

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
United States Coast Guard
Seventh District

909 S.E. 1st Avenue, Room 432
Miami, FL 33131-3028
Staff Symbol: (dpb)
Phone: 305-415-6740
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Email: jennifer.n.zercher@uscg.mil

16593/2362
February 22, 2023

Mr. David Borg
(917) 696-3128
dmosheborg@gmail.com

Delivered via email: dmosheborg@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Borg:

The U.S. Coast Guard received your email dated February 2, 2023, requesting a permanent change to the operating schedule of the 63rd Street Bridge across Indian Creek, mile 4.0, at Miami Beach, Florida. The draw of the 63rd Street Bridge, at Miami Beach, Florida is governed by 33 CFR § 117.293.

You have requested additional restrictions be placed on the drawbridge due to vehicle congestion in the area.

The Coast Guard Seventh District Bridge Office and Coast Guard Captain of the Port, Waterway Management Office have reviewed your request including supporting information. The Coast Guard is denying your request for a permanent change to the drawbridge operating schedule for the following reasons:

1. This request for a permanent change would only allow marine traffic to pass through the bridge seven times during daylight hours on weekdays and only open on the hour during daylight hours on weekends. This request is unreasonable for the safety of navigation and contrary to federal law. The current drawbridge operating schedule significantly restricts navigation during daylight hours to assist with the City of Miami Beach and the Florida Department of Transportation with the vehicle congestion in the area. The Coast Guard has reached out to both agencies requesting they investigate other mitigating measures to assist with vehicle congestion, as it appears restricting drawbridge openings is not effective.
2. You stated that emergency vehicles have the inability to seek alternate routes when the bridge is open. 33 CFR 117.31 - Upon receiving notification that an emergency vehicle is responding to an emergency situation, a drawtender must make all reasonable efforts to have the drawspan closed at the time the emergency vehicle arrives. This federal regulation allows for the bridge to close or remain closed even in the event a vessel requests an opening, just as vehicles are required to give way to emergency vehicles on roadways.

3. A permanent change to the drawbridge operating schedule was completed in March 2022, to assist the City of Miami Beach with vehicle congestion in the area. We have received another request from the City of Miami Beach to further restrict navigation. A Coast Guard determination has not made regarding the current request from the City of Miami Beach.

If you have any questions please contact USCG Sector Miami Waterways Division Chief, LT Benjamin Adrien at (305) 535-4307, email Benjamin.D.Adrien@uscg.mil or my representative, Ms. Jennifer Zercher at (305) 415-6740 or email Jennifer.N.Zercher@uscg.mil.

Sincerely,



RANDALL D. OVERTON, MPA
Director, District Bridge Program
U.S. Coast Guard
By direction

E-Copy: USCG Sector Miami Waterways Management, SectorMiamiWaterways@uscg.mil
FDOT, Pablo.Orozco@dot.state.fl.us

Encl: Mr. Borg's email dated February 2, 2023

Zercher, Jennifer N CIV USCG D7 (USA)

From: Overton, Randall D CIV USCG D7 (USA)
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 9:55 AM
To: David Borg
Cc: Zercher, Jennifer N CIV USCG D7 (USA); Adrien, Benjamin D LT USCG SEC MIAMI (USA)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] 63rd street bridge
Signed By: randall.d.overton@uscg.mil

Mr. Borg,

Thank you for your email requesting a change to the operating regulation on the 63rd Street Bridge across Indian Creek.

We will take your request under consideration, however, as stated in Ms. Zercher's previous email, the 63rd Street Bridge is currently on a very restrictive schedule for vessel traffic and further restrictions could create a hazard to navigation and an unreasonable obstruction to navigation on navigable waters of the United States. Additionally, reducing the number of openings could have the undesired effect of substantially increasing the duration of openings due to vessel queuing.

Thank you again,

Randall D. Overton, MPA
Director, District Bridge Program
U. S. Coast Guard
(305) 415-6736 Work
(305) 205-0795 Cell
(305) 415-6763 Fax

From: David Borg <dmosheborg@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 9:23 AM
To: Overton, Randall D CIV USCG D7 (USA) <Randall.D.Overton@uscg.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] 63rd street bridge

Good Morning Mr Overton

I am writing this email with regards to the 63rd street bridge and 33 CFR 117.8

(1) Name of the person or entity requesting a change to the regulations: David Borg dmosheborg@gmail.com 917-696-3128

(2) Name and location of the drawbridge: 63rd Street Bridge across Indian Creek, mile 4.0 at Miami Beach, FL

(3) Explanation of the problem and how the proposed change would solve the problem: currently the bridge blocks traffic for appox 25% of every hour it is open causing massive traffic pileups and inability for emergency vehicles to seek alternate routes. This is not regular maritime traffic but party and pleasure boats who can easily work around any schedule they are given by the Coast Guard

(4) Other mitigating measures being taking to assist with problem. City of Miami Beach has been dispatching police to help move traffic along where they can

(5) State the proposed schedule change. Modify [§ 117.293 Indian Creek](#) per the below

The draw of the 63rd Street Bridge across Indian Creek, mile 4.0 at Miami Beach, FL, shall open on signal except that:

(a) Each day from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., except Federal holidays, the draw need open only on the hour

(b) From 6:30 a.m. to 9:55 a.m. and 4:05 p.m. to 7:59 p.m., Monday through Friday except Federal holidays, the draw need not open for the passage of vessels.