

# MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

**200-2020**

NO. LTC#

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Dan Gelber and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: June 3, 2020

SUBJECT: Donation from the Greater Miami / Miami Beach Police Foundation to the Miami Beach Police Department for Gas Masks

This Letter to the Mayor and Commission is to provide information regarding the donation of \$25,000 from the Greater Miami / Miami Beach Police Foundation, Inc. (the "Foundation") originally designated to be used for funding certain costs associated with the Ande 6C Rapid DNA Analysis System. These funds are going to be reallocated to the purchase of 60 gas masks to be used by the Miami Beach Police Department's Rapid Intervention Team (R.I.T.).

The original designation of the funds for certain costs associated with the Ande 6C Rapid DNA Analysis System is no longer needed due to an agreement being formulated with the Miami-Dade Police Department and City of Miami Police Department to utilize similar equipment already deployed in their crime labs. This was determined to be a more efficient and cost-effective method to analyze DNA in a timely manner. This new development in partnering with our local law enforcement partners to share existing rapid DNA technology enables the Miami Beach Police Department to use this generous donation for a more pressing current need.

The recent tragic death of Mr. George Floyd in Minneapolis and the subsequent peaceful protests and civil unrest have required police departments throughout the country to be prepared to handle peaceful protests that degenerate into potentially violent confrontations with destruction of property and looting. The Miami Beach Police Department is committed to facilitating peaceful, lawful protests but must be prepared for any eventuality. If there were to be an unfortunate event of civil unrest occurring in the City of Miami Beach, the Rapid Intervention Team would be deployed to protect citizens and property. A vital item of equipment for each member of the R.I.T. is a gas mask. There is currently a deficit of 60 gas masks to appropriately equip the Rapid Intervention Team. The Foundation has graciously agreed to allow the recently donated \$25,000 to be reallocated from the Rapid DNA project to fully equipping the Rapid Intervention Team.

The Foundation is a Florida not-for-profit corporation whose mission is primarily dedicated to the welfare of police officers and first responders in times of distress, helping support law enforcement efforts in solving crimes by providing reward funds for witnesses to come forward with significant information leading to an arrest and/or conviction, and supporting the law enforcement community in their crime prevention and enforcement efforts.

The Miami Beach Police Department and City of Miami Beach are very appreciative of this important donation from the Foundation. Please join me in extending our gratitude for their generosity.

JLM:RCM:tr