



## **TOWN OF SURFSIDE**

Office of the Town Manager

MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
9293 HARDING AVENUE  
SURFSIDE, FLORIDA 33154-3009  
Telephone (305) 861-4863

# **Town Manager Report**

December 9, 2025

Prepared by: Mario A. Diaz  
Acting Town Manager

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# **TOWN MANAGER**

**Team:** Mario A. Díaz, **Acting Town Manager**  
Ana M. Gonzalez, **Executive Assistant**

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## *Town Manager's Monthly Report – Key Highlights*

### **Administration & Governance**

- Reviewed departmental performance and compliance; planned for upcoming Commission items.
- Continued work on strategic initiatives for better service delivery and teamwork.

### **Public Safety**

- Implemented targeted traffic enforcement in high-risk areas, particularly around active construction zones.
- Worked closely with the Police Chief to ensure a comprehensive and proactive holiday action plan.

### **Public Works & Capital Projects**

- Major capital projects remain on schedule, including roadway, utility, and facility improvements.
- Maintenance crews completed scheduled infrastructure repairs, beautification work, and stormwater system inspections.

### **Parks & Recreation**

- Successful execution of monthly community programs, classes, and special events.
- Parks & Recreation actively expanding new event offerings for the Town.

### **Finance**

- Monthly financial reconciliations are still in progress, and the FY 2025–2026 budget forecast is being updated.
- Engaged a consultant to ensure completion of FY 2023–2024 audit requirements.

**Community Development / Building**

- Steady volume of building permit applications and inspections reported.
- Successfully launched the 93 Ocean Beach Nourishment Project, with completion anticipated in December 2025.
- Continued enforcement of code compliance cases, with emphasis on construction safety and property maintenance.

**Human Resources**

- Recruitment and onboarding for new hires successfully completed.
- Successfully conducted and finalized the recruitment process for the Town Manager vacancy, with all submissions delivered to the Town Commission by the required deadline.

**Communications / Community Engagement**

- Released public updates regarding construction impacts, holiday schedules, and upcoming events.
- Enhanced resident communication through website updates, email notices, and social media engagement.
- Production of multimedia videos for the Police Department and Parks & Recreation Department.



## TOWN CLERK

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The mission of the Town Clerk's Office is to ensure effective functioning of the Town's governance process while concurrently maintaining quality customer service to members of the public, Town Commission and Town staff by utilizing the best possible technological solutions to provide accessible information including access to the Town's official records, archives, and the Town Commission agenda.

**Team:** Sandra N. McCready, **Clerk**

Genesis Guevara, **Deputy Clerk**

Angie Alcala, **Records Technician/Assistant to Clerk**

### **PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS**

<b>2025</b>	
<b><u>MONTH</u></b>	<b><u># Public Records Requests (PRR)</u></b>
January	81
February	107
March	100
April	150
May	81
June	84
July	92
August	102
September	88
October	91
November	56

### **NOVEMBER 2025**

<b><u>ACTIVITIES</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
Board Meetings Attended	6
Commission Meetings Attended	1
Public Notices Issued	14
Meetings Transcribed	8
RFP/RFQ Issued	0
Ordinances Published	0
Resolutions Published	12
Elections Conducted	1
Special Master Hearings Attended	0



## HUMAN RESOURCES

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The Human Resources Office provides effective human resources management by developing and implementing policies/procedures, programs and services to attract, develop, motivate and retain a diverse workforce while embracing diversity and inclusiveness as a core value. The Human Resources element of the Executive Department is responsible for personnel matters such as recruitment, compensation, employee relations, benefits and labor relations.

**HR Team:** Marisol Vargas, **HR Director**  
Davina Bynoe, **HR Generalist**  
Yolanda “Yoly” Menegazzo, (Consultant)

OPEN POSITIONS
Maintenance Worker I
Recreation Leader I F/T
Certified Police Officer

**Powerhouse Workshops**  
**Emotional Intelligence/Behavior Management**  
**&**  
**Capacity Building for Associates**

**November 7, 2025**





**“Halloween Party 2025”**



**“Thanksgiving Luncheon 2025”**











## BUILDING DEPARTMENT

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The Building Services Department provides a full range of services to the residents and commercial property developers of the Town with the aim of ensuring that all buildings and other regulated structures do not pose injury and/or death hazards in any reasonably predictable environment (sunshine to hurricane). In addition to reducing risks to life, the Department seeks to minimize risk to property. Reducing hazards through compliance with State of Florida Building Code and appropriate Federal agencies ensures that insurance discounts are received, and code-compliant buildings are completed.

**Team:** Manuel “Manny” Salazar – **Building Official**  
Rony Jean, **Supervisor – Permits**  
Randy Courtois, Administrative Support  
Sofia Valdes, Permit Tech I  
Karen Gutierrez, Permit Tech II  
Julia Rajkumar, Permit Tech I

**Building/Roofing:** Ulises Fernandez  
**Building/Structural:** Ricardo “Rick” Aller  
**Electrical:** Candelario Martinez  
**Mechanical:** Jan Perez  
**Plumbing:** Roberto Conde  
**Structural/Multi-Family:** Chrome Engineering  
**Planning/Zoning:** Scarlet Hammons, The Corradino Group

ACTIVITY	AMOUNT
Building Permits Issued	119
Inspections Performed	265
TCO/CO/CC Issued	3
Gross Revenue Generated	\$1,420,611.82



## NEW MULTI-FAMILY DEVELOPMENTS

These approved developments are expected to deliver a high-quality environment, regarding livability, visual interest, identity and sense of place.

All new building construction must conform to the development standards of the zoning districts in which they are located. These projects go beyond the basic requirements of the Town's Zoning Code and deliver character and compatibility without changing existing setbacks or height limitations or regulations. These developments are expected to be in harmony with their surroundings and demonstrate a high standard of quality.

<b><u>PROJECT / RESOS</u></b>	<b><u>ADDRESS</u></b>	<b><u>DEVELOPERS / PROJECT MANAGER</u></b>	<b><u>STATUS</u></b>	<b><u>Proffers</u></b>	<b><u>Taxable Value</u></b>
DAMAC 2023-Z-3209	8777 Collins Avenue	Jeffery Rossely 305-407-4898 <a href="mailto:info@damacmiami.com">info@damacmiami.com</a> <a href="http://www.damacmiami.com">www.damacmiami.com</a>	Foundation Est June 2025	\$2,500,000 6/25/25 – <b>Receipt of \$1M</b>	\$1.6B FY2028
Seaway 2018-2489 2021-2782 2024-Z-3246	9133-9149 Collins Avenue	Tom Evans 571-206-2377 <a href="mailto:tom@fortpartners.com">tom@fortpartners.com</a> <a href="http://www.theseaway.com">www.theseaway.com</a>	TCO	\$250,000	\$550M FY2026
Hillcrest 2020-2870	9165 Collins Avenue	Kaushik Padala 786-449-5400 <a href="mailto:kpadala@jmaf.net">kpadala@jmaf.net</a> Tom McKerchie 786-390-0076 <a href="mailto:tmckerchie@jmaf.net">tmckerchie@jmaf.net</a> <a href="http://www.hillcrestsurfside.com">www.hillcrestsurfside.com</a>	Under Construction	\$180,000	\$377M FY2028
Surf House 2019-2661	8995 Collins Avenue	Houman Hadad 786-238-9899 <a href="mailto:houman@fortpartners.com">houman@fortpartners.com</a> Nick Hernandez 305-542-2718 <a href="mailto:nicolas@fortpartners.com">nicolas@fortpartners.com</a> <a href="http://www.surfhousesurfside.com">www.surfhousesurfside.com</a>	Foundation Ongoing	\$686,050	\$359M FY2028
Kushner Development 2024-Z-3255 2024-Z-3338 2024-Z-3339	9300 Collins Avenue	Rafael Schwartz 9300 Collins Ave. Owner LLC	Groundbreaking May 14, 2025	\$5,900,000 <b>8/4/2025 - \$400K Proffer Received</b>	\$100M FY2028
Ocean House 2022-Z-2955	9309-9317 Collins Avenue	Walter Brailly 786-205-6712 <a href="mailto:wbrailly@moss.com">wbrailly@moss.com</a> <a href="http://www.oceanhousereresidences.com">www.oceanhousereresidences.com</a>	Under Construction	\$380,000 6/26/25 – <b>Trellis Donation Completed \$200K</b>	\$275M FY2028

<u>PROJECT / RESOS</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>DEVELOPERS / PROJECT MANAGER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>Proffers</u>	<u>Taxable Value</u>
303 Surfside 2023-2971 2018-2527	303 Surfside Blvd 9116 Harding Ave	Nelson Fernandez 303 Surfside Blvd LLC	Pre-Construction <b>(Seagrape Tree Donation Completed)</b>	\$70,000 6/30/25 – <b>Seagrape to Dune \$10K</b>	\$24M FY2028
Surf Row 2025-Z-3397 2022-Z-2954 2015-Z-2344	8809 Harding Avenue	Carli Koschel, Esq. 8800 Collins Owner LLC	Approved by Town Commission – May 13, 2025 <b>Groundbreaking</b> November 12, 2025	\$200,000 \$450,000	\$59M FY2028
La Linda Surfside 2023-Z-3236	8851-8873 Harding Avenue	Vanessa Madrid Pampa Sunbelt 19 LLC	Pre-Construction	\$31,525.87	<b>TBD</b>



## CODE COMPLIANCE DIVISION

The Code Compliance Division's mission is to fairly and consistently enforce the Town of Surfside Code of Ordinances. The Division strives to promote and protect the health, safety, welfare, and quality of life for residents and businesses of the Town of Surfside.

**Team:** Carmen Santos-Alborna, **Director**  
Kimberly Ruvin, **Code Officer**  
Emmanuel Santana, **Code Officer**

### NOVEMBER 2025

<b>STATUS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
OPENED NOVEMBER 2025	187
CASES SCHEDULED FOR HEARING BEFORE SPECIAL MAGISTRATE	14
POST HEARING	3
RECORDED LIENS	70
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>274</b>

### Inspections: 115

<b><u>MONTH</u></b>	<b><u># CASES</u></b>	<b><u>FEES COLLECTED</u></b>
JANUARY	28	\$43,364.34
FEBRUARY	15	\$10,492.37
MARCH	18	\$14,555.66
APRIL	5	\$3,000.81
MAY	15	\$9,352.50
JUNE	10	\$147,700.26
JULY	10	\$16,145.00
AUGUST	7	\$7,776.07
SEPTEMBER	7	\$8,170.79
OCTOBER	6	\$7,887.10
NOVEMBER	7	\$4,375.00

**YTD FEES COLLECTED - FY24/25: \$349,815.79**





## PARKS & RECREATION

### ***We Make Memories***

The Town of Surfside Parks & Recreation Department is where the fun happens. Where Surfside's families learn to swim, brush up on their tennis skills, meet new friends and get to know their neighbors.

### ***Mission Statement***

Provide recreational and leisure opportunities to build a strong sense of community while increasing the social, cultural, and physical well-being of the residents and to be innovative in the programming needs of the community.

**Team:** Rodolfo Perez, **Director**  
Carlos Malvarez, **Manager**

### **STAFF DIRECTORY**

**7** Coordinators/Supervisors/CSR

**16** Lifeguards / **8** Recreation Leaders / **4** Custodians/Maintenance

<b>Aquatics</b>	<b>Recreation</b>
Marianella Lucas–Aquatics Supervisor	Virginia Agramonte – Asst to Director
Anibal Modica – Head Lifeguard	Jorge Galdo JR – Coordinator
Tanya Friedman – FT Lifeguard	Shawn Walker - CSR
Barbara Vasallo – FT Lifeguard	Carlos Vina – Maintenance Worker II
Fidel Martinez – FT Lifeguard	Matthew Castrorao – Coordinator
Leoner Reus – FT Lifeguard	Alexander Villeda - Coordinator
Flor Hernandez – FT Lifeguard	Lucas Feinstein - Recreation Leader II
Carlos Agon – PT Lifeguard	Kerline Fertil – FT Custodian
Lena Hernandez - PT Lifeguard	Pierre Prophete – FT Custodian
Flor Hernandez - PT Lifeguard	Jesus Garcia Ramirez – FT Custodian
Alejandro Zamora – On-Call Lifeguard	Carolina Paz – PT Recreation Leader I
Daniel Cantero – On-Call Lifeguard	Jorge Almaguer – PT Recreation Leader I
Enzo Rodriguez - PT Lifeguard	Addel Aguilar – PT Recreation Leader I
Fernando L. Pons – PT Lifeguard	Bryan Raffa – PT Recreation Leader I
<b>Vacant</b> – PT Lifeguard	Maya Chabanon – PT Recreation Leader I
Miguel Navarro – Seasonal Lifeguard	Kevin Marcell – PT Recreation Leader I
Pablo Estrada – Seasonal Lifeguard	<b>Vacant</b> – FT Recreation Leader I
Ilan Luckzkow – Seasonal Lifeguard	

## ***Facilities Overview***

Parks & Recreation oversees the following facilities:

- Community Center & Aquatic Facility
- 96th Street Park
- Kayak Launch
- Tennis Center
- Beach Lifeguard Tower
- Beach Chair Service
- Hawthorne Tot Lot
- Paws Up Dog Park

## ***Facility Updates***

- **Tennis Center/Pickleball:** Open from 7 am – 10 pm daily. Operates by reservation only. Programming hours are in place and have been adjusted to optimize availability.
- **Aquatic Facility:** The pool continues to operate with lap swimming registration required during all operating hours. Pool hours are adjusted monthly to maximize daylight. For December, the pool is open from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- **Beach Lifeguard Tower:** Operational from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in December.
- **96th Street Park:** Now open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- **Kayak Launch & Playground:** Open daily from 8:00 a.m. to sunset.

***Beach Chair Service:*** The daily Beach Chair Service is operated by Beach Time Max in alignment with the Beach Lifeguard Tower hours (10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in December). This service is available exclusively to Surfside residents. Residents must check in at the Community Center front desk. Each household is eligible for 2 chairs and 1 umbrella per day.

## ***96th Street Park Enhancements***

- ***Basketball Courts:*** The 96th Street Park basketball courts have been fully resurfaced and repainted, improving appearance, playability, and line visibility. The work restores proper traction, sharpens boundary markings, and extends the service life of the courts.

## ***Community Center Enhancements***

- ***Lighting:*** Electrical outlets were added along the Surfside Community Center frontage to support holiday lighting, and three new spotlights were installed to illuminate the facility's flagpoles.

**Town School (Ruth K. Broad Bay Harbor K-8) Shuttle:** The Town is currently working with the Shuttle Bus provider to implement a GPS-based rider tracking system that allows parents to view the bus location in real time and receive notifications.

Surfside Shuttle Bus November Daily Counts		
Date	Number of Kids (AM)	Number of Kids (PM)
1st	CLOSED	CLOSED
2nd	CLOSED	CLOSED
3rd	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL
4th	42	42
5th	44	42
6th	41	47
7th	44	47
8th	CLOSED	CLOSED
9th	CLOSED	CLOSED
10th	40	40
11th	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL
12th	35	35
13th	35	40
14th	40	40
15th	CLOSED	CLOSED
16th	CLOSED	CLOSED
17th	42	42
18th	35	35
19th	43	44
20th	45	45
21st	40	40
22nd	CLOSED	CLOSED
23rd	CLOSED	CLOSED
24th	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL
25th	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL
26th	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL
27th	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL
28th	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL
29th	CLOSED	CLOSED
30th	CLOSED	CLOSED

***Vending Machines Stats: (Includes Community Center and 96<sup>th</sup> St. Park):***

JUNE 2025			
# of Ice Creams Sold	# of Beverages Sold	# of Snacks Sold	Total Revenue to Town
556	597	618	\$901.28
JULY 2025			
432	576	534	\$800.63
AUGUST 2025			
512	313	221	\$620.57
SEPTEMBER 2025			
371	298	227	\$462.07
OCTOBER 2025			
352	402	412	\$585.33
NOVEMBER 2025			
535	362	107	\$536.34

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***Events & Activities:***

• **November Senior Brunch**

The November Senior Brunch, held on **Friday, November 14, 2025**, was a wonderful gathering filled with friendship, laughter, and great food. Participants enjoyed a delicious buffet-style meal, followed by several lively rounds of bingo that brought out plenty of smiles and friendly competition. The atmosphere was cheerful and welcoming, making it a perfect opportunity for seniors to connect and enjoy quality time together. **# of Attendants: 30**

• **November Senior Trip**

The November Senior Trip to the **Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science** on **Wednesday, November 19, 2025**, was a fantastic and memorable experience. Participants spent the afternoon exploring fascinating exhibits, enjoying the breathtaking planetarium, and learning about science in a fun and interactive way. The group shared plenty of laughs, great conversations, and moments of awe throughout the visit. Comfortable transportation to and from the Surfside Community Center made the outing smooth and enjoyable, and many participants expressed how much they loved the experience and look forward to future trips. **# of Attendants: 11**

• **Under the Stars Movie Night**

The third movie in our *Under the Stars* series took place on **Saturday, December 6, 2025**, at 96th Street Park, featuring the film *Elio*. Residents and hotel guests gathered for a festive, family-friendly evening under the stars, enjoying cozy seating, laughter, and good company. Popcorn and refreshments were provided, adding to the experience as families relaxed and watched the film together. The atmosphere was warm and inviting, and the event was a wonderful way to celebrate the season and bring the community together.

**# of predicted Attendants: 88**



## **Upcoming Events & Activities**

### **• December Senior Brunch**

The Senior Brunch is scheduled for **Friday, December 12, 2025**, from **11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Join us for a festive buffet-style meal filled with holiday cheer, good company, and a few fun rounds of bingo to celebrate the season together.

### **• Winter Wonderland**

Join us for Surfside's annual **Winter Wonderland** celebration on **Sunday, December 14, 2025**, from **10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** at 96th Street Park. This magical holiday event is open exclusively to Surfside residents and hotel guests. Enjoy a festive morning filled with holiday-themed activities, cheerful entertainment, winter treats, and plenty of seasonal fun for the whole family!

### **• December Senior Trip**

For our December Senior Trip, participants will visit **Bayside Marketplace** in Downtown Miami. The trip is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 17, 2025**, from **11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**, and includes transportation to and from the Surfside Community Center. In addition to exploring the shops and waterfront dining, participants will enjoy a scenic boat tour through Millionaire's Row, offering beautiful views of luxurious homes, historic landmarks, and the stunning Miami skyline.

### **• Winter Camp**

Winter camp is scheduled for **December 22, 2025**, through **January 2, 2026**, from **8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**, at 96<sup>th</sup> Street Park. Registration is now open through the YMCA Website. **No Camp** on **December 25<sup>th</sup>** and **January 1<sup>st</sup>**.



## COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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The Communications Department's mission is to build strong connections between Surfside residents, elected officials, and the broader community through strategic communication and innovative marketing initiatives. Its objective is to enhance the quality of life in Surfside by providing timely, informative content that educates, engages and empowers residents. As the primary bridge between Town Administration and its citizens, the department ensures transparency, accessibility, and unity within our community, promoting active civic engagement and celebrating Surfside's unique heritage. Through innovative partnerships and implementing forward-thinking strategies, the department strives to position Surfside as a model of effective governance and vibrant community participation.

**Team:** Cindy Reyes Arboleda, **Director**  
Ian Dolan, **Administrative Support**

In November 2025, the Communications Department continued to serve as the creative and strategic engine of the Town of Surfside, supporting every department with clear, consistent, and engaging messaging. From major video productions and civic outreach to daily content management and cross-departmental collaboration, the Department ensured all initiatives were elevated, accessible, and aligned with the Town's core values of transparency, service, and community pride.

### **Town Manager's Office:**

- Produced and distributed the December 2025 Gazette ahead of schedule, providing residents with timely updates on new Town leadership, holiday programming, meeting schedules, and public safety information.
- Highlighted key features across digital platforms, including the introduction of the Acting Town Manager, the new Finance Director, and the new Parks & Recreation Director. Promoted Town staff participation in the Emotional Intelligence Workshop, emphasizing communication and teamwork.
- Launched a communications campaign supporting the December holiday events, including the Christmas Tree Lighting, Winter Wonderland, and Senior Brunch.

- Issued a comprehensive announcement on the Beach Renourishment Project taking place Nov. 17 - Dec. 23, 2025, detailing scope, impacts, and schedule to ensure transparency and public awareness.
- Distributed the community survey and launched voting for the new name of the park at Bay Drive & 92nd Street, encouraging residents to select from three finalists: Little Bay Park, Flamingo Native Garden, and Tequesta Tribe Park.

### **Police Department:**

- Informed residents that Sgt. Lorente was available in the Town Hall lobby on Election Day, Nov. 4, to assist with the new Residential Virtual Parking Permit Program.
- Production of two public safety videos now in development: a holiday traffic reminders message with Chief Press and a holiday safety tips video with Major Matelis.
- Promoted the Mobile DMV (FLOW) visit to Town Hall and supported the Town's Hurricane Melissa Relief Drive, encouraging residents to donate essential supplies.
- Documented and promoted the Police Department's Thanksgiving community outreach, including turkey and holiday meal deliveries to families with support from Chief Press, Sgt. Cruz, the Chief Press Foundation, and Closet of Living Hope.
- Covered Chief Press's leadership at the 10th Annual Veterans Thanksgiving Lunch hosted at LoanDepot Park for Miami-Dade County veterans, recognizing multi-agency partners, Royal Caribbean, Starbucks, and event sponsors.

### **Parks & Recreation Department:**

- Produced a Parks and Recreation video featuring Director Rudy Perez, highlighting and showcasing the features of the Parks & Recreation mobile app for easy class and program access.
- Promoted and documented the Veterans Day Ceremony at Veterans Park, honoring those who served with participation from Town officials and the Surfside Police Department Honor Guard.
- Covered Movie Under the Stars, where more than 100 residents enjoyed an outdoor screening of Disney's "Lilo & Stitch," and promoted the next film scheduled for Dec. 6.

- Announcement of Community Center Beach Club limited service due to the ongoing beach renourishment project.

### **Public Works:**

- Distributed timely alerts regarding beach renourishment activity, truck traffic, and project timelines through email and social media.
- Maintained active communication channels to support public understanding of project impacts.
- Communicated Thanksgiving holiday hours to changes to recycling collection shifts, traffic alerts, and emergency notifications to keep residents informed and prepared.

### **Town Clerk's Office:**

- Promoted the upcoming Clean Campaign Class scheduled for Dec. 4, providing residents with an opportunity to learn about campaign law, reporting requirements, and election compliance standards.
- Published Nov. 4 Special Election Results, including outcomes of the referendum on undergrounding utilities, the non-binding gated community referendum, and the two charter amendments requiring enhanced fiscal oversight.

### **Digital Strategy, Social Media & Brand Stewardship:**

- Oversaw all social media content and platform growth, resulting in increased organic engagement and community interaction. The Town's [Instagram following](#) grew to 2,800, marking a 6% increase compared to last month.
- Delivered content in clear, accessible language that aligned with the Town's visual identity and values.
- Managed content creation across multiple platforms, ensuring consistency in tone, message, and visual branding.
- Distributed [23 e-blast campaigns](#), posted 47 Nextdoor alerts, and published 36 Instagram/Facebook posts, maintaining strong communication and engagement with residents.





## **TOURISM DEPARTMENT**

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Surfside is one of only three municipalities in Miami-Dade County currently eligible by Florida State Law to impose a Resort Tax of four percent (4%) on accommodations and two percent (2%) on food and beverage sales as a source of revenue. Miami Beach and Bal Harbour are the other two municipalities with the same capability. This unique revenue-generating opportunity is also defined in the Town's Charter in Sec. 69-A.

**Resort Tax.** The Tourist Resort Tax Fund is a special revenue fund within the budget of the Town of Surfside. This means that the funds, like all special revenue funds, are collected from specific sources and dedicated to specific allowable uses. The Resort Tax Board Members, appointed by the Town's Commission, oversee the legal and appropriate use of these funds through the Tourism Director and the operations of the Tourist Bureau. The Tourist Bureau is responsible for promoting the Town's dining, shopping, lodging, recreation and beach to visitors nationally, internationally, and within the State of Florida. Attracting visitors from within the State of Florida, the nation, and internationally, including from Latin America, Canada, United Kingdom, and Israel.

**Team:** Frank Trigueros, **Director**

**Second Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony** – The Resort Tax Board sponsored the Second Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at Town Hall on Sunday, Dec. 7. The event, which was supported by more than 20 Town volunteers including teens and members of the Youth Council, Board and Committee members and residents of all ages, proved to be a success exceeding last year's impressive turnout. The Tree Lighting also featured a visit from Santa Claus, a live orchestra, holiday music, hot chocolate, and a variety of sweet & savory holiday treats. The Resort Tax Board continues to expand its scope for holiday lighting, adding illumination to the palm trees at Veteran's Park and the Community Center for the first time ever this season. New custom turtle monument signs have also been installed at Town entrances in addition to redesigned holiday street banners.

**Midnight Madness and New Lighting for Town's Business District** –The Resort Tax Board has re-wrapped the palm trees along Harding Avenue to maintain a bright and welcoming ambience throughout the business district year-round – an initiative that is well supported by local businesses. In an effort to further animate the district and support Surfside retailers during the holiday season, the Board sponsored this year's edition of "Midnight Madness" on Dec. 6. Midnight Madness is a promotional event where Surfside businesses stay open late during one special Saturday to attract

new patrons with promotional discounts, giveaways, special offers, and complimentary food & drink.

**New Signature Event Approved** – The Resort Tax Board has approved a brand new, two-day special event designed to attract hotel visitors and highlight Surfside’s oceanfront lifestyle and beautiful offerings. Titled “Snow Moon Soiree,” the new event, set to take place Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 2026, will help elevate Surfside’s special event roster and take place at the Community Center/beach and feature professional sand sculptures and sculpting workshop, live performers and mermaids, surfing lessons and an evening white party for adults.

**Singerfest Event a Success** – The Community Relations Board (CRB) and Resort Tax Board recently teamed up to co-sponsor the ‘Singerfest’ event honoring Isaac Bashevis Singer on Nov. 16. The event proved to be a success, with attendees packing the Community Center fishbowl room for a lively discussion at the CRB-sponsored “Book Club” with Professor Itzik Gottesman. The festivities continued during the Reception portion at the Community Center green space which had been transformed into a cozy literary space. The reception featured the screening of a short film, in addition to a live Klezmer band, and complimentary food and drink.

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Food & Beverage Tax	\$131,016.62
Hotel Tax	\$639,815.08
Interest Earnings	0
Registration Fees	\$500.00
Gross Revenue Generated	<b>\$771,331.70 (FY2025-2026)</b>



## POLICE

The Surfside Police Department has adopted a proactive policing philosophy and embraces its approach to developing community partnerships and problem-solving. Our employees are extremely proud of our tradition and are committed to public service and to ensuring the safety of our residents and visitors. We are dedicated to providing quality police service to our residents, businesses and tourists.

**Team:** Charles R. Press, **Chief of Police**  
 Jose "Jay" Matelis, **Major**  
 Diana Leon, **Lieutenant**

**STAFF: 5 Sergeants / 2 Detectives / 19 Officers / 4 Dispatchers / 3 CSAs /  
 3 Admins / 4 Parking / 1 Accreditation Manager**

<b>Kimberlee Blecha – Executive Asst.</b>	
Rory Alberto – Sergeant	Craig Lovelette – Officer
Loxley Arch III – Officer	Bryant Luke – Officer
Tammy Campbell – Officer	Joseph Matthews – Officer
Ana Chamorro – Dispatcher	Ruben Ravelo – Officer
Frank Colonna – Sergeant	Joshua Rosario – Officer
Marian Cruz – Sergeant	Lesmes Ruiz – Officer
Jose Dardon – Dispatcher	Donovan Saffo – Officer
Ronald Donoso – Detective	Maria Sierra – Dispatcher
Isabelle Dourbecker – CSA	Jill Smith – Accreditation Manager
Felix Fermin – CSA	Michah Smith – Officer
Bobby Gabriel – Officer	Susie Sperbeck – Dispatcher
Kemuel Gambirazio – Detective	Julio Torres – Sergeant
John Gentile – Officer	Jose Valino – Officer
Diana Hernandez – Officer	Samuel Villegas – Officer
Alberto Knight – Officer	Sharon Perez, – Officer
Ariel Lage – Officer	Rafael Gomez, Jr. – Officer
Donald Laurent – CSA	<b>PARKING (3)</b>
Alejandro Lorente – Sergeant	Christian Acosta – Parking Officer
Stephanie Kamer – Admin Aide	Josue Castro – Parking Officer
Teresa Fernandez – Admin Aide	William Perez – Parking Officer

**Recruitment Efforts** – The department is still looking to expand its hiring of officers and is actively looking to grow the force. Certified officers and those currently in the academy are encouraged to reach out to our Human Resources team.

**A message from** Chief Charles “Chuck” Press to our Surfside Family:

**Press On!**



*“Existence lived in service of others, is existence that outlives the entity.”*  
— Abhijit Naskar

## ***Community Giving Meals for the Needy – Thanksgiving Food Deliveries***

This Thanksgiving season, the Surfside Police Department, along with several local law enforcement agencies, had the privilege of visiting families in our community to deliver turkeys and holiday meals. We are proud to support our residents and deeply grateful for those who support us every day.

We extend our appreciation to the organizations that helped make this event possible and ensured that families received the assistance they needed. A special thank you to our very own Chief Press and Sgt. Cruz, whose organizations—the Chief Press Foundation and the Closet of Living Hope—played a meaningful role in this special day.





## Condo and Hotel Holiday Safety and Security Meeting

Chief Charles Press, Major Jay Matelis, and Acting Town Manager Mario A. Díaz had a condo and hotel association managers and staff meeting to discuss several key topics regarding safety for the upcoming holiday season as well as quality of life issues as part of our community engagement initiatives. A few of the safety tips the Chief gave to attendees to share with their residents and guests were:

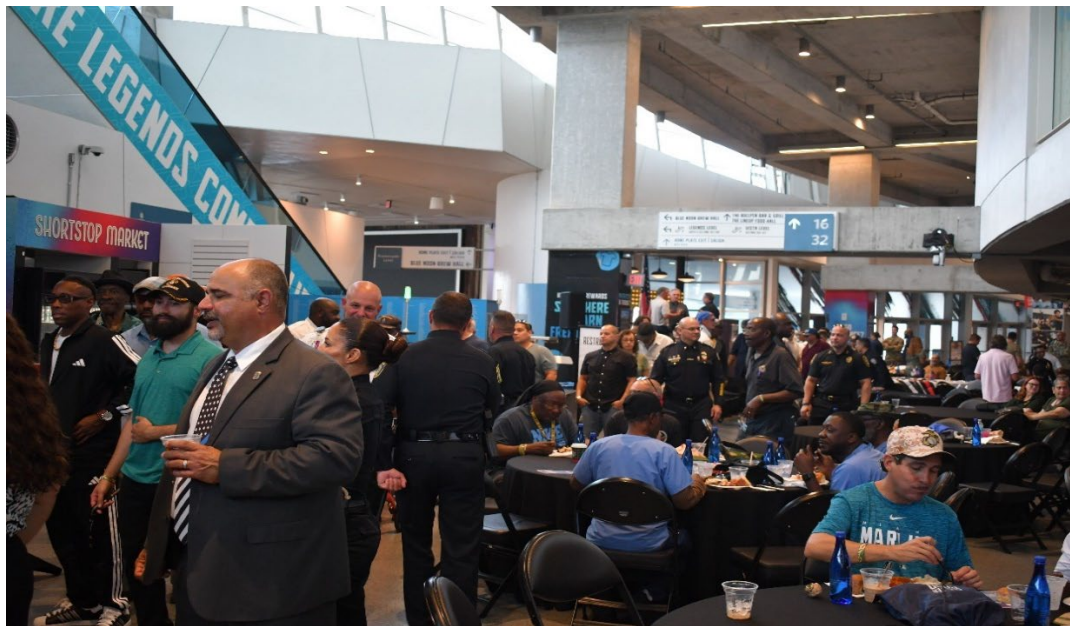
- Do not leave any valuables visible inside your vehicle, as this may attract would-be thieves.
- When shopping, do not make trips to drop off items in your trunk where someone would see and easily break in once you are gone.
- With lots of packages arriving this time of year, make sure there is someone to receive and secure them if you are not available to accept them.
- Traffic is always a concern, but please be extra cautious when crossing streets (avoid looking at your phone) as many drivers are traveling from out of town, unfamiliar with our streets, and due to ongoing construction, the roads have become even more hazardous.

Some attendees included Arts Surfside, Azure Condominium, The Manatee Condominium, Mirage of Surfside, Residence Inn by Marriott Miami Beach Surfside, Solara Surfside Resort, and The Waverly.



## Serving Those Who Served – A Veterans Thanksgiving Luncheon

The Chief Press Foundation along with the Miami-Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of feeding veterans a Thanksgiving meal. Per Chief Press, “‘Serving Those Who Served’ is something that we all feel very strongly about. Having started our first year with eight homeless veterans, yesterday’s event drew an excess of 300 homeless and working veterans. A special thank you to Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines and the Miami Marlins for hosting the event.”





## ***Upcoming Events***

Indulge in the warmth and sweetness of the season at ***Hot Cocoa with the Cops*** on Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Residence Inn by Marriot Hotel (9200 Collins Avenue). Join us for a morning of festive treats, tasty snacks, and shared moments with our community! Residents, business owners, and visitors will have the opportunity to meet with the Chief of Police to discuss concerns, ask questions, and offer valuable feedback. You may meet one or more of the members of the Town Commission at the event as well. For further information, please contact Major Matelis at 305-861-4862.





## PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department provides for the effective management and maintenance of the Town's roadways, infrastructure systems, and buildings as well as the management and supervision of the solid waste collection operation and the storm water, water/sewer utilities. The Department also responds to and assists other Town departments in emergencies and instances of severe weather preparation and recovery.

**Team:** Andre Eugent, **Director**  
Lys Desir, Jr., **Operations Manager**

### STAFF DIRECTORY

13 Solid Waste  
6 Facilities/Maintenance  
3 Water & Sewer

SOLID WASTE	FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE
<b><i>Derick Scott – Manager</i></b>	<b><i>Josvani Iglesias – Manager</i></b>
Jose Acevedo – Coordinator	Carlos Duarte – General Service Worker
Martinez Saintilmond – Refuse Collector	Gustavo Gonzalez – Maintenance
Pierre Desamour – Refuse Collector	Idael Suarez – Maintenance
Donovan Johnson – Refuse Collector	Jose Nodarse – Mechanic
Claude Jean – Refuse Collector	Guillermo Osorio – CDL Heavy Eqpt.
Harold Jean Baptiste – Refuse Collector	<b>WATER &amp; SEWER</b>
Harry Saintil – Refuse Collector	Wayne Taylor, Jr. - Maintenance
Esdyani Puentes – Refuse Collector	Rigoberto Chaviano – Maintenance
Sanel Cazeau – Refuse Collector	Jimmy McCray - Maintenance
Mitch Michel – Truck Driver	
Albert Noel – Truck Driver	
Bernardo Cordova – Truck Driver	

ACTIVITY	VOLUME	COST
Garbage Collected	389.19 TN	\$34,796.09
Recycling Collected	25.12 TN	\$2,956.62
Bulk Pick Ups	94.48 TN	\$8,557.05
Sewer Backups	3	Internal
Water Leaks	1	Internal



## FINANCE

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The Finance Department provides for the effective, lawful, and efficient management of the Town's financial matters. The Department manages and maintains the Town's financial records in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and in compliance with State and Federal laws. The Department develops and runs effective, efficient financial planning and reporting, and supports the operating departments in achieving their program objectives.

**Team:** Sandra Siefken, **Director**  
Christopher Wallace, **Consultant**  
Andria Meiri, Budget Officer  
Manuel "Manny" Carta, Comptroller  
Katherine Rivera, Accountant  
Damaris "Didi" Montes de Oca, Customer Service Representative  
Tamara Capote, Accounting Clerk

**Robert Half Personnel:**

- Alberto Erviti



## GRANT ADMINISTRATOR

A Grant Administrator is responsible for managing the full life cycle of grants in alignment with the priorities established by the Town Commission and leadership. This includes pre-award activities such as supporting the identification of funding opportunities based on strategic direction, assisting departments in developing project scopes, preparing and submitting grant applications, and ensuring proposals meet eligibility and compliance criteria. Once awarded, the post-award responsibilities include monitoring project progress, tracking expenditures, managing grant compliance, coordinating with departments and funding agencies, and submitting timely financial and performance reports. The Grant Administrator serves as the central point of contact for all grant-related matters, ensuring accountability, transparency, and effective use of funds across the Town of Surfside.

**Team:** Kristina Brown, **Grant Administrator**  
Email: [progrant@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:progrant@townofsurfsidefl.gov)

NAME OF GRANT	FUNDER	\$ AWARDED
Resilient Florida Grant Program - Abbott Avenue Stormwater Improvements	FDEP	\$5,000,000.00
Resilient Florida Grant Program - Collins Avenue Water Main Replacement Design	FDEP	\$217,731.00
State Appropriations Project Request - Surfside Boulevard Improvements	FDOT	\$250,000.00
Public Transit Service Development Grant Program – Freebee On-Demand (Yr 1)	FDOT	\$120,898.00
State Appropriation's Request - Surfside Memorial Design and Construction	FDOS	\$1,000,000.00
Resilient Florida Grant Program - Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan	FDEP	\$300,000.00
Beach Management Grant Program - Coastal Dunes Rehabilitation	FDEP	\$1,220,683.50
General County Funds - Surfside Memorial	MDC	\$250,000.00



State Appropriations Request - Transforming and Reformulating the Surfside Downtown Alleyway	FDOC	\$750,000.00
Viva Florida Grant – Flamingo Garden Park	Florida Wildflower Foundation	\$3,000.00

Grant applications submitted pending determination:

<b>NAME OF GRANT</b>	<b>FUNDER</b>	<b>\$ APPLIED FOR</b>
Public Transit Service Development Grant Program – Freebee On-Demand (Yr 2)	FDOT	\$126,329.00
Public Transit Service Development Grant Program – Freebee On-Demand (Yr 3)	FDOT	\$135,713.00
Safe Streets for All – Comprehensive Safety Action Plan	DOT	\$250,000.00
Resilient Florida Grant Program - Surfside Stormwater Outfall Resilience Project	FDEP	\$650,000.00
Resilient Florida Grant Program - Surfside Lift Station 1 Resilience and Capacity Upgrade Project	FDEP	\$1,000,000.00
Biscayne Bay Water Quality Improvement Grant Program - Surfside Lift Station 1 Resilience and Water Quality Improvement Project	FDEP	\$1,000,000.00
Local Government Cybersecurity Grant Program – Town Cybersecurity Software Request	FLDS	\$0.00 (Software Only)
State Appropriations Request – Hawthorne Avenue Drainage Improvements	State TBD	\$650,000.00
State Appropriations Request – Byron Avenue Sanitary Sewer Improvements	State TBD	\$750,000.00
State Appropriations Request – Surfside Safe Streets	State TBD	\$700,000.00



## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

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The Town's Capital Improvement Projects Services provides for the effective management and maintenance of the Town's capital improvement projects as well as the management and supervision of these projects.

Improving our community's quality of life for generations to come is a priority for all Town residents. Several Projects are currently underway to make the Town of Surfside safer, more enjoyable, and more resilient long-term.

**Team:** Andre Eugent, **Director**

*Attachment "A"*

<b><u>PROJECTS</u></b>
<b>96 Street Park</b>
<b>Townwide Utilities Undergrounding</b>
<b>Surfside Memorial</b>
<b>Abbott Avenue Drainage</b>
<b>Collins Avenue Water Main</b>
<b>Dune Restoration</b>
<b>Townwide Vulnerability Assessment</b>

## 96<sup>th</sup> Street Park

**Scope:**

The project is a full park re-development with a 2-story multi-use structure, natural grass field, and playground area. A kayak launch component has also been incorporated.

**Phase:** Construction Closeout

**Status:** The Town have retained a Construction Law firm to handle the Lunacon settlement.

Finance			
		Construction Closeout	Amount Paid to Date
Contract Amount		\$7,243,838.63	\$6,881,647
	Balance	362,191.94	

## Townwide Utilities Undergrounding

**Scope:**

The project consists of the undergrounding of all current above ground utilities throughout Town. These utilities include electrical mains, feeders, communications and residential drop connections.

**Phase:** Design

**Status Update:**

During the November 2025 election, voters voted “No” to the question “**Shall the Town continue with the undergrounding of overhead utility lines for electric and communication services (the "Project") at an anticipated cost of Eighty Million (\$80,000,000) Dollars?**” As a result, the project has been halted in its entirety, including all design work for Areas 1 and 2, as well as the planned construction of Area 3.

## **Surfside Memorial**

**Scope:** The Town is seeking to create the Surfside Memorial to honor and remember the lives lost in the tragic event that occurred on June 24, 2021, when the CTS Building collapsed. The Surfside Memorial will serve as a permanent remembrance of the immense loss suffered by the Surfside community and will offer a place for families, friends, and visitors to reflect, understand the truth of that day, and find solace through the peace and serenity conveyed through this site.

**Phase:** Design

**Status:** The town is coordinating with MDSO to collect the debris that will be used in the construction of the memorial. The town is actively looking for storage lots that can be used to store the debris once received from MDSO. Keith team has sent over 100% design for review after which the design will be submitted to the relevant permitting agencies for review and approval.

### **Project Schedule:**

- **Detailed Design Milestones:**
  - 30% Design – **July 2025**
  - 60% Design – **August 2025**
  - 90% Design – **September 2025**
  - Final Design – **November 2025**
- **Site Plan, Permitting & Opinion of Probable Cost:**
  - **November 2025**
- **Contractor Bidding & Award:**
  - **January 2026**
- **Construction Start:**
  - **Q1 2026**

## **Abbott Avenue Drainage**

**Scope:**

The construction will entail the addition of two new pump stations with respective force mains to alleviate flooding on Abbott Avenue from 90th Street to 94th Street.

**Phase:** Construction

**Status:** The Town has secured construction litigation lawyer to handle the settlement with Ric Man International regarding this project.

FG Construction has begun work on 91<sup>st</sup> Street between Harding and Abbott Avenue, with all DERM and FDEP permits approved.

In parallel, the Town continues discussions with Ric-Man International regarding their claim for outstanding payments. Ric-Man currently retains critical materials required for the construction of Pump Stations No. 1 and No. 2, and negotiations are ongoing to resolve the **matter**.

## **Collins Avenue Water Main**

**Scope:**

Pursuant to Town Resolution 2022-2907 passed and adopted unanimously on August 9, 2022, Nova Consulting was selected to design this project to replace the current, undersized water main on Collins Avenue. The existing water main is past its useful life and requires up-sizing and replacement. The Town sought and obtained a grant for design services for the project. The water main currently services all the facilities along the Collins Avenue corridor.

**Phase:** Design

**Status:** Nova Consultants has submitted the **100% design package** to both the Town and FDEP for review and approval. Nova is also continuing its **permitting efforts with other governing agencies** to ensure the project progresses as planned.

The **Capital Improvement Program (CIP) team** is actively exploring **alternative grant funding opportunities** to support the project's implementation.

Construction is currently **anticipated to begin in the first quarter of 2026**.

## **Dune Restoration**

### **Scope:**

The Commission tasked Town administration to promote both dune beautification and resiliency improvements. Kimley-Horn was tasked to design the required resiliency improvements and beautification of the Town's dunes.

### **Phase:** Construction

**Status:** The Town finalized all design-related matters in coordination with Kimley-Horn and issued the requisite addendums to support the bidding process. The Invitation to Bid (ITB) was opened on November 26, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., during which the Town received a single bid. The Town is currently evaluating options and determining an appropriate path forward. Construction is projected to commence in the first quarter of 2026.

## **Townwide Vulnerability Assessment**

### **Scope:**

The Town of Surfside was awarded a grant for \$300,000.00 from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to conduct a Vulnerability Assessment and an Adaptation Plan as well as the development of the Town Hall's Emergency Operation Center EOC Adaptation Plan.

### **Phase:** Study

**Status:** Kimley-Horn has submitted the **Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Adaptation Plan Feasibility Report** and the **Final Vulnerability Assessment Report** to the **Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)** for review and approval. The town currently waiting on FDEP's approval.

Following FDEP approval, the Town intends to **identify potential projects** outlined in the reports and **pursue grant funding** to support their implementation.

These efforts are part of the Town's ongoing commitment to **resilience planning** and enhancing infrastructure to better withstand future climate and hazard impacts.