



ALEX J. FERNANDEZ
COMMISSIONER

March 23, 2023

Mr. Alexander I. Tachmes, Partner
Shutts & Bowen, LLP
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Suite 4100
Miami, Florida 33131
ATachmes@shutts.com

Dear Mr. Tachmes:

This letter is to summarize our virtual meeting held on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, which you organized at my request with business stakeholders from Ocean Drive and/or their legal representative(s). Attendance for this meeting was excellent and included approximately 15 hotels, cafes and other businesses on Ocean Drive (1/3 of all the cafes on Ocean Drive).

At the opening of the meeting I presented my proposals for the following:

Instituting curfews in advance of Spring Break 2024 on the busiest weekend (traditionally the third weekend) for the area south of 23rd Street with a curfew time to be professionally determined by the City Administration and in consultation with the businesses. This would not be during Ultra/Miami Music Week.

Closing businesses earlier in the area south of 23rd Street along Ocean Drive, Collins Avenue, and Washington Avenue for certain periods in March with a closure time to be professionally determined by the City Administration and in consultation with the businesses.

Rolling back alcohol sales citywide during the second and third weekends of March to control the tone of privately promoted activities for spring break beyond the geographical area south of 23rd Street.

Establishing a fenced in gun free zone on Ocean Drive and Lummus Park privately organized by a special event producer with a sophisticated security plan similar to the Ultra Music Festival or Coconut Grove Arts Festival to include at minimum consolidated entry points with metal detectors and a fenced perimeter. The City will work with area businesses to minimize pedestrian and vehicular disruption.

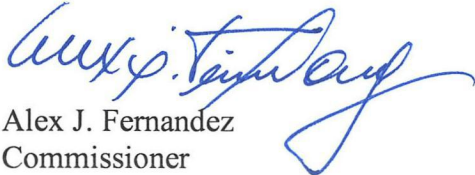
Following my presentation, each attendee was provided at least one opportunity to speak.

The participating business stakeholders did not raise opposition to my proposals except for one attendee who was not opposed to the concept but wanted more time to study. The stakeholders were particularly supportive of (a) announcing a curfew in advance - at Monday's City Commission meeting - for the third weekend in March; and, (b) establishing a controlled and secured fenced perimeter around Ocean Drive and Lummus Park by permitting a privately organized special event with a sophisticated security plan to include metal detectors.

One business owner suggested closure of the causeways upon the city reaching capacity. In response to this constructive idea I have requested from the City Attorney legislation directing the City Administration to explore the viability of entering into a memorandum of understanding with the Florida Department of Transportation to provide the City Manager with advance authority to close any of the causeways leading into the City during the second and third weekends of Spring Break in March 2024, based upon certain capacity limits having been met and/or the occurrence of other established criteria.

I appreciate the opportunity you provided to meet with the business stakeholders from Ocean Drive and look forward to future conversations. A copy of this letter will be submitted as a supplemental to agenda item R9AD.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alex J. Fernandez", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Alex J. Fernandez
Commissioner