

Surfside

FLORIDA



GAZETTE
REMEMBERING THOSE WE LOST

TOWN STAFF STANDS UP TO A SUDDEN TRAGEDY

Surfside Police Officers are First to Arrive at the Scene

Just before 1:30 a.m. on June 24, 2021, the Surfside police officers of the midnight shift responded to calls from the Champlain Towers South condominium. At first, Officers Craig Lovellette, Ariol Lage and Kemuel Gambirazio thought it was a fire. But quickly, they realized the thickness in the air was debris and dust from the collapsed building.

The three officers rushed to the south side of the building looking for survivors. But the soot was so thick that even flashlights couldn't cut through it.

"The dust was getting in our eyes. We had to keep wiping our eyes," said Officer Lovellette, who was the acting sergeant. The building's lights were off and the officers could tell the garage had collapsed. When fire rescue trucks arrived, Officers Lage and Gambirazio went to the front of the building to work with firefighters rescuing residents from the part of the building still standing.

Officer Lovellette stayed behind, trying to find someone on the pile of rubble but could not find anyone. "At that point, it was a complete shock."

Surfside Police Captain John Healy praised the work of the officers and all of the Surfside Police - the first agency on the scene. "They were there in seconds," Captain Healy said.

At the Surfside Police Station Officer Joseph Matthews was working as dispatcher when he was flooded with calls - from people inside the building and family members across the country. "People called and asked, 'Is there an earthquake?' But I had to say 'I don't know' because in those first few hours, we had no idea what was going on," Officer Matthews said.

Surfside officers worked with firefighters who arrived from throughout Miami-Dade. Cherry pickers were used to go floor-by-floor to rescue residents still trapped on



their balconies. Surfside Police and officers from Miami Beach Police evacuated the buildings to the west and north of the fallen tower.

Surfside Police Chief Julio Yero quickly ordered for an alpha-bravo schedule, an emergency 12-hour shift to all Police Officers and the Parking Enforcement Officers. Along with the Town staff and volunteers, the Police Department attended to more than a hundred



stunned survivors at the Community Center by offering them food, clothing and other needs.

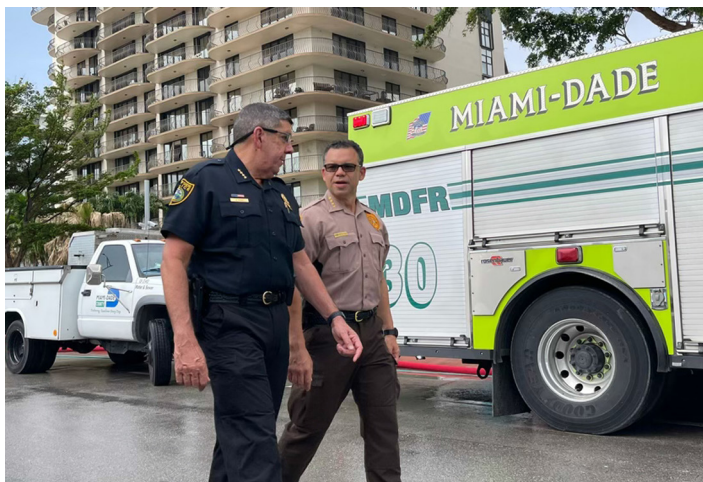
Traffic quickly became a top issue with dozens of fire rescue and emergency trucks,

hundreds of enforcement vehicles, media vans and concerned families and friends all driving through the streets of Surfside.

"Safety is always the main issue in a disaster such as this," said Captain Healy. "We closed down Collins Avenue and taped-off the areas of the collapse to keep people away and allow the rescue crews in."

Captain Healy said the frequent training and strong connection with the surrounding police departments enabled Surfside to work with multiple agencies to handle the traffic situation, check points and temporary street closing.

"At first, our footprint was huge. It included all our neighboring municipalities and all the agencies needed to work together to keep the streets safe and the traffic moving," Captain Healy said. "As the weeks have gone by, the footprint is getting smaller and will soon be back to normal."



TOWN STAFF STANDS UP TO A SUDDEN TRAGEDY

Parks & Recreation Helps to Turn the Community Center Into the Hub of the Champlain Tragedy

Surfside's Aquatics Supervisor Elizabeth Hopkins was awakened by an emergency phone call about 30 minutes after the Champlain collapse. Because she lived closest to the Town's Community Center, Elizabeth was asked to open the Center immediately as first responders were sending evacuated residents in that direction. In minutes she arrived with keys in hand and found dozens of shocked and dazed people waiting, some without clothes.

As the Parks and Recreation employees arrived, they gave out T-shirts and beach towels, set up chairs and tried to calm the ever-growing number of survivors who had lost their home.

"It was chaotic," said Parks and Recreation Director Tim Milian. "But the Department came together and jumped from providing recreation to helping people as best we could."

By dawn, the Red Cross and other agencies arrived and a Reunification Center was set up. Trucks with water and food rolled outside the Community Center. Officials



from Miami-Dade County began giving two briefings a day on the pool deck as hundreds gathered in the Community Center that was now open around the clock.

Within three days, the Center overflowed with stagings of a mobile pharmacy for those who lost their medicine, a lab taking DNA of relatives, a mobile cell phone service and a full Kosher kitchen cooking hundreds of meals a day.

All the programs and activities scheduled were cancelled after the tragedy. Three weeks after the Champlain incident, the Community Center had been scrubbed clean and was opened again for residents. After the collapse, the Surfside Summer Camp moved to Ruth K. Broad Bay Harbor K-8 Center. The children returned to the Community Center on July 19.



SURFSIDE STRONG MEMORIAL CONCERT

Soothing Music Next to a Calming Sea

On July 25, 2021, hundreds of Surfside and Bal Harbour residents gathered on the beach between the two municipalities to remember the victims of the Champlain Towers South collapse and listen to a peaceful performance by the South Florida Symphony Orchestra. The names of those lost in the tragedy were recognized during the concert.

Giving comments were Surfside Mayor Charles Burkett, Bal Harbour Mayor Gabriel Groisman and Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava. Many of those attending were wearing #SurfsideStrong T-shirts provided by the Town of Surfside Tourist Board.



Public Works Plays Critical Role at 'Ground Zero' and Beyond

Starting in the early hours of June 24 and throughout the following weeks, the skills of the Surfside Public Works Department were needed by first responders, search crews and the many agencies involved in the tragedy and recovery. Below are a few of the department's continued contributions:

- During the initial hours, Public Works disconnected utilities to the Champlain Tower to allow for first-responder access into lower levels.
- The staff used heavy equipment to clear ground on the beach side of the Champlain Tower collapse to allow a large crane and first-responder staging.
- The Department provided fuel, mechanical and automotive support to Miami-Dade County and State vehicles to ensure continuity of operations during the response phase.
- Solid waste services were provided at ground zero, specifically at the police staging area, Search and Rescue rest areas and memorial wall.
- Debris from the site heavily impacted the Town's stormwater infrastructure, causing local flooding. This was alleviated through a catch basin and pump station cleaning.
- Public Works re-routed and monitored utility services during the initial collapse and during the controlled demolition of the remaining structure to ensure there was no leakage in waste water and to ensure potable water quality control.
- In an effort to create normalcy in traffic flow, the County mandated the Public Works Department to modify various traffic control devices such as landscape islands and roundabouts. This assisted with congestion on State roadways which were deemed hazardous.
- Public Works assisted with logistical support of in-kind donations, such as water, clothing, and essential items.
- The Department continues to work with outside agencies in the recovery phases of the Champlain Tower Incident. The objective is to continue assisting all necessary levels while never forgetting the tragic incident that impacted us all.



LOCAL BUSINESSES REACH OUT

Surfside Businesses Help Victims and First Responders

In the wake of the tragic incident at Champlain Tower South, Surfside's business community rallied to come together to assist those impacted by the building collapse. Whether donating monetarily or providing goods, Harding Avenue selflessly sprang into action. The very next day, the district mobilized to provide assistance to the families of the victims and first

responders working at the scene.

Restaurants like Josh's Deli and The Carrot prepared and delivered meals to evacuees and their families; other spots like Backyard BBQ + Brew offered free Shabbat dinner to those impacted by the tragedy.

Mediterranean hummus bar VISH prepared specialty items for the Israeli teams assisting with search and rescue operations while Community Center concessionaire Surf N' Sides set up a kosher feeding station for the Jewish community. Some retailers like beauty parlor Lahh Salon even stopped accepting appointments just to gather donations for those affected. THANK YOU Surfside businesses for your kindness and generosity through these difficult times.



MAIL FROM COAST TO COAST SENDS MESSAGES OF HOPE

As we heal from the tragic loss of our neighbors, it is comforting to know how far our Surfside family has grown. Over the past month, the Town has received hundreds of messages of hope, healing and support from all over the country. Colorful cards from children and adults have helped bring a smile to our faces during a dark time.

The cards and notes to first responders were shared by Surfside Police with the first responders at the site of the collapse, and letters containing donations have been forwarded to the appropriate organizations. From Elkins, W. Va. to Cleveland, TX and Oklahoma City, Okla. and Kenai, Alaska to Portland, Maine, the care our cross-country neighbors have shown will not be forgotten.



LOCAL GROUPS & BUSINESSES GIVE EMPLOYEES STRESS RELIEF



The exhaustion and stress during the weeks after the tragedy took a toll on Surfside's employees at all levels. Many local companies and agencies stepped in to provide services such as body and feet massages, comfort dogs and B12 injections (see below).



Town Manager Andrew Hyatt (L) and Police Chief Julio Yero joined with Town employees to receive a healthy B-12 injection that was offered by The B-12 Store.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS

Surfside Receives an Overflowing of Donations, Volunteers and Love

For many Surfside residents, the one scene they will remember from this tragedy will be the trucks full of pallets of water bottles, boxes of clothes and bags of food.

Volunteers walked from their Surfside neighborhoods, drove hours from out of state and flew across the world to help our Town and residents after the collapse. Some stayed for a few hours and others volunteered for weeks. On behalf of the Town of Surfside thank you for standing up with us and lifting our spirits.



(At right) A group of volunteers at Town Hall prepare meals in bags. They were distributed to local hotel rooms where evacuated residents were temporarily staying.



One of countless free meals that were delivered to Town Hall. Rita Tennison from R Catering (L) and Ana Lam (R) of the Coral Gables Crime Watch, gave the Police Department meals. At middle is Assistant to the Chief Dina Goldstein.



Surfside Publix provides a lunch on a Sunday to the Police Department. Publix graciously offered hundreds of meals for employees during the weeks after the collapse.

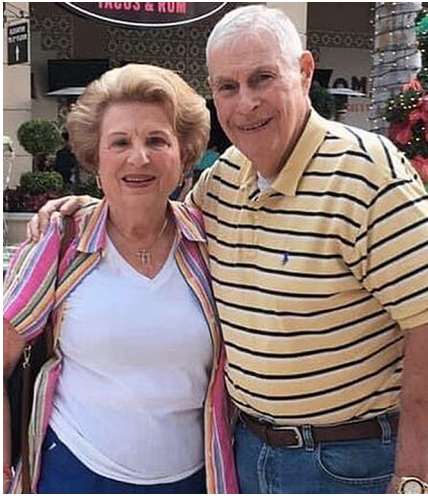
THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS !

Charu Newhouse Alsahe and family
 Pamela Behar and family
 Dalia Blumstein and family
 Rabbi and Chani Citron and family
 Iliana Cortez and family
 Susanna Garcia Falcon and family
 Sharon Finlinson and family
 Maria Galvan

Sandra Klapot and family
 Rabbi and Chani Lipskar and family
 Isabel Ramirez and family
 Alan and Jake Rubin and family
 Rabbi and Dobie Rubinstein and family
 June Scherr and family
 Bianva Senker and family
 Tracie Vlaun and family

RESIDENTS ARNIE AND MYRIAM NOTKIN GAVE MUCH TO SURFSIDE

Giving back to the Town of Surfside for almost 30 years, Myriam and Arnie Notkin were two of the many residents who will be missed by their family, friends and the Town that they made better. Myriam was a retired paralegal and banker, and Arnie or "Coach" was a retired physical education teacher in Miami Beach.



For more than 10 years, Arnie served on the Town's Parks and Recreation Committee, providing his experience and skills to improve the programs enjoyed by Surfsiders. At the memorial service for Arnold and Myriam, Arnie was eulogized as a teacher and coach who put troubled youngsters on the right path by putting them on the right team and tapping into a kid's talents. Myriam rarely missed the aerobics class with her close friends at the Community Center.

Arnie was born in Rochester, New Hampshire, and came to South Florida to attend and graduate from the University of Miami. Notkin served in the Army during the Korean War and earned his master's in science and education from Nova Southeastern University.

His 40-plus-year career as a physical education teacher and coach included working with generations of students at Leroy D. Fienberg, Nautilus, North Beach and Central Beach. One of Arnie's favorites was teaching pee-wee football at Flamingo Park and serving as president of the park's Police Athletic League. Notkin was honored earlier this year by the Miami Beach Kiwanis. At the dinner, scores of people approached Notkin's family to share stories of how he had inspired them.

Both had families and grown children before they met and married in August 1993. The Notkins bought their apartment in Surfside in 1994.

Myriam's survivors are daughter Belinda Caspi Wiseman, Dianne Ohayon and Jackie Samuelson; seven grandchildren; and her sister Graciela Lazoff. Arnold Notkin's survivors include his sons Allen and Michael Notkin and his daughter Lori Hayward, and seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



MARIA AND MIHAI REPRESENTED THE VERY BEST OF SURFSIDE

Maria Popa and Mihai Radulescu retired and moved to Surfside in late 2009, settling in at Champlain Tower South, unit 404. They quickly became beloved members of our community.

"They regularly attended Town events including annual Memorial Day and Veteran's Day ceremonies and musical performances at the Community Center as well as many community meetings. Their love of our community manifested in the many photographs they took at these events with notes on the back of each one, which they shared with staff and elected officials, often accompanied by Lindt Dark Chocolate Bars," said former Mayor Daniel Dietch.



Mihai's love and respect for Town employees manifested through CDs he created for them and their annual contributions to the Surfside Holiday Fund. "Maria and Mihai showed their love of their Town in many ways," said Police Chief Julio Yero. "For my department, they showed it by bringing meals to officers every month."

Maria and Mihai were both born and raised in Romania. Mihai came to the U.S. in the 1970s and worked at the Brookhaven National Laboratory for the United States Department of Energy on Long Island, New York. Mihai was a leading engineer in the National Synchrotron Light Source Department. Maria emigrated when she was 50 years old. She studied and passed all exams and became a science teacher.

Every Sunday they attended the Romanian Orthodox Church in Hollywood. "Their kindness and community engagement represented the best of Surfside and their spirit will endure," said Dietch.

MESSAGES FROM THE SURFSIDE ELECTED OFFICIALS

MAYOR CHARLES W. BURKETT



Dear All,

Some of our cherished friends and neighbors have endured unimaginable losses in the last few weeks.

Your love, your support, your compassion and most importantly your prayers - have been instrumental in our round-the-clock rescue efforts to pull all victims from the rubble and reunite them with their families.

All of the world, and Surfside have stepped in - and up, to show solidarity in supporting all the families touched by this catastrophe since the first notice of the collapse and have not relented, for one minute, in that support.

I know that the families feel the love and the support we've sent them, because we have been with the families every single day.

It's impossible to understand why something so awful could happen, but our community is built on love, faith and hope - and those characteristics have shone through in the selflessness, charity and giving that has been demonstrated in this disaster.

Our American, Israeli, Mexican and other world brothers and sisters, trained to save lives, descended on Surfside immediately after news of the collapse was sent out and they rushed to our rescue - without request, without compensation and without concern for themselves. They worked 24 hours a day, seven days a week - nonstop, and continue to work to pull all our loved ones from the collapse.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize the love and support showered on our Town and the victims of this tragedy by President Biden, Senators Scott and Rubio, Governor DeSantis, Lt. Governor Nunez, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, State Senator Pizzo and especially, Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava - all who have demonstrated strong and decisive leadership during our most difficult moments. There are many, many others too numerous to list, but suffice it to say, this rescue mission has been a symphony of heartfelt and selfless effort by all!

Also, on behalf of our entire Commission and our residents, I want to share my deepest thanks to the round-the-clock work undertaken by our Town Manager Andrew Hyatt and Police Chief Julio Yero - and their dedicated staffs, all of whom have forgotten sleep and days off to focus on the Champlain rescue operation.

The losses have been devastating, but as in all tragedies, there have been and will be lessons learned.

One is that God is always present in times such as these, even in the incomprehensible pain suffered by those who have lost loved ones. The other is that in the midst of such suffering, humanity and brotherhood have blossomed through an emergence of love and kindness, at a level rarely seen.

Thank you for your continued prayers that God may give our Surfside families devastated by this tragedy, comfort, peace and hope.

COMMISSIONER ELIANA R. SALZHAUER



Greetings Surfside Neighbors-

My familiar opening refrain takes on heightened significance in the wake of our shared tragedy. I have never been prouder to be YOUR neighbor than during this time of exceptional hardship and trauma. From that unforgettable phone call on June 24th at 1:30am from our Town Manager, and through this memorial publication, watching our community rise to the challenges of comforting survivors, bereaved families, and each other through this unprecedented horror has been truly inspiring. With the eyes of the world watching, our tiny town sprang into action, mobilizing resources and turning "thoughts and prayers" into action.

We set aside our differences and rolled up our sleeves to assist in every way possible, from feeding families and frontline workers, to fundraising for friends who had lost everything. Bad things happened to good people and great neighbors responded.

But even after every victim is laid to rest, Surfside's grieving journey is far from over. Of the hundreds of old buildings in Miami, why did this unspeakable tragedy occur in Surfside? Perhaps because Surfside is uniquely positioned to transform this tragedy into triumph. To ensure that EVERY angle is investigated and that REAL changes are made to building codes and inspection protocols to ensure that this NEVER happens again. To ensure that our loved ones did not perish in vain.

Even life in paradise can be tragically unpredictable. Action & Inaction can have life-altering consequences. Let's all do a better job of taking care of our environment, our property, and each other. Neighbors matter. Surfside has always been strong but now we are stronger. Thank you for the privilege of serving this incredible community.

DISCLAIMER: The comments posted by the Town officials in this newsletter are the opinions of the officials and do not reflect the opinions or policies of the Town of Surfside and do not imply endorsement by the Town.

MESSAGES FROM THE SURFSIDE ELECTED OFFICIALS

VICE MAYOR TINA PAUL



For Champlain South - poetry to comfort in times of sadness and hopefulness. In this time of uncertainty I remain in service to our Surfside community with honor and care.

The sun arises to illuminate blue skies
while darkness of nightfall remains.
Time stops and I am stuck in sorrow
as we wait together and we wait alone.
Time does not end it becomes eternal.
Love can be a hug, a smile or comforting
words.
Inevitable loss makes me want to stop time
and hold your hand forever.
Photographs tell stories of love
of family and how we lived.
Comfort is found within memories
and I will always remember
how beautiful you are.

Beauty is memory
to see you in life.
A return in time to a place
we came to live and love.
A family grows into a tree of generations.
Lost and transitioning our pain
travels the body like branches.
Water will nourish or drown the roots
as we stand in the soil
to wither in the wind.
Birds soar among the blue hue of sky.
Eyes vision dreams not seen
when life forgets us.

Memory is afterlife as presence slips away
into a glorious past.
What we were is not who we are
when we become our existence.
In the world that was once ours
we are invisible and not invincible.
Fragility takes over us
when mind and body merge.
We disappear into the legendary.
We are released from each other
floating towards distance of time.
Birds fly and sing outside
as sunlight paints our shadows.
We emerge in a nighttime sky full of stars.
- Tina F. Paul

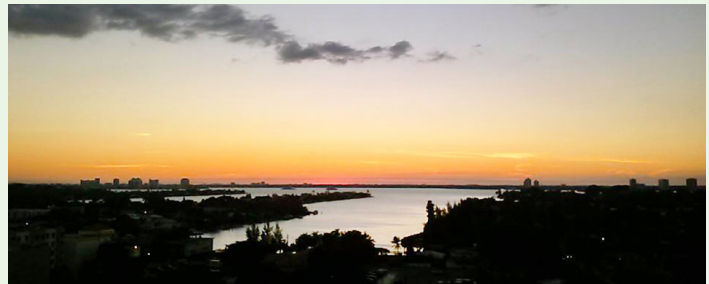
COMMISSIONER CHARLES KESL



Condolences and deepest sympathies to families and loved ones of those lost at Champlain Tower South. May their lives, memories and good will continue in us.

At right:

Photo by Charles Kesi, November 2, 2014 from the Champlain Tower South, looking west.



COMMISSIONER NELLY VELASQUEZ



Tragedy like this is something you only read about in the news, that happens somewhere else... not in our tight-knit beach community. Yet, the unimaginable did happen here in Surfside, and it has changed us all forever.

My heartfelt condolences to the families of those who perished in the Champlain Tower collapse. I also pray for those of you who are still waiting to have your loved ones recovered. I can't even begin to imagine your pain, loss and suffering, along with the void this has left in your hearts.

Despite this terrible tragedy, I'm still reminded there is good in so many people as evident by the outpouring of support and generous donations from individuals and organizations from around the world. In our own Surfside community, residents and local businesses have come together to help feed and deliver necessities to the families and first responders. These acts of kindness will always be remembered.

I want to thank Mayor Burkett, Mayor Levine Cava and Governor DeSantis for their leadership during this difficult time. I also want to thank our town staff for all the extra hours and efforts they have put in to assist during this tragedy. It is with deep gratitude that I also commend the numerous first responders who have worked tirelessly day and night to help bring victims of the building collapse home to their families. You are the true unsung heroes.

While we will be forever changed by this disaster, our community has demonstrated that there is great strength in numbers. I'm here to lend a hand. Please reach me if I can be of service to you at nvelasquez@townofsursidefl.gov.

#SurfsideStrong

of the commentator and the publication of the comments does not represent or endorsement of, or agreement by, the other members of the Town Commission.

THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE WILL NEVER FORGET OUR

STACIE DAWN FANG

ANTONIO LOZANO

GLADYS LOZANO

MANUEL LAFONT

LEON OLIWKOWICZ

LUIS BERMUDEZ

ANA ORTIZ

CHRISTINA BEATRIZ ELVIRA

FRANK KLEIMAN

MICHAEL DAVID ALTMAN

HILDA NORIEGA

MARCUS JOSEPH GUARA

LUCIA GUARA

EMMA GUARA

ANAELY RODRIGUEZ

ANDREAS GIANNITSOPOULOS

MAGALY ELENA DELGADO

BONNIE EPSTEIN

CLAUDIO BONNEFOY

MARIA OBIAS-BONNEFOY

7-YEAR-OLD CHILD

GRACIELA CATTAROSSO

GONZALO TORRE

DAVID EPSTEIN

INGRID AINSWORTH

TZVI AINSWORTH

NANCY KRESS LEVIN

JAY KLEIMAN

FRANCIS FERNANDEZ

GRACIELA CATTAROSSO

GINO CATTAROSSO

SIMON SEGAL

JUAN ALBERTO MORA, JR.

ANDREA CATTAROSSO

LUIS PETTENGILL

SOPHIA LOPEZ MOREIRA

LUIS VICENTE PETTENGILL

LOPEZ MOREIRA III

ALEXIA MARIA PETTENGILL

LOPEZ MOREIRA

ANNA SOPHIA PETTENGILL

LOPEZ MOREIRA

RUSLAN MANASHIROV

HAROLD ROSENBERG

GLORIA MACHADO

MARIA TERESA ROVIROSA



RESIDENTS LOST TO THE TRAGEDY OF JUNE 24, 2021



ELAINE LIA SABINO

GARY COHEN

VISHAI PATEL

BHAVNA PATEL

DEBORAH BEREZDIVIN

JUAN ALBERTO MORA

BENNY WEISZ

ANGELA VELASQUEZ

ILAN NAIBRYF

LEIDY VANESSA LUNA VILLALBA

NICOLE LANGESFELD

MIGUEL PAZOS

RICHARD ROVIROSA

ORESME GIL GUERRA

5- YEAR-OLD CHILD

44-YEAR-OLD PERSON

ANA MORA

ELENA CHAVEZ

ELENA BLASSER

MARINA RESTREPO AZEN

MARIA GABRIELA CAMOU

JULIO CESAR VELASQUEZ

LORENZO DE OLIVEIRA LEONE

ALFREDO LEONE

MARIA TORRE

RICHARD AUGUSTINE

LUIS SADOVNIC

EDGAR GONZALEZ

LISA ROSENBERG

ARNOLD NOTKIN

MYRIAM NOTKIN

JUDITH SPIEGEL

MARGARITA VASQUEZ BELLO

CASSIE BILLEDEAU STRATTON

FABIAN NUNEZ

CATALINA GOMEZ RAMIREZ

NICOLE DAWN DORAN

BEATRIZ RODRIGUEZ GUERRA

ANDRES LEVINE

MOISES RODAN BRIEF

AISHANI GIA PATEL

MERCEDES FUENTES URGELLES

RAYMOND URGELLES

LUIS F. BARTH TOBAR

VALERIA BARTH

MICHELLE ANNA PAZOS

MIHAI RADULESCU

MARIA POPA

ROSA SAEZ

MIGUEL LEONARDO KAUFMAN

BRAD COHEN

THERESA VELASQUEZ

ANASTASIYA GROMOVA

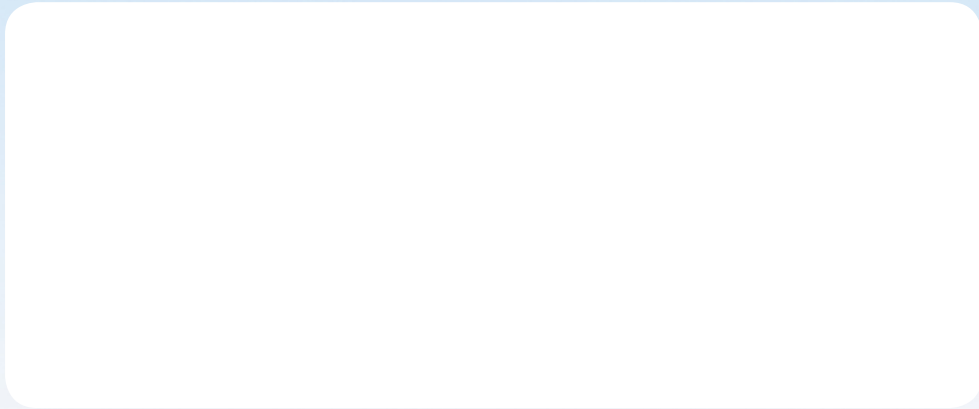
LINDA MARCH

ESTELLE HEDAYA



9293 Harding Avenue
Surfside, Florida 33154

**PRESORTED
STANDARD
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Sandra N. McCready, MMC, Town Clerk
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Police (305) 861-4862
Fire Rescue (305) 861-1115
Emergency 911

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TELEVISION ACCESS

Channel 663 (Atlantic Broadband)