




MIAMI BEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee Members

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager 

DATE: September 30, 2013

SUBJECT: **DISCUSSION REGARDING THE FIFTH ANNUAL MIAMI BEACH VETERANS DAY PARADE AND WREATH LAYING CEREMONY**

BACKGROUND

For the past four years, Commissioner Jerry Libbin along with the Miami Beach Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3559, American Legion Post 85 and local military officials have coordinated the Miami Beach Veterans Day Parade and Wreath Laying Ceremony. Parade participation has flourished over the years from approximately 50 individuals to over 2200 participants last year. The parade has included a variety of military groups and veterans, public officials, students, bands, local businesses, sports teams and other organizations.

During WWII, the beaches and hotels in Miami Beach served as a home base for military troops, Hence it is befitting to organize a parade in the city to thank the troops for all that they have sacrificed to defend our freedom.

At the 2012 parade the City of Miami Beach received a letter from the Veterans Day National Committee at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs designating us a Regional Site for the celebration of Veterans Day. This is a very prestigious honor.

At the conclusion of the parade route along Washington Avenue, the participants and spectators are invited to a wreath laying ceremony at Flamingo Park which includes a performance by the U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute Team. Other activities at the park include a 21-gun salute by MBPD Honor Guard, and a grand finale flyover by the US Air Force F-16 Mako jetfighters squadron.

In 2012/13 the City appropriated \$15,000 in our Citywide Account for expenses related to the parade. Actual expenses for the 2012/13 parade were \$11,650.

The FY 2013/14 Proposed Budget includes \$15,000 for the execution of the 2013 Fifth Annual Miami Beach Veterans Day Parade.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Commissioner Libbin has approached the Manager's Office asking if the City would continue the tradition of the parade. He also noted that the community organizations that have traditionally coordinated the event no longer have the ability to do so. It should be noted that last year the City covered all expenses for the parade. My staff has reviewed the logistics of the parade and we believe that we can coordinate the efforts of the various participants for the budgeted amount.

JLM/MM