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Homeless Advocates Denounce Passing of "Camping Prohibited" Ordinance

BY ANETTA HOWSIBELA
Staff Writer

The Miami Beach City Commission passed an ordinance regarding camping on public property, during a meeting Wednesday.

The ordinance was passed by a vote of six to one, with Commissioner Saul Grigsby dissenting.

Officially, the new regulation seeks to control camping on public property to promote aesthetics, sanitation, public health and safety. But critics fear that the ordinance is, in effect, an attempt to displace the homeless from Miami Beach.

"This looks like an anti-homeless ordinance to me," said Benjamin Wiseman, an attorney, "the city is misapplying its efforts to get rid of the homeless instead of dealing with them."

According to Wiseman, the county attracted Miami when it learned that the police department was arresting homeless for the purpose of driving them from public places without offering them placement to a shelter. The Miami action led to the landmark *Pottinger v. City of Miami* case, which resulted in a requirement that an offer of shelter be made prior to removal from public property.

"With its current lack of shelter space, Miami Beach may face a similar challenge. "There are anywhere from four to six thousand homeless on Miami Beach," said Wiseman. "Yet there are not even thirty beds in shelters available, and those are constantly used."

Many of the homeless are referred to shelters in Miami, but, according to Rafael Velazquez, an attorney involved in the matter, "It's unethical to expect these individuals to other facilities. And it doesn't take care of the problem in the long run."

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Bring On The Boogie

BY ANDREA ZARATE
Contributing Writer

Another year rolls around and once again thousands of people are expected to flock to the upcoming Winter Music Conference.

In its 20th anniversary year, this event has grown to be the world's second largest music conference, and has become famous around the world for hosting the best showcase of Electronic Music.

"The dance music becomes more and more global, the industry has made Miami the principal gathering place, and Miami Beach is proud to have it," says James Quinan, director of the Miami Beach Office of Arts, Culture and Entertainment. "This is an integral part of this organization because of its setting that appeals to many of the people who come here from the other regions of the world."

"It's a huge music lover's weekend, where South Beach is put on the map—and it's the peak of a diversified season for us," says Jorge Luis Garcia, membership director for the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce. "All services benefit from this week—all hotels, restaurants, retailers are looking forward to the business this event brings into the city, and as rooms are sold out, we can see that everyone is smiling."

Over the past two weeks, South Beach has been home to events that have drawn large numbers of people. The month kicked off with the White Party and the Food and Wine Festival, then

the Spring breakers arrived, and now the Winter Music Conference, which runs March 13 through 15, brings the high season to a crest. The Beach will draw four visitors who have come to Miami for the first MAAD24 100 tennis open in Key Biscayne from March 16 to 17.

This year's WMAC is expected to attract close to 10,000 people ranging from music enthusiasts to professionals of the dance and electronic music industry. The event will take place at the Miami Beach Convention Center and all circuit parties hosted at the major local nightclubs.

"Because of its thriving dance community, South Beach is an international center for this type of music," says Bill Kelly, director of the Winter Music Conference organization. "There's a higher profile of artist's performance as opposed to just DJ driven events, and there are going to be a lot more on stage performances."

During the three-day conference week, representatives and executives from major and independent record labels, media editors, club promoters, artist managers and agents, artists, DJs, remixers, producers, audio-visual programmers, internet companies, music gear manufacturers, as well as equipment brands from around the world all come together to do business and have fun at the same time.

"It's like a Spring break phenomena for music professionals," says David Kehay of the South Beach Hotel and Restaurant Association. "It has been very successful through the years and will definitely grow in stature."

"WMAC used to be known as a forum for the underground electronic music scene that was spawned by the New York New Music Seminars during the eighties. Today, its overwhelming growth in attendance mirrors the newly established popularity of the

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HOT COUTURE

WITH ESTHER NASH

A NIGHT AT THE OPERA



Last week, on Opening Night of Florida Grand Opera's production of *Boris Godunov* at the Miami-Dade County Auditorium, I saw a lot of fashion faux pas (mistakes).

Just because it is expensive does not mean it looks good. You don't want to put on all your designer brand-name clothing and wear it at one time. The overall look must be coordinated tastefully and well or the effect will be completely lost and you will look like a walking advertisement (and not a good one).

For those who wear makeup, remember: makeup does not make you beautiful, although it may enhance what you were born with. If you are not careful you may come out looking like a clown. It's important to know what you are doing, make-up wise, or you may end up looking like a bad science project.

So, when you are getting ready for a sophisticated night on the town, like attending the opera, don't put on all the colors of the rainbow—it does not necessarily make for a pretty picture.

If you want a dramatic effect, black eyeliner around your eyes is very striking. Now that your eyes are made up, you don't want to wear dark lipstick. It is not needed. Just lip gloss for a little shimmer will do.

For nails: a short French manicure and pedicure. Hair: blown dry straight and worn down.

For accessorizing well you should wear some delicate, small pieces of jewelry that do not detract from your natural beauty. If you have been blessed with a beautiful neckline, now is the time to show it off. You can never go wrong with a strand of pearls and earrings to match.

For your coat: a mink is ideal, and if not mink, a camelhair or cashmere coat.

Now in the summer, linen suits are very trendy and lightweight fabrics are what is popular.

OPERA DOS AND DON'TS

- No jeans.
- No heavy shoulder-padded clothing.
- No polka dot suits or bright, neon colors.
- No baseball caps or other sports-oriented clothing or accessories—You are going to the opera, not the beach or pizzeria!

For opera anywhere: Follow the classic line. Dress modestly and in good taste.

For wardrobe advice and to look your very best, check out my website or call my New York boutique.

The opera will be singing about you. Have a wonderful time in either Miami or New York City. You'll look wonderful!

Esther Nash is a hot new fashion designer, model and boutique owner who has been featured in numerous publications including New York, Cosmo Girl and Talent in Motion among many others. For fashion ideas and great bargains, check out her website at www.babydollboutique.com or call 718-945-8674.

