

BAL HARBOUR

- V I L L A G E -

OFFICE OF THE VILLAGE MANAGER

LETTER TO COUNCIL

NO. 078-2017

To: Mayor Gabriel Groisman and Members of the Village Council
From: Jorge M. Gonzalez, Village Manager 
Date: April 21, 2017
Subject: **Floatnik/Floatopia Event at Haulover Park**

The purpose of this Letter to Council (LTC) is to provide you information regarding the Floatnik (formerly known as Floatopia) event taking place on Sunday, April 23, 2017 at the beach at Haulover Park. Although there is no formal time for the event, it is being noticed to take place between 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

The Floatopia event originated in California in 2004, consisting primarily of college students. The name of the event describes the main activity which takes place -- floating on and tying together rafts / floating devices in the ocean and gathering on the beach. South Florida's first experience with this event was in 2012 in Miami Beach and since that time has become an annual event in South Beach, even though it was never a sanctioned event by the City. This past year, the City of Miami Beach enacted Ordinances which make it difficult for the event to take place there, so organizers have moved the event to the beach at Haulover Park.

Although the event is not scheduled to take place anywhere in the Village, the Bal Harbour Police Department (BHPD) is taking measures to ensure that the Village is as minimally impacted as possible. As part of the planned response, the north parking lot under the Haulover Bridge shall be closed for non-residents. The BHPD shall also deploy additional personnel on Collins Avenue, our beach, and at all the beach entrances. In addition, the City of Miami Beach Police Department will provide assistance to the Village with additional resources such as a police vessel (boat) and traffic officers. The Miami-Dade Police Department shall staff Haulover Park with additional police officers and marine assets in order to mitigate any issues there.

If you have any questions or need any further information, please feel free to contact me or Acting Chief De La Rosa.

JMG/MdIR