



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # **124-2012**

LETTER TO COMMISSION

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

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: May 7, 2012

SUBJECT: **PARKING CITATION COLLECTIONS/MIAMI-DADE COUNTY - UPDATE**

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

The following serves to provide the Mayor and City Commission with an update regarding the Miami-Dade County Clerk of Courts efforts to increase parking citation collections. As you know, the Miami-Dade County Clerk of Courts processes, collects, and adjudicates parking citations for all jurisdictions in the County. This includes collection efforts for unpaid parking citations.

On January 19, 2011, Commissioner Exposito inquired as to the status of unpaid parking citations for the City. At the time, there were just over 300,000 parking citations outstanding with a value of \$5.6M. This includes outstanding parking citations aged up to ten (10) years. Consequently, the Mayor and City Commission expressed a sentiment to urge the Clerk of Courts to enhance their collection efforts, specifically with regard to outstanding parking citations. On February 22, 2011, Mayor Bower sent the attached letter to Mr. Harvey Ruvin, Clerk of Courts expressing the sentiment of the full City Commission.

Historically, the Clerk of Courts has collected 2.4M citations totaling \$31.5M over the last ten years for the City of Miami Beach. Currently, as of March 2012, there are 306,000 outstanding citations. The Clerk of Courts advises that over 50% of these outstanding citations were issued five to ten years ago. Despite the age of these outstanding citations, the Clerk continues its collection efforts with the following enhancements:

- Mailing first, second, and final notices resulting in a half million notices and reports sent to violators annually.
- Sending Registration stops to the Florida DMV.
- Purchasing and supporting of Autocite Ticket Issuing and License Plate Recognition (LPR) System.
- Issuing Final Impound Orders against Scofflaws (20,155 in Florida and 3,784 out of state).
- Referring delinquent citations to collection agencies and received payment on 29,510 citations out of a Miami Beach (system total of 93,475).
- Obtaining Florida and out of state tag identification from respective DMVs.
- Obtaining Florida; out of state, and out of country rental client identification which transfers liability from rentals to clients.

These efforts have resulted in a collection rate of 90% of the City of Miami Beach citations. This amounts to 2.4M citations totaling \$31.5M over the last ten years. The Clerk references that over 50% of the 300,000 outstanding citations were issued five to ten years ago; however, they will continue their collection efforts with the following enhancements:

- Approximately 20,000 notices were returned undelivered last year although the address matched those provided by the DMV. The Clerk is researching the possibility of the DMV instituting a new procedure to require the addresses on the driver's licenses and registrations to match.
- Proactive communications with car rental agencies to identify areas where additional information would lead to improved collections.
- Pursuing additional advantages offered by the internet such as the currently existing link to a tow information hotline.
- Purchase and installation of a second LPR system for the City of Miami Beach.

The following is an update regarding the LPR System detection and collections:

- Scofflaw Detection and LPR System*:
FY 10/11: 1,332 Scofflaw License Plates detected and paid
resulting in \$508,223 in collections*
- Second LPR System will be installed by July 1, 2012
FY 11/12: Projected Scofflaw revenue \$571,000
Note: Scofflaw apprehension is reciprocal for all jurisdictions.

The Administration is pursuing a third LPR System to be funded by the Clerk of Courts in FY 12/13.

If you should any further questions and/or inquiries regarding the collection efforts of the Miami-Dade County Clerk of Courts, please contact Saul Frances, Parking Director at 305.673.7000, extension 6483.


JMG/JGG/SF

C: Jorge Gomez, Assistant City Manager
Hilda Fernandez, Assistant City Manager
Duncan Ballantyne, Assistant City Manager
Saul Frances, Parking Director



CITY OF MIAMI BEACH

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MATTI HERRERA BOWER
MAYOR

February 22, 2011

Mr. Harvey Ruvin
Clerk of Courts
Dade County Courthouse
73 West Flagler Street, Room No. 242
Miami, Florida 33130

RE: UNPAID PARKING CITATIONS

Dear Mr. Ruvin:

At a recent Commission Meeting, a Miami Beach resident inquired as to what the City was doing to collect unpaid parking citations.

I, as well as my colleagues on the Miami Beach City Commission, wish to bring this matter to your attention, and hope you will share with us your proposed actions to increase the collection of unpaid parking citations.

According to the County's Parking Violations Bureau, as of January 31, 2011, the City of Miami Beach has over 300,000 unpaid parking citations with a value of over \$5.6 million dollars.

Miami Beach, much like other dense urban communities, has parking challenges, which can be attributed in part to non-compliance of parking regulations. An essential component is the diligent collection of unpaid parking citations.

Although the implementation of new technology, such as the "AutoVu" (license plate recognition) provided by the County, has promoted some increase to the collection of unpaid parking citations, we urge you to continue these proactive initiatives and take more aggressive action in your collection efforts.

Lastly, the County and City share these revenues one-third/two-thirds, respectively. The County's fee (33%) for processing, adjudication, and collections of parking citations is certainly generous. The private sector offers these very same services at very competitive rates. It is our expectation that the County's level of service is at least comparable to the private sector, if not higher.

Any information you may need from our City will be willingly and promptly provided. Please let me know how you plan to address this very significant problem so that I may communicate with my colleagues on the City Commission.

Sincerely,

Matti Herrera Bower
Mayor

C: Mayor and City Commissioners
Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager
Jorge Gomez, Assistant City Manager
Saul Frances, Parking Director