

Let me start by thanking all of you for taking the time to serve on this BUI task force and for all you are doing to keep our waters safe.

I know that this past Labor Day weekend you were all out in force, and now we are getting ready for the big Columbus Day weekend.

I also want to especially thank Chief Press. I know this is a personal issue to him, but he has taken his experience and leadership and turned into an opportunity to help others in our community, so thank you.

Working together on our water is an idea I have thought about since I was fire chief in Miami.

We all need to understand that we are one County, and we need to work together to utilize all our resources.

I have already reached out to Miami, Miami Beach, Coral Gables and Key Biscayne to put together an unprecedented interagency agreement that will allow cross utilization of more resources so we can enforce our boating laws, protect our waterfront, and be better prepared to respond to emergencies.

We are looking to have a fire boat out in the water by October 3, and add two more by the next fiscal year, to cover the north, middle, and southern sections of the County.

And this is important for the people we all serve.

When tragedy strikes and a victim is waiting for rescue, they don't ask or care where the help comes from.

If they are on Miami Beach, they're not going to turn away a City of Miami boat. They're not going to ask whose jurisdictional waters they are in.

And we're all called to enforce the same laws. We're all called to work together for safety.

I am really proud of what's going on here...

Miami-Dade County is with you, and I look forward to keeping our land and sea safe for all this upcoming Columbus Day weekend and beyond.