

Cardillo, Lilia

From: Fernandez, Alex
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 12:28 PM
To: Cardillo, Lilia; Granado, Rafael
Cc: Salinas, Monica
Subject: Fwd: Urgent Action is Needed to Prevent Future Spring Break Chaos

Lilia,

Could you please add this to item R9AD as a supplement?

Thanks
Alex

Alex Fernandez, Commissioner
City of Miami Beach

Sent from my iPhone

From: SOBESafe <admin@sobesafe.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2023 12:13:06 PM
To: Fernandez, Alex <Alex@miamibeachfl.gov>
Subject: Urgent Action is Needed to Prevent Future Spring Break Chaos

[THIS MESSAGE COMES FROM AN EXTERNAL EMAIL - USE CAUTION WHEN REPLYING AND OPENING LINKS OR ATTACHMENTS]



On Monday, the Commission will be considering a motion by Commissioner Alex Fernandez to impose a curfew, business closures, and alcohol sales restrictions for subsequent Spring Breaks. SOBESafe sent to the Commissioners a letter today strongly endorsing this proposal, see below.

We urge residents to contact the Commissioners before Monday in support of Commissioner Fernandez' plan. At the bottom of this message, you'll find both their email addresses and a sample text that you can include in your email.

Ken

Will Our Elected Officials End the Spring Break Mayhem?

We at SOBESafe are horrified by what has transpired in our neighborhood during Spring Break, and we are not alone. We have surveyed leaders of neighborhood associations surrounding us, and they are equally dismayed. There is near unanimity in our community that the mayhem of Spring Break **must never be repeated again**.

But how do we stop the busiest weekends of Spring Break from destroying our community year after year?

First, we commend Mayor Gelber, Commissioner Meiner, and Commissioner Fernandez for their leadership in addressing curfews and alcohol restrictions for the remainder of this Spring Break.

Second, the time to address next Spring Break is **now**. The world is watching us, and we need to send a very clear message while their attention is on us, that next Spring Break will be entirely different.

To that end, SOBESafe strongly urges the Commission to adopt on Monday the three-prong strategy proposed by Commissioner Fernandez:

1. Implement a curfew during the third weekend of March (the busiest weekend of Spring Break);
2. Close businesses in our neighborhood earlier during the second and third weekend of March;
3. Roll back retail sales of alcohol citywide during the second and third weekend of March.

We also commend Commissioner Fernandez' approach of delegating to the professionals in the City's departments the task of setting the specifics of the geographical scope of the first two of these restrictions, and the days and hours that would be affected. These should not be determined through a political process, but rather through a data-driven analysis of when and where crowds start to form. There is only one goal to the first two of these restrictions: prevent by ordinance a crowd from forming in a specific location in our neighborhood that is so large that it cannot be controlled by our police.

After the Commission addresses this three-prong strategy on Monday, we urge the Commission to address the rest of Commissioner Fernandez' proposals (as well as Commissioner Meiner's proposal) regarding gun control, limiting non-residential parking, bringing in additional police and enforcement of traffic laws. To this list we would add two more: a 365-days-per-year enforcement of drug laws, and better lighting in our neighborhood.

Not only is the world watching what we do next, via national and international media, but many citizens of Miami Beach will pay attention to what happens Monday. Does the Commission act definitively to prevent yet another tragic repeat of Spring Break in our neighborhood, or does it fail to act or seek to weaken Commissioner Fernandez' plan or delay action by referring it to committee?

We don't want to point fingers on what each Commissioner has done or failed to do in the past. Everyone in our community bears some responsibility for failing to prevent the tragedies of the last three years. But we do plan to hold all the Commissioners accountable for what happens next. Who is for us now, and who is against us? And by "us" we feel very confident that our view here is shared by the overwhelming majority of the residents of Miami Beach. We are all outraged, and we demand that our leaders act decisively now, delegating to the professionals the details based on facts, not politics.

While we encourage you to express your personal views on Spring Break, feel free to use the provided sample language below:

Dear Commissioners: I am dismayed by the tragedies that have occurred in this and past Spring Breaks. You need to take immediate action to ensure this does not happen again. I urge you to adopt on Monday Commissioner Fernandez' plan to impose a curfew, business closures and alcohol sales restrictions during future Spring Breaks.

Email Addresses for the Mayor & Commission:

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