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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Miami Beach Creates ‘Safe Place’ Initiative for LGBTQ Community
-- Reaffirming the City’s Policies of Nondiscrimination and Inclusion --

Miami Beach, FL – According to data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are the most likely targets of hate crimes in America. Committed to protecting its most vulnerable populations, Miami Beach is launching a “Safe Space” program for business and organizations in the city to demonstrate their commitment to the safety and equal treatment of its LGBTQ residents and visitors.

A Miami Beach business or organization desiring to designate itself as a Safe Space may register with the Miami Beach Police Department and obtain a Safe Space decal to post as a symbol of safety (image below).

“We hope this program provides members of the LGBTQ community with safe places throughout Miami Beach that they can turn to if they are the victims of harassment or crime,” said Commissioner Michael Grieco. “Any individual who seeks solace in a Safe Space location can be assured that if they are the victim of a crime, police will promptly be called.”

In order to register as a Safe Space, a business or other organization must agree to the following terms: post the Safe Space decal outside the front entrance of the establishment; allow victims of LGBTQ-based harassment or crime to enter and remain at the establishment until the police arrive; and call or assist LGBTQ victims in calling 911.

“While Miami Beach is certainly one of the most progressive cities in the United States, the potential for crime and discrimination against LGBTQ residents and visitors still exists,” added Tony Lima, executive director of SAVE, recognized as South Florida’s leading organization dedicated to protecting people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender against discrimination. “We applaud the city’s efforts in promoting, protecting and defending equality for all.”

WE PROTECT, WE HELP, WE CALL 911

This location is a safe place for victims of and witnesses to LGBTQ crimes, harassment and bullying to call 911 and wait for police to arrive.

SAFE

MIAMIBEACH

The City of Miami Beach and the Miami Beach Police Department are committed to your safety.

MIAMIBEACH
POLICE

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SAVE (Safeguarding American Values for Everyone) is recognized as South Florida's leading organization dedicated to protecting people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) against discrimination. Since 1993, SAVE has advocated for equal rights for persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities through political advocacy, community outreach and other activities. Starting with the landmark passage of Miami's Human Rights Ordinance in 1998, its expansion to protect the transgender community in 2014, and the recent litigation spearheaded by SAVE which resulted in marriage equality in Florida in January 2015, SAVE

We are committed to providing excellent public service and safety to all who live, work and play in our vibrant, tropical, historic community.

continues to lead the fight for LGBT equality. Its mission is to promote, protect and defend equality for the LGBT community in South Florida and its vision is to have a community where people who are LGBT have full equality in all facets of life.

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