



**City of Miami Beach  
Office of Mayor Matti Herrera Bower**

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**MIAMI BEACH MAYOR MATTI HERRERA BOWER ANNOUNCES THE OFFICIAL DATE OF  
MIAMI BEACH GAY PRIDE 2009**

(Miami Beach, FL) – It has been almost 40 years since the gay liberation movement began at the Stonewall Inn in New York City and in that time almost every gay destination city in the country hosts a Gay Pride event to celebrate their local community and peacefully demonstrate the need for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) equality.

This year, the City of Miami Beach Mayor Matti Herrera Bower with the support of her newly developed GLBT Business Development Ad Hoc Committee has selected Saturday, April 18, 2009 as the official date of the City's first annual Miami Beach Gay Pride.

"It is hard to believe a city as diverse and as inclusive of the GLBT community has not had an official Miami Beach Gay Pride in the past," says Bower. "I am very proud to be a part of such a historical event in our community and will make every effort to ensure that Miami Beach Gay Pride 2009 will be a success."

Miami Beach Gay Pride 2009 will begin at noon on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> with a Gay Pride parade and March on Ocean Drive from 5<sup>th</sup> Street to 15<sup>th</sup> Street. Local businesses, community organizations, and entertainers are expected to band together to create various floats for the parade.

Immediately following the parade, various booths, food kiosks, and exhibits will line the streets of Ocean Drive creating a Gay Pride exhibition area where local businesses and community organizations can showcase their pride and support of GLBT equality.

Miami Beach Gay Pride 2009 will end with a large afternoon dance event, complete with shows by various national and international recording artists, music sets by international DJs, and performances by a number of popular entertainers.

"This may be the first year for the Official Miami Beach Gay Pride, but it has been a long time coming," says Babak Movahedi, chair of the Mayor's GLBT Business Development Ad Hoc Committee. "This will be a community driven event created for and developed by Miami Beach GLBT residents. We are just planting the seed of an event that will foster a better sense of community within the City of Miami Beach."

The creation of the GLBT Committee was Mayor Bower's first initiative of 2008, and its mission is to bring recommendations to the Mayor and City Commission on initiatives to be implemented and supported by the City regarding a variety of issues to ensure the welfare and future of the Miami Beach LGBT community.

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