SUN POST

Beach Commission Regulates Lobbyists, Requires Fee Disclosure

BY JASON JEFFERS
Staff Writer

The Miami Beach City Commission approved three new ordinances to clamp down on lobbyist activity last week in a vote that had one commissioner walking out on the proceedings.

The three amendments to the city code, approved during the May 8th commission meeting, require lobbyists to disclose the fees and terms under which they are retained, prevent them from speaking to commission members on behalf of third parties while hired by the city, and prohibit them from receiving contingency fees as bonuses upon the passage or defeat of ordinances.

We want to correct the problem which is a perception on the public's part that lobbyists have undue influence," said Vice Mayor Saul Gross.

"I think the purpose behind this law is to give people an idea about what's behind the money," said Commissioner Richard Steinberg.

However, a lengthy and complicated debate over the very definition of "lobbyist" and a discussion about the possible unforeseen effects of the ordinances stretched the items past their allotted time, and resulted in Commissioner Luis R. Garcia Jr. refusing to vote on the ordinances.

"I don't feel as if I know enough about what this might unknowingly create," said Garcia before he stepped down from the dais. "If I vote no, the word is going to go around that Commissioner Garcia is against the ordinance, which I am not. I want some type of control over what we are really doing, and at this point in time I want to do the right thing."

In the public hearing section of the meeting, attorney Carter McDowell applauded the intent of the ordinances, but

• See LOBBYISTS, p.7

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Bracing For Memorial Day

BY JASON JEFFERS
Staff Writer

As memorial Day approaches, city officials, splendid owners, hoteliers and event promoters are formulating plans for the four day weekend in an attempt to manage the massive crowds expected to fill Miami Beach's streets.

The city has been holding a series of meetings with representatives from the Beach's tourism and entertainment industry to ensure a steady flow of information about what to expect.

"It's necessary for the city to be properly prepared," said Assistant City Manager Christina Cuervo. "We've gone through great strides to have comprehensive and coordinated planning [illegible] to make sure the city is safe and clean for Memorial Day weekend."

The holiday weekend has been a source of concern for many Beach residents and businesses, in light of the overcrowding and numerous arrests this brought the Beach nationwide attention last Memorial Day. According to some city estimates, as many as 300,000 people may travel to the Beach from all over the country between May 23rd and May 27.

One of the original proposals considered by the city was put forth by Luther "Luke" Campbell and his association of Professional Righteous Organized (PRO), Inc. The original plans called for a three-night party at the Miami Beach Convention Center, a free shuttle service to the event and an arts festival along Ocean Drive. The approved plans however have been scaled back to a one-night concert at the Convention Center and the original Lincoln Arts Festival, all of which has frustrated Campbell.

"Our plan originally addressed the problem of all the folks who wouldn't be able to get into the clubs," said Campbell, who tried to position himself as a go-to man between the city and the hip-hop fans expected to descend on the Beach. "Now my major concern is how the clubs are going to handle those people."

Campbell attributed the scaled back plans to an unwillingness to cooperate on the part of the city. "The city bent over backwards to accommodate Ravenell and N'Sync, yet when we took our plans to them there were all these delays. We've had to think about what we planned to do," he said.

Cuervo would not comment on Campbell's allegations, and Campbell indicated that he has since relegated himself to a consultancy position for PRO Inc. At a meeting between the city and the hotel industry he simply offered his advice. "The success of the weekend will start at the hotel level," Campbell said. "If you just open your arms everything will be fine."

A major component of the city's plan concerns the regulation of traffic. While there will be a significantly increased police presence on the Beach throughout the weekend, the Miami Beach Police Department has also formulated a traffic plan to accommodate both the large number of vehicles and pedestrians that are expected.

"Visitors are going to be logged on both sides of the street on Collins Avenue, and it will be limited to North and Southbound traffic," said Major Carlos Noriega with the Miami Beach Police Department. "Washington will be the same way."

"There are plans in place

• See MEMORIAL Day!, p.9

SUNPOST SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

A guide to the places that make you healthy, beautiful, spiritual, and happy. Page 13

Robin Tracy is [illegible] on mermaids. Page 8

Page 28

Citizens

The SunPost gives its two cents on the SOBEWFF contract debate while A.E. puts Memorial Day in perspective. Page 36

A.E.

A.E. trusts the voters to do right thing with the Beach's tourism contract. Page 4

News

The Royal Palm Hotel finally opens. Page 9

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HOT COUTURE

WITH ESTHER NASH

NASH NYC FASHION ROCKS SOBE

They came from far and wide, by boat, by plane, by cab and by car. It was an invitation-only, VIP, A-list, private affair for friends and family and, of course, high society, celebrities, and the press.

It was the Pre-Gala Grand Opening of the Living Room Social Club. And it featured a fashion show by yours truly, Model, Illustrator and Fashion Designer, Esther Nash.

The Emcee was non-other than my sister, cultured urban debutante, in-house Counsel, P.R. executive, socialite, fashionista and princess, Rachel Nash, who modeled three of my designs as well. (Check out her website at www.BarristerNYC.com.)

myself.

I design for the petite, athletic build. My designs are fo new millennium socialites, wh are looking to make a positive and lasting impression. M motto is "Be Seen and B Remembered! Sparkle an Shine like the Super Star tha you are!"

My fashions are designe to make anyone and everyon look like a model. It is no about the waist size, it's abou the stitch and seam.

A special thanks to the family of the Living Room for hosting my fashion exposition The renovation of the Livin Room is eye candy appealing with comfortable couches, secluded booths beautiful lighting and a fantastic sound sys tem. It is sexy and sophisticated and it's all a 671 Washington Avenue Miami Beach.

Esther Nash modeling one of her designs. Photo: Jon Gertz

"Baby Doll" Jasmin Nuñez. Photo: Jon Gertz

MODEL SEARCH CONTEST

If you are interested i participating as a model i my next upcoming fashio event, send photo an resume to Esther Nash a the SUN POST.

Esther Nash is a ho new fashion designe model and boutiqu owner who has been fe tured in numerous pub cations including Ne York, Cosmo Girl *and* Tee People *among many ot ers. For fashion ideas an great bargains, check o her website at* www.bab dollboutique.com *or ca 917-286-0614.*

I presented my "Baby Doll" line of "All American" low rider, hipster, hand painted, rock star jeans and traffic-stopping sequined berets, toppers and minis, in colors of "true blue", "purple heart", copper, "18K gold", and "sterling silver". Make-up was by Laura Mercier and the cosmetologist team from Neiman Marcus at the Bal Harbour Shops.

It had all had a Beverly Hills, Rodeo drive, Fifth Avenue, Country Club, Members Only Please effect. It was amazing. It was dazzling. It was the event of a lifetime. It was a spectacle to be witnessed – if I do say so

Esther with the "Baby Dolls". Photo: Jon Gertz