

Miami Beach Police Department

1100 Washington Avenue, Miami Beach,
Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE
Tel: 305.673.7925, Fax: 305.673.7065

March 3, 2014

Jimmy Morales
City Manager

Dear Mr. Morales:

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of my intent to retire from the Miami Beach Police Department effective April 4, 2014.

I have had the honor and privilege of serving with this department for the past 12-½ years with the last two years as the Chief of Police. During these past two years we, as an organization, have been able to “turn the ship around” and set on a course of professionalism, accountability and transparency. I am extremely proud to be able to report that our efforts have had incredible results in a very short time. During the past 25 months we have not had a single officer involved shooting. During that same time period, allegations of excessive force against our officers have been reduced to one-third of what they had been previously. During the calendar year of 2012, we reduced overall part 1 crime for the first time in over 5 years. This past year, 2013, we focused on the reduction of robberies, burglaries, aggravated assaults, and auto thefts and can report significant reductions in each of these categories. Two years ago we partnered with the FBI Public Corruption Task Force and the Miami-Dade State Attorney’s Public Corruption Unit, building a mutual trust together and assisting in investigations in Miami Beach and other jurisdictions. We have implemented a community policing strategy that has reconnected our residents with our police officers. We have restored the trust of the media in our interactions. Two years ago we reengineered how we managed Memorial Day Weekend from a law enforcement perspective and have made the event a model where residents and visitors have praised our efforts. This police department is clearly now moving in the right direction.

These accomplishments would not be possible except for the fact that the men and women of the Miami Beach Police Department are the finest law enforcement professionals in the country, second to none. It is these men and women who sacrifice and serve this city everyday, who have made my job of changing the course of this ship an easy one. I am humbled to have had the opportunity to serve as their Chief of Police.

I make this decision to retire at the right time for the city, the department, and myself. The establishment of new leadership in the city, both a new Mayor and Commission,

also provides an opportunity to move forward and build upon the incredible successes of our department in the past two years. I respect the movement in this city, and I have decided to step aside to provide the Mayor with the opportunity to select new leadership for this department. It is my hope that the next Chief will be able to continue moving this organization forward in the positive direction and course that has been set. I am confident that the women and men of the Miami Beach Police Department will continue to serve this community with distinction, and I thank this city for the honor of serving it as Chief of Police.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Martinez', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Raymond A. Martinez
Chief of Police