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# MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 044-2009

## LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: February 12, 2009

SUBJECT: South Beach Wine & Food load-in

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jorge M. Gonzalez", written over the "FROM:" line.

This letter to Commission (LTC) is in response to the attached e-mail, which was sent to the City on February 11, indicating the producers of the Food Network South Beach Wine & Food Festival were not following the agreed upon load-in for the 2009 event. Following the receipt of the complaint, representatives from Tourism and Cultural Development toured the site with the event's logistics manager. The results are as follows, with images attached:

- **Load-in schedule:** The e-mail suggests the event began load-in February 2<sup>nd</sup> west of the dunes and February 4<sup>th</sup> east of the dunes. We have verified with the event producer and on-site police that the event did follow the load-in schedule and Special Event Permit and began load-in west of the dunes on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and east of the dune on February 5<sup>th</sup>.
- **Time frame of activity:** The e-mail suggests a month of closure for access through the event area to the beach. The final day of load-out is scheduled for February 27. This equates to a three week period from load-in to load-out where access is either interrupted fully or partially impacted.
- **Beach access at 13 Street:** The e-mail suggests that beach access from the 13 Street dune crossovers are blocked, as they were last year when the event shifted to the north because of the county's beach erosion project. This is not accurate. Although the fenced site extends approximately 25 feet north of the 13 Street dune crossover, the attached pictures demonstrate that east west access is provided. In fact, this is actually 50 feet less space than was indicated on the event site plan that was vetted and approved by the City and the community. TCD Department representatives witnessed many beachgoers clearly notice the end of the fence line and walk the few feet north and around the fence line to access the beach with no confusion. At the urging of Department representatives, the event producer expedited installation of "Beach Access" wayfinding signage along the fence line.

In addition, the event producer has maintained direct beach access paths at 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Streets through this week via clear fence openings. Department representatives witnessed beachgoers using these access points as well. As you may recall, the last LTC on this subject stated these streets would be closed to beach goers, but the event producer has been able to provide beach access at these streets.

Department representatives also noted that all other requirements, including full emergency access; relocated production compound; proper beach access and general cleanliness of site at all times, is being properly implemented. Department representatives will continue to monitor the activity and report and capture any activity not in keeping with the permit conditions.

ATTACHMENTS (photos)

JMG/hmf/mas/gw

**From:** gar2ba@aol.com [mailto:gar2ba@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 4:54 PM  
**To:** Bower, Matti H.; Diaz, Victor; Wolfson, Jonah; Libbin, Jerry; Tobin, Ed; Gross, Saul; Weithorn, Deede; City Manager's mailbox; Weinstein, AC  
**Subject:** RE: South beach Food & Wine Festival - letter frfom Jorge Gonzalez LTC#317-2008

Dear Mayor Matti,

RE: South Beach Wine & Food Festival Letter from Jorge Gonzalez to Commissioners,  
December 11, 2008

Changes

HELP!! After our meeting with you last October and receiving a copy of the updated report, LTC#317-2008, we thought our problems were settled and we were hopeful.

Instead, once again, even though changes we asked for were in the report, in actuality, things are the same. The beach access on 13th Street is not open as indicated and set up began on Feb. 2nd west of the dunes and Feb. 4th east of the dunes. It will be a month of closure to beach access again. This is outrageous.

We know the economy is bad and SoBe is a big \$ maker for Miami Beach but the report stated compromise which was acceptable to our entire community. So now, who do we believe? The report is inaccurate and blatantly dishonest.

Mayor, please help, come down and see. What is stated in the report is not being done.

Sincerely yours,

Wendy & Gary Rugg  
1255 Collins Ave.  
305 534-1305  
Islander Community Liaisons & NODARA

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