MIAMIBEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC# **013-2016**

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: January 12, 2016

SUBJECT: Operation Traffic Enforcement Blitz

Based on policy guidance from the City Commission, beginning in the latter part of 2014, the Miami Beach Police Department began a campaign to improve traffic flow through aggressive enforcement of parking, moving and safety violations throughout the city, along with significantly increased utilization of vehicle tows of violators. The Police Department named this effort "Operation Traffic Blitz." The purpose of this Letter to Commission is to provide a summary of Operation Traffic Blitz in 2015. This operation will continue indefinitely, as the pace of construction in the City and the traffic challenges remain in 2016.

One important element of the initiative has been to enforce the recently approved and implemented Freight Loading Zones (FLZ) and Alley Loading Zones (ALZ) areas in South Beach. These Loading Zone changes were made as part of a larger traffic and parking strategy designed to ensure that trucks loading/unloading in designated delivery areas do not block lanes of traffic and worsen congestion. More than 4,700 vehicles were towed in 2015, an indication of how determined the City and the Department are to achieve compliance with the Loading Zone plan.

Another element of the plan has involved tasking the Department's Motorcycle Unit to help with traffic flow issues during the morning and afternoon rush hours. Police officers in Areas 1, 2 and 3 were also assigned to help with this major task. Traffic officers concentrated on enforcing "block the box" violations, as well as "cutting in" traffic statutes and running red lights at major intersections. This enforcement effort has been largely focused on the 5th Street, 41st Street and Collins Avenue corridors.

In the South and Middle Districts, given all the construction along Collins Avenue, West Avenue and Alton Road in the past year, the Motorcycle Unit has been heavily tasked to assist on many mornings and evenings with rush-hour traffic entering and exiting Miami Beach on the MacArthur and Julia Tuttle Causeways. This is very labor intensive and involves four or more officers controlling the traffic lights exiting town and along the Causeways.

The Police Department also addressed a host of separate traffic complaints from many of our City's Neighborhood Associations and their members. The principal unit to address traffic conditions citywide remains the Motorcycle Unit. This team consists of 10 officers. In this new fiscal year, the Commission has authorized and funded the unit to expand to 15 officers. Because of vacancies in the Department and gaps in regular patrol staffing, the extra five officers will not be added to the Motor Unit until mid-2016.

Below are statistics for 2015 on tickets issued under Operation Traffic Blitz:

BLOCK THE BOX	
41ST ST CORRIDOR	1130
5TH ST CORRIDOR	924
5TH ST CORRIDOR / LENOX AVE	168
5TH STREET / WASHINGTON AVE	71
MICH/ALTON BOX	103
ALTON ROAD / DADE BOULEVARD	51
INDIAN CREEK / ABBOTT AVE	19
69TH STREET / ABBOTT AVE	23
63rd STREET / LA GORCE DR	80
63RD STREET CORRIDOR	16
16TH STREET / LENOX AVE	24
LINCOLN RD / ALTON RD	49
8TH STREET / WEST AVE	260
TOTAL	**2918**

FLZ ENFORCEMENT GRAND TOTAL	
MOVERS	2858
PARKERS	7902
BEACH TOWS	2681
TREMONT TOWS	2087
TOTAL TOWS	4768
ARRESTS	26

BREAKDOWN LANE ENFORCEMENT GRAND TOTAL	
EASTBOUND JULIA TUTTLE	24

CAUSEWAY ENFORCEMENT GRAND TOTAL	
MACARTHUR	89
JULIA TUTTLE	70

The MBPD has been successful in these enforcement efforts particularly because of its partnership with other city agencies, especially the Transportation and Parking Departments. Leaders of all the Departments continue to meet weekly each Monday morning to assess the past week's issues and performance and to map a traffic strategy for the coming week that accounts for any upcoming special events and construction schedules. These meetings will continue in 2016, with the entire City team attempting to be as flexible and responsive to traffic conditions as possible.

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