

Memorandum



Date: June 13, 2022

Agenda Item No. 2(B)(5)
September 1, 2022

To: Honorable Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniella Levine Cava".

Subject: Report to Develop a Plan for Reducing Excessive Noise in Residential Neighborhoods and Ensure That Regulations Pertaining to Events and Noise are Enforced – Directive 220125

Executive Summary

The following information is provided in response to Resolution No. R-274-22, sponsored by Senator Javier D. Souto and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on March 15, 2022, directing the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to develop a plan for reducing excessive noise in residential neighborhoods and ensuring that regulations pertaining to events and noise are enforced. The Miami Dade Police Department (MDPD) is designated to assume the lead during this operation, and will partner with the community deploying a two-prong approach: targeted community and enforcement awareness/education. A robust door-to-door campaign is required to inform the community of the joint effort and encourage community participation for an immediate impact on loud noises. A six-month enforcement plan, to include sweeps, collaboration by the Public Information Section to promote awareness, and the distribution of media releases will be used. Citizen Advisory Committee members will be asked to assist in providing information on the importance of community involvement. When appropriate, repeat violators will be cited. Statistics will be gathered by Neighborhood Resources Units (NRU) and provided to MDPD command staff via weekly reports.

Background

Unreasonably loud, excessive, unnecessary, or unusual noises can harm human health and welfare and negatively impact the premium quality of life of the residents and visitors of Miami-Dade County (MDC). Main contributors to excessive noise in MDC include, but are not limited to, events, motor vehicles, loudspeakers, whistles, animals, power tools, landscaping equipment, and shouting. MDC has existing regulations on excessive noise in section 21-28 of the Code of MDC and the MDPD Director or his designee is authorized to enforce these regulations. The community awareness/education approach has been ongoing and encompasses a wide array of techniques. Based upon reviews of the various MDPD districts' analytical and monthly reports, as well as input from the community, major assistance will be required from the community. MDPD has a difficult challenge receiving tips and information that identify the violators involved in excessive noise incidents.

Action Plan

As a result, the Director of the MDPD or his designee will facilitate an operational plan to support peace and tranquility in residential neighborhoods of MDC with a two-prong approach: targeted community and enforcement awareness/education.

The MDPD's Public Information Section and districts' NRU personnel will handle the community awareness/education component, utilizing various methods, to include social media.

A robust door-to-door campaign is required to inform the community of the joint effort and encourage community participation for an immediate impact on loud noises. MDPD district NRUs will initiate a six-month enforcement plan, to include sweeps within the target areas. The Public Information Section will collaborate with the public awareness campaign, joining forces with NRU personnel and distributing media releases relating to the operation. In addition, MDPD will have Citizen Advisory Committee members assist in spreading the word regarding the importance of community involvement.

MDPD district uniform units will be directed to patrol the areas of concern. Units will be charged with and expected to be highly visible and ensure that regulations and requirements pertaining to events and noise are being enforced.

Uniform units will primarily conduct the operation during the afternoon and midnight shifts (flexible hours), from Friday through Sunday. MDPD district NRU officers will conduct foot and bicycle patrols, going door-to-door, talking with residents. Loud noise educational details will be conducted, and violators will be given copies of section 21-28 of the Code of MDC, in lieu of citations. This will also enable officers to have friendly interactions with citizens, as opposed to just responding to calls-for-service. When appropriate, repeat violators will be cited. Statistics will be gathered by NRU and provided to MDPD command staff via weekly reports.

MDPD's Fiscal Administration Bureau will continue to work with RER to improve the current process of vetting off-duty assignments for officers, to ensure that only appropriate and permitted events are allowed to hire officers. Furthermore, hiring an off-duty officer will not exempt an event from obeying the noise ordinance.

As the leading agency in this operation, MDPD will partner with the community, which will have a positive impact in ensuring peace and tranquility, by ultimately reducing excessive noise in residential neighborhoods within MDC. The operation will be initiated upon the approval of this Directive by the Board of County Commissioners.

Should you require additional information, please contact Interim Director George A. Perez, Miami-Dade Police Department, at 305-471-3272

Per Ordinance No. 14-65, this report will be placed on the next available Board meeting agenda.

- c: Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
- Gerald K. Sanchez, First Assistant County Attorney
- Jess M. McCarty, Executive Assistant County Attorney
- Office of the Mayor Senior Staff
- George A. Perez, Interim Director, Miami-Dade Police Department
- Jennifer Moon, Chief of Policy and Budgetary Affairs
- Adeyinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor
- Basia Pruna, Director, Clerk of the Board
- Eugene Love, Agenda Coordinator