



City of Miami Commissioner Marc D. Sarnoff

News from District 2

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In This Issue

[Home Sweet Home](#)

[Hometown Heroes](#)

[Combating Graffiti](#)

Home Sweet Home



Not often do we see a private corporation honor their word as honorably as one local developer did for a local family. The home seen in the above picture was recently completed and presented to the Ellison family of Coconut Grove. The Ellisons and several other homeowners lived in an area that the Pointe Group Advisors are planning to include in their new development called Grove Village on Grand. When Pointe Group shared their plans with the Ellisons, the family said they would be willing to exchange their property for a different piece of land and a brand new custom built home. Pointe Group Advisors promised they

Dear Friend,

There's been a lot of attention focused on a growing problem that continues to fester in the heart of our city. The time is now to once and for all end the State's policy of sex offenders and sexual predators living under the Julia Tuttle Causeway.



After months of being ignored by officials in Tallahassee, I asked our City Manager to send a letter to Governor Crist demanding that the Governor end the State of Florida's policy of forcing registered sex offenders who have NOT completed probation and parole to live under the Julia Tuttle Bridge in the City of Miami. This policy is unacceptable.

would provide this home debt free to the Ellisons. Any homeowner willing to work with the developers can and should expect to be treated as fairly and honorably by Pointe Group.



Peter Gardner, Margaret Nee and the Pointe Group team worked closely with the Ellisons to ensure that their dream home would become a debt free reality. I toured the home and it is truly beautiful. Pointe Group Advisors is also working with several other families on similar agreements for those that wish to continue living in the Grove. Pointe Group is also working with residents who wish to leave the area.

I congratulate residents like the Ellisons who have the foresight to believe in the Grove and the confidence to move forward with these unique agreements and I commend Pointe Group Advisors for keeping their end of the bargain and meeting the needs of the residents who are making it possible for the developers to move forward with their plans for Grove Village on Grand.

Quick Links

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In the letter, the Manager identifies a small island in the water near the bridge named Picnic Island #4. The island is an official City of Miami Park and is managed and maintained by your tax dollars. This is an important fact because the City currently has an ordinance restricting registered sex offenders from living within 2,500 feet from parks, schools, and any other places where children are known to congregate. The point here is NOT to arrest sex offenders for living where the State of Florida has ordered them. (The state even prints offenders driver's licenses that list the Julia Tuttle as their home address). The point is to force the State to take the proper action and find these individuals a suitable place to live. A place that does not jeopardize the safety of our community and one that does not trample on the human rights of anyone.



Representatives from the ACLU spent hours with me and my staff to draft a Resolution (adopted

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Hometown Heroes



John Garcia



Jon Morales



David Nunez

An emergency call to a local health clinic ended with heroics by a trio of outstanding City of Miami Firefighters. Lt. David Nunez, FF John Garcia, and FF Jon Morales responded to the call of a 91-year old man with severe chest pain, shortness of breath, and blurred vision. The team quickly detected that the patient was having a heart attack and that a major artery was blocked. The firefighters then performed a procedure called V4R, something not usually attempted in the field and normally done by a cardiologist. The firefighter's fast thinking is being credited with saving the man's life and helping to avoid a tragic ending. I join Fire Chief William Bryson in congratulating LT. Nunez, FF Garcia, and FF Morales for their outstanding work!

unanimously by the City Commission) which urges Governor Crist to stop ignoring this problem and take action. That resolution, R-09-0078, was also sent to every City in the State as well as County leaders. We strongly urged them all to adopt similar resolutions because, unfortunately, this situation is not unique to Miami.

If it means bringing up a City Park used mostly by boaters to force the State's hand, so be it. If the City has to sue the State of Florida for violating a City ordinance, so be it.



The myth is that forcing dozens of sex offenders and sexual predators to live under the bridge somehow keeps our residents safe. This could not be further from the truth and I've confirmed that with our Police Department, prosecutors, the ACLU, and experts in the field of public safety. The area under the Julia Tuttle Bridge is owned by the State but that does not give them the right to create such a health hazard in the heart of our



Officer Perez

It's also my pleasure to recognize the accomplishments of City of Miami Police Officer Joaquin Perez. Officer Perez is being credited by his department for his efforts stamping out drug dealing in our community. Perez and Officer Brandon Lanier, whom I honored several months ago, arrived at the scene of a burglary in progress and heard screaming coming from the home. With the victim's life in clear danger, the officers ran into the home and saved the female victim from the male suspect who had kicked down her door and demanded all of her money. Further investigation revealed the suspect had a long history of violent crime. Officer Perez is also credited for making 115 arrests, including 60 felonies. It is with great pride that I join Police Chief John Timoney in commending Officer Joaquin Perez for his excellent efforts on behalf of our citizens.

Fair Treatment

City. If it turns out that the 2,500 feet boundary is doing more harm to the public than good, then appropriate actions must be taken. The boundary will probably be determined by the court; other jurisdictions have overturned similar ordinances in other states. If my standing up to the State leads to a lawsuit which finally forces a change, so be it. My concern is for the safety and security of the people who live in our community. It is clear the path we are currently on is not correct or proper---for anyone. It is time for a new direction.

Combating Graffiti



I was extremely disappointed to see the Welcome to the City of Miami sign defaced by taggers. Fortunately, we have a very responsive "Graffiti Busters" team responsible for painting over graffiti. However, the two-man team is responsible for the entire City. It's my goal to get them more support and resources to keep up with the increase in vandalism. I'm a believer in the "broken



Providing employment benefits, including healthcare, to the domestic partners of our City of Miami employees is a common sense idea that has been far too long in coming. Recent legislation sponsored by Mayor Diaz and myself was approved unanimously by the City Commission. This is nothing more than treating people equally. This ordinance is designed to give domestic partners, gay or straight, the same benefits as their married co-workers. The employee would also be able to request sick, funeral, or family leave to care for his or her domestic partner. The fiscal impact to the City is expected to be minimal, in fact, most organizations who offer domestic partnership benefits have seen no increase in overall benefit costs. I'd like to thank our friends at the Save Dade organization for all their hard work and support on this important issue. This is a perfect opportunity for the City to ensure that all employees are treated fairly. I am proud to say our Commission is doing the right thing.

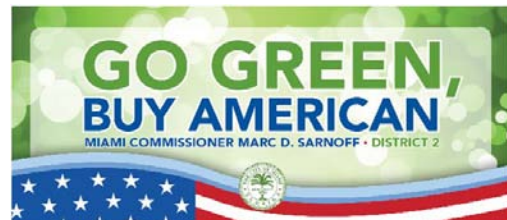
"window" theory of policing. Basically, if you allow a broken window to remain unrepaired or uncared for, crime inherently increases around that area because criminals feel empowered that their actions will not be met by a community who cares. Here in the City of Miami graffiti is the equivalent of broken windows and must be dealt with. This is a problem throughout the City, not just in our District.



I've spoken with property owners in the area who are sick and tired of having their homes and buildings covered in graffiti. The City must direct funding sources to help tackle this growing problem. We should look into hiring more graffiti busters, assigning more than one police officer to the Police Department's Graffiti unit and look into cross-training our police officers to enforce code violations. The above wall is on private property and the City cannot repaint it without the owner's permission or until Code Enforcement runs its course. That process would begin faster if our police officers would be allowed to help get that ball rolling.



I'd like to see local judges start sentencing vandals to community service where they are required to paint over graffiti. If you see graffiti in your neighborhood please report it to our NET offices or if you see a vandal in the act call the Police NON-EMERGENCY number at (305) 579-6111. Please do not call 911. Graffiti not only breeds crime, it also takes residents money and time to clean it up. I encourage parents to keep a close eye on what their children are doing and pay attention if you believe your children are involved in vandalizing our beautiful city.



Our "Go Green, Buy American" event returns to City Hall on Tuesday, June 30 at 6:30 pm. This time FORD executives will present their latest Hybrid vehicles. Come on out for a first hand look and a chance to take these highly acclaimed cars out for a spin.



2010 FORD Fusion Hybrid



2009 FORD Escape Hybrid

Our event last month with Chevrolet was a big success and we are hoping for a repeat with FORD's Hybrid offerings. Other cars may also be added to the lineup and I will keep you up to date as soon as the additional cars are confirmed.

As we head into summer, don't expect things to slow down around our District. I am extremely proud to serve as your Commissioner and sincerely value this open line of communication with you. As many of you already know, I enjoy hearing from you. Please feel free to drop me a line at msarnoff@miamigov.com.

With kids out of school, I urge drivers to pay close attention to children who are out enjoying some summer fun in our community. Hope everyone has a safe and happy summer!

Yours very truly,

Commissioner Marc D. Sarnoff
City of Miami District 2

