



# MIAMI BEACH

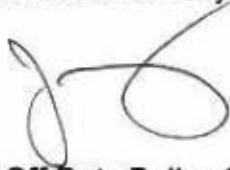
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
NO. LTC # 028-2010

RECEIVED

2010 JAN 29 AM 9:50

LETTER TO COMMISSION

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

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager 

DATE: January 28, 2010

SUBJECT: **Miami Beach Police Department Off-Duty Police Service and Volunteer Overtime for Special Events**

This Letter to the Commission will serve to inform the Mayor and Members of the City Commission of the recent decision by the City of Miami Beach Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) to cease volunteering for overtime and off-duty assignments.

Based on discussion at an FOP union meeting on Tuesday, January 26, 2010, the FOP advised the City at approximately 9:30 pm on Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> that their members will not volunteer for any overtime or off-duty assignments effective 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 28, 2010; no end date was provided. The Administration was advised that this decision by FOP is in relation to the status of the City's ongoing labor negotiations for a successor collective bargaining agreement with the FOP for the period of October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2012.

There are several high profile events that are occurring in the next few days where off-duty assignments were already filled by City of Miami Beach police officers. These assignments will no longer be staffed with off-duty City of Miami Beach police officers. As you may know, the City is not required to fulfill the requests from private entities for off-duty assistance as these assignments are paid for by the requestor. The requestor can make other arrangements for this service.

As of this writing, there are upwards of 500 e-mails from FOP members that have notified the Administration that the FOP member is no longer available to work any previously-accepted overtime and off-duty assignments, starting with the assignments scheduled this weekend through the Boat Show in February. In addition to permanent off-duty jobs such as Joe's Stone Crabs Restaurant, the Palm Hibiscus Guard Shack, Publix Super Markets and local banks, the events this weekend include Pro Bowl activities, ING Marathon, Jewelry Show at the Miami Beach Convention Center and the Festival of the Arts. This will also impact the events surrounding Super Bowl XLIV scheduled for next weekend. Many of these notifications included vacating multiple assignments. Earlier today, Chief Noriega suspended all off-duty assignments in an effort to stem the overwhelming number of e-mails regarding this issue cancelling off-duty assignments.

The Miami Beach Police Department has developed and is implementing operational plans to meet the public safety and law enforcement needs of each event as we move closer to the major Super Bowl XLIV events and activities. These plans look at our daily staffing requirements, as well as resources available from other City Departments, City contractors and other jurisdictions. As an example, for the ING Marathon, the Police Command Staff (which includes Chief, Assistant Chief, Majors and Captains), along with a limited number of on-duty resources, will staff the assignments.

Negotiations with the FOP for a successor collective bargaining agreement are still underway. The City's negotiation team and the FOP negotiation team met Wednesday, and are scheduled to meet again on Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup> to continue discussions. In the meantime, the City expects our FOP members to fulfill their professional responsibilities to ensure the safety and well-being of all residents and visitors to Miami Beach, and can assure our residents and visitors that they will receive the highest level of excellent public safety during this major event period.

It is unknown if FOP will continue the boycott outlined above until negotiations are complete, or if they will resume volunteering. We will keep you apprised of any changes to this situation as they occur.

It should be noted that it is not the intent of the Administration to negotiate in public by providing you with this information. Rather, the Administration is updating you on these recent events in case your offices are contacted about the issue, as it has been reported in the local media.

As you know, our City has been fortunate to host many major events each year, for many years. We understand and have the experience to address the needs and requirements of supporting these events. As such, we always prepare for contingencies and feel confident that any adjustments will be virtually unnoticeable to the resident or visitor that comes to our City to enjoy the exciting events that are coming up.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me.