

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM-

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Commissioner Alex Fernandez

DATE: May 15, 2024

SUBJECT: A REFERRAL TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE (PSNQLC) FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO EXPLORE AND PROVIDE OPTIONS FOR ESTABLISHING A NIGHTTIME DROP-IN CENTER IN MIAMI BEACH.

ANALYSIS

While the City offers a comprehensive range of services and support for our homeless population, it is notable that many individuals often decline them. This can lead to homeless individuals seeking refuge in residential and commercial areas, such as corridors, alleyways, and storefronts in the evening. Such behavior not only affects the unhoused population but also poses significant challenges for our neighborhoods.

The presence of homeless individuals in these areas can create a range of issues, including safety concerns for both the homeless individuals themselves and local residents. It can also result in increased littering, loitering, and disturbances, impacting the overall cleanliness and ambiance of our communities. Furthermore, the congregation of homeless individuals in these areas may deter potential visitors and customers, potentially harming local businesses and impacting the economic vitality of the neighborhood.

In light of this ongoing challenge and considering the vulnerability of homeless individuals in these situations, I propose that we refer this item to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee (PSNQLC) to discuss the potential implementation of establishing a nighttime drop-in center for homeless persons in Miami Beach.

I suggest that the administration explore any available space to provide amenities such as showers, bathrooms, and access to services. Establishing such a space, conveniently located within the city, could greatly benefit our community and offer critical support to those in need.

Furthermore, this space could provide support not only for the homeless but also for vulnerable populations like victims of abuse, those escaping human trafficking and the LGBTQ population, providing further inclusivity and comprehensive care for all members of our community.

By offering after-hours comprehensive amenities tailored to the specific needs of the unhoused, victims of abuse, the LGBTQ population, and other vulnerable groups, we can enhance access to essential services and programming while promoting greater community accountability. Presenting this proposal to the PSNQLC will provide an opportunity for thorough discussion and exploration of potential options, ultimately leading to informed decision-making and positive outcomes for our community.

SUPPORTING SURVEY DATA

According to the 2022 Miami Beach Community Survey, 24.6 percent of survey respondents cited efforts to address homelessness as one of the major categories of city services that are most important for the city to provide. Additionally, the Mayor and City Commission identified the need to address homelessness by continuously evolving and innovating services to help those wishing to

end their personal homelessness as a key management objective in the City's 2019 Strategic Plan Through the Lens of Resilience.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Fiscal Impact is to be determined by the Committee.

Legislative Tracking

Commissioner Alex Fernandez

Strategic Connection

Mobility - Address homelessness.