#Exclusive**



The father ended up bloodied and bruised. He said they also caused damage to his SUV.

"Banging, kicking, hitting," he said.

The father said his panicked son put the car in drive, causing a fender bender.

Police arrived shortly after, and the injured dad bled from his injuries.

"My cuts and bruises, they'll heal, but what my son, who's a great kid – I have to have a conversation with him to tell him that there are bad people out there," he said as he held back tears.

The bikers pedaled away. They have not been caught.

The father said they need to be stopped before they target other people.

"Someone will end up being killed by them," he said.

The beating has also made the victim reconsider remaining in the area.

"I'm seriously revisiting whether this is a place to raise a family," he said.

Police called this a simple battery case, as they continue to investigate.

If you have any information on this incident or the bikers involved, call Miami-Dade Crime Stoppers at 305-471-TIPS. Remember, you can always remain anonymous, and you may be eligible for a reward of up to $5,000.

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Surveillance video shows man attacked by bicyclist in Miami Beach

BY SHELDON FOX

AUGUST 2, 2022

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MIAMI BEACH, FLA. (WSVN) - Surveillance video, obtained exclusively by 7News, shows an aggravated battery by a cyclist on a Miami Beach restaurant manager that left him with a broken nose.

It happened in 2021 at Sixth and Ocean Drive.

pops a wheelie in his direction, causing him to step aside and words were exchanged. The cyclist drops his bike, before the men square up. Another biker then arrives, distracting the man's attention. The biker then struck the man with his right hand while looking away and the victim goes down.

"I was covered in a puddle of blood," said the victim.

"His nose and face completely ripped open, and I was just absolutely horrified," said the victim's wife.

In the middle of a crowded Ocean Drive, around 8 p.m., he's dripping blood, hurt and hunched over. The cyclists stay at the ready, continuing to offer choice words, as several others peddle up and surround the man.

"They're doing [expletive] wheelies," said the victim to police on camera.

Moments later, he tells officers that groups of riders on the beach have been at this for a while.

According to police, the rider responsible that night is Ronald Moss. He was arrested earlier this year for the beach battery. He now faces more serious charges for an unrelated crime in Northwest Miami-Dade. Still, the bike bandit concern in Miami Beach remains a big one.

"This is like an epidemic," said the victim's wife. "Every single person in the City of Miami Beach needs to be aware of what's going on and needs to be vigilant and needs to learn how to protect themselves from being assaulted."

Written threats to kill or do bodily injury is the charges that have Moss currently locked up with a pending case. The next court appearance is scheduled for Friday.

7News was told by inside sources that Moss could face more serious violent crime type charges down the pike.

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LOCAL NEWS

Miami Beach beatdown: Wild teens attack man in broad daylight on Collins Avenue

Jeff Weinsier, Investigative Reporter
Michelle Solomon, Podcast Producer/Reporter

Published: **April 1, 2021 at 7:39 PM**
Updated: **April 2, 2021 at 5:41 AM**

Tags: **Miami Beach, Miami-Dade County, Spring Break, Crime**

A 34-year-old man says he was beaten by a group of teens on bikes in South Beach.

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. – A man is recovering after he was assaulted by a gang of teens on busy Collins Avenue in broad daylight.

So far, Miami Beach police have made 1 arrest – a 13-year-old has been charged with battery.

A group of teenagers were riding bikes wildly down 9th Street heading toward Collins Avenue on Tuesday afternoon.

Daniel Ciforelli said that the teens rode by his friend. "I guess they bumped into him and they weren't letting him by," Ciforelli said. "I turned and said, 'Get out of here, children.' And they said, 'What?' "

Ciforelli said he tried to run.

"(I had) an instant pit in my stomach. I didn't know where to go, where to run, they were surrounding me," he said.

The next thing the 34-year-old knew, the group of teens had begun brutally beating him.

"I don't know where anything was coming from at that point. All I was doing was covering my face and protecting myself. I had a sharp pain. I thought someone had a knife and slashed me."

Ad

Ciforelli said he was punched and punched over and over again. He was slammed to the ground and thrown into bushes.

It is the latest incident in what has become an out of control spring break on Miami Beach.

According to the city of Miami Beach's Declaration of Emergency, from Feb. 3 through March 28, there have been: 1,182 total arrests with 450 of them felony arrests. Also, 116 firearms have been seized.

Ciforelli is hoping he doesn't suffer permanent damage from the beating. "They hit my ear like 3 or 4 times and I have ringing. I feel like my ear is popping every time I swallow," he said.

Not only is he recovering from lacerations and has scabs from multiple cuts head to toe, but Ciforelli said he's shocked at what the city has become.

"Miami Beach is not supposed to be like this. It was never like this. It is turning into a war zone here," he said.

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Miami Beach braces for new spring break visitors with curfew back in place

The Miami Beach 8 p.m. curfew is back in effect as another South Beach spring break weekend arrives. Police say they have refined their strategy to keep the city safe.

Residents hold protest outside Miami Beach city hall as spring break chaos remains cause of concern

There were over 100 people outside of Miami Beach City Hall for what they were calling the 'Take Back the City Protest.'

Miami Beach residents sound off on spring break issues

The Miami-Dade County Community Relations Board holds a "listening session" with Miami Beach residents to discuss spring break issues in the city.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS:



Jeff Weinsier

Jeff Weinsier joined Local 10 News in September 1994. He is currently an investigative reporter for Local 10. He is also responsible for the very popular Dirty Dining segments.

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South Beach bartender's nose broken by group of cyclists amid string of attacks

BY SHELDON FOX

AUGUST 6, 2021

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MIAMI BEACH, FLA. (WSVN) - A bartender in South Beach had his nose broken when he was attacked by a crew of young bikers in what police said is the latest in a series of similar incidents that have taken place in the area in recent months.

Police said the battery took place along the 600 block of Ocean Drive.

The victim said the two women who were with him were almost hit, but he was the one who ended up injured.

"I heard the two bikes drop, and I felt the one punch, and then they started to kick me on the ground," he said.

The bartender said he had heard about the bicyclists.

"A bike gang that rides around, doing wheelies, going through pedestrian traffic," he said.

Miami Beach Police officers responded, but the cyclists had pedaled off, leaving the victim's face dripping with blood.

"I didn't even know what was going on because I was covered in a puddle of blood," he said.

The bartender was taken to an area hospital for treatment.

Investigators said they know at least one of the culprits, as seen on a Miami Beach Police internal flyer.

Police said last Saturday's incident isn't even the most recent.

Wednesday evening, detectives said, dozens of bicyclists rode past a woman near 12th Street and Ocean Drive when one of them tried a stunt and slammed into her.

The victim, who was visiting from Orlando, was transported to Mount Sinai Medical Center.

Officers have since arrested a 15-year-old boy for battery.

Police sources believe the same group of bikers have been involved in several incidents in Miami Beach and Miami going all the way back to March.

7News reported on the chase and beatdown of a man near Ninth Street and Collins Avenue and two other victims along Biscayne Boulevard in Miami's Edgewater neighborhood.

Only juveniles have been arrested in connection with the prior crimes.

"Every single one of them should get thrown in jail and serve every single day that's worth the crime," said the bartender.

If you have any information on any of these attacks, call Miami-Dade Crime Stoppers at 305-471-TIPS. Remember, you can always remain anonymous, and you may be eligible for a reward of up to $5,000.

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