

September 1, 2005

To: Members of the City Council

From: Richard Mason, President  
South Florida Free Beaches, Inc  
Friends of Haulover Beach Park

Subject: The Request For Your Support In The Budgeting of Uniformed Miami-Dade County Police Officers in Haulover Beach Park & In The Placement of County Funds In The Budget For the Year 2005/2006 and Other Issues.

Attached, please find a copy of our letter to county commissioner Sally Heyman. Identical letters have been sent to each county commissioner and to Mayor Carlos Alvarez. A read of this letter will reveal all the issues concerning our request for a uniformed police presence in Haulover Beach Park by the Miami-Dade County Police Department.

In previous years our requests for police and other activities as well as infrastructure improvements have been both denied and ignored. We are now appealing for your assistance in these matters, because these issues have a serious impact on the health, safety and welfare of your citizens, too!

Haulover Beach Park is a "donor Park" to the Miami-Dade County's Park & Recreation Department. In excess of \$1 million dollars in parking revenues alone goes to a "General Account" within the Park & Recreation Department, while Haulover Beach Park is neglected in both infra-structure, personnel and in programmed activities for our youth

While the county has Park & Recreation Dept. funds to support the NASDAQ Tennis Tournament, the Summer of Love Festival and etc., as well as other funds to bail out the Parrot Jungle, it has no funds to support the safety of citizens from your city, its tourist visitors and other visitors to Haulover Beach Park.

Further, Haulover Beach has a golf course, tennis courts and an area where the increasing number of youth from beachside communities like yours could play. Soccer and even camp outs should be available.. However, there are no youth programs in the park sponsored by the county park department.

As the park is currently managed, its north parking lot and its foliage areas have become hangouts and trolling areas for perverts. Strange people loiter in the park evenings and there are even people living in the park and a few sleeping there on a regular basis. Feral cats roam about, creating further problems. Wheelchair access to the beach, torn up over 10 months ago, has yet to be replaced. Requests for replacement ramps are ignored.

All county and city sexual predator ordinances have no enforcement in Haulover, because there is no uniformed police stationed there. Yet, we all know that parks are where the children play and an attractant to child molesters.

In addition, the county has further commercialized the park by granting a concession to a company that has portable units on the beach and also allowing them to sell alcoholic beverages too. Adding to the potential for problems.

I and others have been in this park both daily and weekly for over 14 years including doing "Crime Watch" patrols evenings and nights. We know the problems and solutions. The start of the solution is with uniformed police being budgeted into the budget of the Park Department.

Having Miami-Dade Police on the beachside will enable them to be of assistance in traffic accidents and other vehicle related issues, which are caused by the increased visitors to Haulover Beach Park as well as prevent the continuous automobile breakin-is .

Please review the attached letter carefully. It has all the issues that need to be addressed spelled out. We are available to meet with you to answer any questions.

Your support on this issue is solicited and respectfully requested.

Please call Commissioner Sally Heyman today and tell her you want uniformed Miami-Dade Police stationed in Haulover Beach Park. Phone: 305 375 5128.

Thank you.

*[signature]*

Richard Mason, President  
South Florida Free Beaches  
Friends of Haulover Beach Park  
PO Box 530306  
Miami Shores, FL 33153  
Phone: 305 893 8838  
Cell: 305 283 3633