



## **Mayor's Town Hall Recap**

*December 4, 2019*

Throughout the year, Mayor Daniel Dietch conducts informal Town Hall Meetings in order to provide residents with the opportunity to discuss matters that are important to them without the formality of a regular commission meeting. At the last meeting held on Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, the following topics were discussed:

### **Surfside's partnership with LU\_Lab**

Mayor Dietch highlighted Surfside's new partnership with the University of Miami School of Architecture's Littoral Urbanism Lab (LU\_Lab.) The LU\_Lab operates as a knowledge gathering center and project-based design group focused on an approach blending architecture and the environment. Through the partnership, LU\_Lab is helping to identify infrastructure and urban resilience opportunities in Surfside and through a series of workshops is engaging residents to incorporate their ideas and needs in adapting the Town to climate change. The first Community Resilience Workshop, hosted by LU\_Lab, was held on Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Surfside Recycling Workshop**

To recap the recent Surfside Recycling Workshop that took place on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Mayor Dietch emphasized the importance of recycling correctly. The Recycling Workshop featured a presentation by Shiraz Kashar, the Community Outreach and Education Specialist for Waste Management, Inc. of Florida, where he shared the do's and don'ts of Surfside's recycling program, where and how Surfside's recyclable materials are processed, and facilitated an interactive recycling activity with residents in attendance.

### **Climate Change: Response and Leadership Forum**

Mayor Dietch was invited to participate in the *Climate Change: Response and Leadership Forum* hosted by RenaissanceRe, which was held on Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, at Columbia University in New York City. The goal of the Forum was to engage in discussion amongst representatives of the insurance industry, financial industry, academic institutions, non-profits

organizations reinsurance, various units of government and others to discuss, global risks, and risk mitigation techniques to safeguard communities and to support efforts to reduce economic impacts following environmental disasters. The forum featured 30 expert speakers and explored how policymakers and government agencies can better protect communities facing extreme weather events, a topic which resonates with our coastal community. Many relationships were forged and ideas shared that could benefit Surfside.

### **Collaboration with the American Flood Coalition**

Mayor Dietch also represented the Town of Surfside during the American Flood Coalition (AFC) Florida Mayors Summit in Washington, D.C. from October 21<sup>st</sup> - October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The summit brought together a cohort of engaged elected officials focused on tackling flooding in their communities. The Town of Surfside also has partnered with AFC to deploy a city simulator program under a grant award made possible by design company Atkins. The simulator includes building a model of the Town of Surfside and will run various flooding-related scenarios to highlight areas of infrastructure that can be improved within the Town.

### **Community Meeting on Hate Crimes**

Surfside Mayor Daniel Dietch took part in the *Mayors Roundtable Discussion on the Rise in Hate, Discrimination and Violence* on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at The Ritz-Carlton Bal Harbour. The roundtable was hosted by the Global Mayors Coalition of Mayors Against Hate and Discrimination, which was created by Mayor Gabriel Groisman of Bal Harbour in conjunction with Mayors Uwe Becker of Frankfurt, Germany and Haim Bibas of Modiin, Israel. The Coalition aims to create a worldwide network of Mayors to discuss and tackle issues of anti-Semitism, bigotry, racism and all forms of hatred and discrimination. The first Mayors Roundtable was held in Tel Aviv in 2018, and this year it was convened in South Florida.

Surfside residents also presented different ideas and points of view during the event. Several topics brought up by residents in attendance included: adding a restroom facility at the Tot Lot Park; enlarging the Community Center to include a gym and more amenities; enhancing walkability in the Town; options to solve traffic and speeding throughout the Town; the evolution of the current Zoning Code; and gating the community. Each of these topics were discussed, historical context provided, and thoughts were shared on the relative importance and how best to engage in a Town-wide dialogue to build consensus for action.

Mayor Dietch encouraged residents to continue their involvement in the community and to engage in constructive debate, as a healthy exercise of their democracy. He highlighted the purpose of the Town's public communications, workshops and meetings, which is to increase

citizen engagement and invited all those present to encourage their neighbors to also participate in Town meetings and events.

To learn about future Mayor Town Hall Meetings, please sign-up for [Town Notifications](#), refer to the monthly Surfside Gazette and check the Town website at [www.townofsurfsidefl.gov](http://www.townofsurfsidefl.gov).