



Commissioner Marc D. Sarnoff

News From District 2

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Assault Weapons Ban



One of the worst mass shootings in Miami's history serves as a tragic reminder that our nation's leaders need to seriously consider reinstating the federal assault weapons ban which expired in 2004.

Nearly one year ago, I stood with Police Chief John Timoney and the

Dear Friends,

As our nation embarks on this historic era of change, the level of excitement in our City is at unprecedented levels. There is a tangible feeling of excitement and sincere optimism around Miami.



There is a new sense of fairness and openness in government that will no doubt be reflected in the way we operate at the City level. Below you'll read how President Obama's plan to "make a clean break with business as usual" can and should be emulated right here in the City of Miami.

family of murdered Miami Police Detective James Walker in calling on members of the House and Senate to bring back the Federal ban. We must join together in calling for our members of Congress and the Senate, along with President Obama to once again establish a ban on these killing machines.



WSVN 7

Friday, January 23rd's massacre in Liberty City, which killed at least two teens and injured 7 more, is a reminder that there is still a long road ahead in our fight to keep Miami safe.

Copper Chopper



Whether you were one of the throngs of thousands brave enough to handle the frigid temperature in D.C. to witness the historic inauguration in person---or joined me at the local viewing events at the Arsht Center and the Gusman Center for Performing Arts---it's up to all of us to harness the passion and energy to truly make a difference in our community.

It's clear there are tough choices to be made, but failing to embrace the challenge is not an option.

Our Chance to Lead by Example



It may not seem like anything serious at first glance, but an unusual crime spree in our district should motivate all of us to be more cautious. Downtown Miami NET coordinator Eddie Padilla has brought to my attention that there's been an increase in copper wire thefts in our area. Apparently, the thieves are stripping all the wire from electrical panels and reselling it as scrap metal for a few dollars. There's not much money to be made by the thieves, but it costs business owners and taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars over time to replace. Please alert your building's security or the Miami Police.



Less than 24 hours after being sworn in, President Obama announced a salary freeze for senior White House staff. "Families are tightening their belts, so should Washington," the President said.

Sound Familiar? It should. This is exactly what I proposed during the January 15th City Commission meeting.

Commissioner Tomas Regalado also supports the idea, but our three remaining fellow commissioners voted against it, essentially killing the plan for now. Whether it saves one million dollars or one hundred dollars, the fact of the matter is that we are in a crisis situation and every single dollar saved can make a difference.

Volunteer's Corner

One of the things that makes Miami such a wonderful place to live is the large number of people who are so willing to offer a hand to those in need.

This month, I'd like to congratulate Mr. Federico Sarmiento who volunteers 18 to 20 hours per week with the Association for the Development of the Exceptional (ADE). Federico has initiated a sign language course for special need consumers and acts as an assistant instructor in ADE's educational and vocational training rooms.

I thank Federico Sarmiento for his dedication and commitment to serving our District 2 community.



What a great opportunity we allowed to slip through our hands---to take the lead on making tough sacrifices a week before our new President takes the same stand.

It's no secret that our City, State, and nation are coping with severe economic pain. As elected leaders, it's our responsibility to make the tough decisions which in the end will benefit us all.

We are experiencing unprecedented economic hardships communally and individually. We can address the problem head on or put our heads in the sand while our tough economic times grow worse. As our President says, "It's our duty to make sure we're spending precious tax dollars wisely and cutting costs whenever possible."

I am not suggesting salary reductions or lay-offs of anyone, simply a temporary salary freeze of well paid public servants. By implementing this policy we may be able to stave off layoffs, even if we saved 1 or 100 jobs that would be less financial pain inflicted on those

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families.

It's been reported that 84,000 jobs are expected to be lost in the metropolitan area in '09, the third highest job loss in the nation.

I am very grateful to have the honor of being elected as a City Commissioner and serving the community I love. I encourage my fellow City Commissioners, and all elected leaders in South Florida to heed the call of our President that "Public Service is simply and absolutely about advancing the interests of all Americans," and in this case all South Floridians.

I have asked that my motion to freeze salaries be brought back before the Miami Commission on February 12th. Each Commissioner is also expected to be briefed on this issue by City Staff.

In the City of Miami, we've lost the opportunity to take the lead on this issue and set a precedent for other cities to follow. It's now up to each of us to follow the lead of President Obama and "make a clean break from business as usual," for the best interest of all of our constituents and residents.

[Hometown Heroes](#)



Lt. Nicholas Wohl



Officer Kenneth Mcillwain

Miami Fire Lt. Nicholas Wohl and Miami Police Officer Kenneth Mcillwain courageously risked their own lives to pull an unconscious driver from a burning car. Neither had time to put on any protective gear and, despite the intense heat and obvious danger, these true heroes acted without hesitation. The patient was taken to the Ryder Trauma Center with severe injuries, but no doubt, would have died without the brave actions of Lt. Wohl and Officer Mcillwain.

I join Fire Chief William Bryson and Police Chief John Timoney in congratulating them for their courage and dedication to saving lives in our community.

Make A Difference

As we move forward and enter one of the most historic times in our Nation's history, I urge everyone to take an active role in making our community a better place. It's really the details that make a difference. Pick up a piece of

litter as you walk through a park, volunteer once a month at a local senior center or school, and get involved in community. You'll be amazed at the impact you can make in someone's life and in our community as a whole.

I'm extremely proud to serve as your District 2 Commissioner. I value your comments and concerns and welcome hearing from you. Please feel free to email me at msarnoff@miamigov.com

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Yours very truly,

Commissioner Marc D. Sarnoff.



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