

**From:** Morales, Jimmy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 30, 2017 1:55 PM  
**To:** 'Stephan Ginez'  
**Cc:** Mayor's Office; Sanchez, Juan; Silverstein, Eva; Brooks, Kathie; Monserrat, Marcia; Daniels, Tonya  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT: World OutGames – Let's make it right before participating athletes leave Miami.

Mr. Ginez,

I appreciate your recognition of what the City of Miami Beach has done to try to salvage the OutGames. I also want to acknowledge all the work and support from the Greater Miami and Convention Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) and also from Steve Adkins and the Miami Dade Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (MDGLCC).

I am concerned that your statement seems to indicate that we should not have allowed them additional time to make this event work, and that somehow it is our fault that these athletes were stranded without games. Let me be clear that at the end of the day, the leadership of World OutGames Miami decided to cancel the OutGames, not the City of Miami Beach. Many of their events were not even being held on Miami Beach, therefore we had no regulatory jurisdiction over those events. What we collectively have done is try to salvage as many of the week's events as possible. The record should reflect, for example, that the Human Rights Conference would not have occurred if the GMCVB had not guaranteed the Loew's Hotel that it would be paid. Even as late as today, we have discovered that the hotel fees for the speakers at the conference had not been paid and the MDGLCC has identified donations to cover those expenses. The City raised the OutGames \$20K so that they could hold certain sporting events at the University of Miami (which they still canceled). The City forgave a \$50K loan to help them financially. At our expense, we are holding a series of athletic events for the athletes at City facilities, including tennis, field hockey, basketball, volleyball, track and soccer. I think that as a community, we have collectively stepped up to try to clean up the mess left by the organizers.

I don't believe that this unfortunate incident will endanger future LGBTQ events in Miami Beach. Our continuing commitment is evident by the number of LGBTQ events held in our city throughout the calendar year, which include the Winter Party, White Party, Miami Beach Pride, Agua Girl Events, and the Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. We have an outstanding partnership with local LGBTQ organizations such as SAVE, the National LGBTQ Task Force, Equality Florida, Pridelines Youth Services, and the Miami-Dade County Gay Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. On the contrary, a well-planned event will not find a better host city than Miami Beach.

The \$200K you are referencing is not available for a Recovery Fund. Those funds have specific conditions attached to their release, and those were not met. Between now and June 4<sup>th</sup>, there is nothing administratively that can be done to release the funds. Furthermore, we still don't know for sure if other unpaid expenses will be discovered in the weeks ahead (like the one I mentioned above that was discovered today). I think we owe it to our local community to make sure all bills are paid to our local vendors and providers. Finally, I don't think the City should be the entity raising funds for a Recovery Fund and determining how to disburse those sums. I would not recommend that the City take on such liability, particularly since the underlying event was not a City event.

Thank you again for all you have done to assist. I am sure the drinks and sauna have helped ease some of their pain. I look forward to meeting many of them tomorrow night at the Botanical Garden.

## MIAMIBEACH

**Jimmy Morales**

**City Manager**

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*We are committed to providing excellent public service and safety to all who live, work and play in our vibrant, tropical, historic community.*

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**From:** Stephan Ginez [<mailto:stephan@gaythering.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, May 29, 2017 6:01 PM

**Subject:** URGENT: World OutGames – Let's make it right before participating athletes leave Miami.

To: Mayor, City Commissioners, City Manager, Chair of the Miami Foundation GLBT Fund.

Since the announcement of the cancellation of World OutGames Miami, the City of Miami Beach and many others jumped in to save what could be saved. We should all be thankful for those efforts.

What is being done will not appease, however, athletes who trained for months, allocated their vacation time, saved and spent a substantial amount of money to travel to our city and compete.

The city of Miami Beach went out of its way to help World OutGames Miami by reducing costs and postponing every deadline until the last day. This showed its ongoing commitment to support the LGBT community.

Unfortunately, the decision to postpone the deadline completely backfired on the participating athletes: if the deadline of May 12 for the insurance and the

permitting had been respected, athletes would have had the option to cancel their trip. When the announcement of the cancellation was made on Friday, most of the athletes were already here or in transit.

This added a lot to their anger as most of them felt trapped. We need to accept that part of responsibility even though there was no bad intention from the City.

Late last year, the City had agreed to come up with additional funding if the World OutGames Miami were able to raise a certain amount of funds by specific deadlines. It is my understanding that \$200,000 additional funds were reserved for that purpose but were never distributed because the OutGames were unable to meet the requirements.

I am asking the City to allocate these earmarked \$200,000 to a **World OutGames Miami Recovery Fund** to benefit the participating athletes. **This should be done this week before the athletes leave town so we can show them our commitment to make it right.**

It would be unfair to let the city carry the full financial burden of this fund. I am asking board members of The Miami Foundation GLBT Fund to allocate as much as possible to the **World OutGames Miami Recovery Fund**. It is my understanding that more than \$250,000 were distributed last year. At a time of such an international debacle our community cannot stay on the sideline and reserve all these funds to our local organizations as if nothing had happened.

Community individuals should be able to contribute to that recovery fund directly or through fundraising efforts by local LGBT organizations.

As owners of the Gaythering, Miami Beach only Gay Hotel, we have been offering unlimited complimentary drinks, access to our spa/sauna and shuttle

services to all athletes. We are glad many athletes already took advantage of our offer. We are willing to put together fundraising events and commit up to \$10,000 if this recovery fund is created as we understand the impact on these athletes and on our city's image with the LGBT community.

This scandal could also make it very difficult for future LGBT events in Miami Beach to find sponsors. At the same time, we, as community members, need to come up with better ways to supervise the funding and operations of our local organizations. We need to be impeccable and fully transparent. This was obviously not the case with World OutGames Miami. Let us use this opportunity to better ourselves and come up with better guidelines as too many of our organizations still don't have strong bylaws to prevent these issues.

As Memorial Day weekend is ending with 2 fatalities. Some are looking (again) at ways to ban/end Urban Week. The city has been "managing/controlling" that event for the last 17 years at a cost over \$1,000,000 per year!

At the same time, we are hosting thousands of members of the LGBT community without any incident although most of them had plenty of reason to be very angry.

What we are asking you to do with a recovery fund is **NOTHING** compared to what is spent yearly by the city to just "manage" Urban Week. You can send a strong signal about which visitors you want to see coming back.

Please do the right thing and do it this week so these Athletes can go back home with a better image of our city. We only have until **Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup>** to try to change the perception our visiting athletes will take back home.

I invite you to move quickly. Details about how the funds should be allocated to athletes can be worked out later. An announcement and the collection of the contact information is all we need this week.

Making that announcement at the event you are holding at the Botanical Garden this week would be the best that could be done for our athletes.

Sincerely

Stephan Ginez

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"Mother Superior"  
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