



MIAMI BEACH

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 259-2006

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor David Dermer and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: October 26 2006

SUBJECT: **UPDATED INFORMATION ON THE EMERGENCY RELOCATION OF
POLICE PERSONNEL**

On October 18, 2006, LTC #247-2006 was sent to the Mayor and City Commission regarding the necessity of temporary and emergency relocations of a number of City personnel, including the Internal Affairs Division (IA) of the Police Department. The LTC explained the circumstances associated with the relocation of the Police Internal Affairs Unit into the North Beach Police Substation, as well as other staff relocations.

At about the time of the LTC, North Beach residents raised a number of questions as to the necessity of the move and further questioned recent Police Department adjustments relative to the Neighborhood Resource Officers (NRO's). Both the Emergency Relocation LTC and LTC #231-2006 regarding the NRO's dated October 2, 2006, was immediately provided to the North Beach Development Corporation (NBDC) who positioned themselves as a conduit of information for the respective homeowners associations in North Beach.

The two LTC's even though widely circulated among homeowners associations did not address all of the concerns or questions that had been generated in the North Beach community. As such, the NBDC hosted a short community meeting on Monday, October 23, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. at the North Shore Youth Center immediately preceding a scheduled candidate forum at the same venue. City staff was invited and the City Manager, Assistant City Manager Robert C. Middaugh, Police Chief Don De Lucca and several other Police Command Staff were in attendance at the meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting, a small group of residents was present to address City Staff with their concerns. As the meeting on the community concerns relative to the substation and NRO's crossed into the scheduled time for the candidate forum, the audience grew larger and additional questions were raised as a result.

Resident concern as expressed to City Staff centered around a few issues. Residents requested additional information on the necessity of relocating the Internal Affairs Division of the Police Department to the North Beach Substation, the impact on services to neighborhoods of scheduling changes relative to the NRO's and general level of Police presence within the North Beach area was also expressed as a concern by residents present.

Detailed information on the necessity of the move of the IA unit of the North Beach Substation was provided to residents and also a clear statement that it was not a permanent move. The IA move was necessitated by sudden and unexpected construction

complications at the Old City Hall facility. Detailed explanation was provided by the Police Staff on the necessity of the NRO's schedule changes, and further, how Police services provided to North Beach community would not be impacted in any manner by either the substation or the NRO changes. A number of misconceptions about the actual activities conducted at the substation were also addressed, principally prisoner transports. Residents were under the impression that prisoners were processed in the substation. Residents expressed concern that by using other venues such as the North Shore Youth Center for substation services, prisoners might be introduced into inappropriate circumstances. It was explained that prisoners have never been processed at the substation and that the current practice of exchanging prisoners to a transport van outside the facility would continue.

Residents were also informed that the City Commission had approved an expansion of the number of police officers for the fiscal year and that the Police Department was placing an emphasis on department wide community policing in order to expand community contacts beyond that possible by a single NRO.

As a result of the community meeting, no services were identified as being negatively impacted. The City Administration agreed to continue conversation both with NBDC and the community as necessary to discuss and to resolve any service impacts that might develop on this subject matter.

At this point, the Internal Affairs Division is located in the North Beach Substation and functioning as planned. The Police Department has re-instituted a public safety aide within the substation facility to be able to address any walk in traffic seeking Police assistance. The NRO's and other Police Officers in the North Beach area will be using the North Shore Youth Center as a place to either do reports or to fax information to headquarters or other Police agencies. This location would also offer a positive interaction opportunity between officers and youth in the North Beach area. All of the services that were historically provided at the North Beach Substation are being performed either at the substation or other area venues, without any impact as a result of the Internal Affairs Unit relocation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

JMG/PCM/sam

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October



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 231-2006

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor David Dermer and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: October 2, 2006

SUBJECT: Neighborhood Resource Officer Reassignment

This LTC is provided to respond to the inquires recently forwarded to me regarding the City's Neighborhood Resources Officers (NRO) Program.

As a result of recent retirements and attrition of MBPD personnel, a need has been identified to ensure sufficient staffing in the Patrol Division to respond to calls for service. To meet this need, the three Neighborhood Resources Officers have been assigned to their current district to respond to calls for service. When the NRO's are not handling calls for service, they will continue to mitigate various other quality of life issues dealing with the homeless, illegal dumping and parking. The NRO's will keep their current shifts, days off and district assignments. This staffing alignment will ensure our highest priority of providing rapid response to calls for service, continue our efforts in community oriented policing and effectively dealing with quality of life issues. To further enhance our community oriented policing commitment, District Captains will continue to maintain liaison relationships with homeowners associations, business groups and Better Place to ensure our current level of service.

JMG/DWD/RAM

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 247-2006

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor David Dermer and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: October 18, 2006

SUBJECT: **EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT RELOCATIONS**

As a result of construction related issues at Old City Hall, several fire safety related concerns have been raised by the Fire Marshall. The Administration was notified by the Fire Marshall on Thursday, October 12th to relocate all of the remaining City personnel from space occupied at Old City Hall. While the notice was to be effective on Friday, October 13th no later than 5:00 p.m., Property Management personnel were able to institute temporary emergency measures to address the most pressing concerns and allow a slightly longer time for transition of personnel.

Beyond the appropriate concerns raised by the Fire Marshall, the City staff in Old City Hall have also been negatively affected by water intrusion, construction noise and dust.

The relocations from Old City Hall, while temporary, will likely span an eight (8) to ten (10) month period of time.

In a previous LTC, the City Commission had been advised that the entire Parking Department had been relocated from Old City Hall in order to facilitate construction activities and housed in rental space on 23rd Avenue near the Miami City Ballet Building. Likewise, the entire County Clerk and County Court operations from Old City were relocated both to mainland County facilities and to the Old Library on Washington Avenue.

In assessing available space opportunities, each of the impacted departments presented certain unique operating conditions that limited the already limited options available to the City. In the case of the Internal Affairs (IA) Division of the Police Department, they could not relocate into the main Police Department Building as IA is required to maintain separation from regular operating activities and to respect the privacy of individuals either reporting or involved in Internal Affairs investigations. In the case of the Information Technology Programming Division, as a programming unit on a full time basis, they had a high level of need for both computer connectivity to the main City systems and electrical power. To further complicate the space allocation decisions, two potentially usable areas in the City, the Police Department Community Room, as well as the First Floor Conference Room in the Old City Hall, are being used as Election Precincts until approximately the third week in November.

At very little expense, the Police Department agreed to relocate the Internal Affairs Division to the North Beach Police Substation. All of the operating needs of the Internal Affairs Division were able to be met in this location, including the security of their documents and files, as well as the protection of officers either involved in investigations or wishing to initiate

investigations. Operationally, the Internal Affairs Division will need to occupy most of the space at the North Beach Police Substation.

In order to maintain a concentrated area presence, as well as to address any public perceptions of any lack of Police presence, North District Police Officers will be working out of the North Shore Youth Center as a place to write reports and/or to hold meetings as necessary. A further advantage of the North Shore Youth Center presence will be both the opportunity and expectation that Police Officers will be able to interact with youth at the facility in a positive and informal manner.

In relocating the Information Technology Division, it has been necessary to temporarily move the approximately fifteen (15) persons and their computer workstations into the Police Department Training Room. This has presented a whole range of operating issues associated with rescheduling or relocating activities already established in that area which will very likely spill into and potentially disrupt some of the activities scheduled for the Police Community Room. While the Information Technology personnel are temporarily located in the Police Department building, the Property Management staff is making the power and connectivity upgrades to facilitate the relocation of the information Technology staff into the First Floor Conference Room of City Hall. Once the election is completed, the Information Technology staff will be able to locate to that area for the duration of the eight (8) to ten (10) months associated with the construction of Old City Hall.

As space within the main Police building is severely limited, it has also been necessary to relocate officers working in the RDA to offices on Terminal Island. The current space occupied by the Sanitation Administrative personnel will be used by the Police staff as soon as the hurricane damage repairs make the former Sanitation spaces available for re-occupancy by Sanitation.

The emergency relocations were unanticipated and given the short time with which to accomplish the relocations, less than ideal circumstances have been created for many of our operating divisions. In all cases, services to the public or to other City departments have and will be maintained, while at the same time respecting and securing appropriate and safe work spaces for our impacted employees. The relocations have also been accomplished with the intent to minimize the expense to the City and without having to rent additional privately owned office space.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Assistant City Manager, Robert C. Middaugh or me.

JMG/RZM/sam
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