Miami River Commission's Recommendations Regarding Marine Patrol

The Miami River's federal navigable channel is a designated idle – no/wake speed zone, which needs increased Marine Patrol for enforcement to provide public safety, protect private property and manatees. Over the past three years, there have been 4 tragic human fatalities on illegal charters on the Miami River, boat accidents, damaged docks and seawalls, etc. Therefore, the Miami River Commission respectfully recommends the following FY 27 – 28 (October 1, 2027 – September 30, 2028) budget increases for needed increased marine patrols:

City of Miami Marine Patrol

For both Biscayne Bay and the Miami River, the most officers ever working on City Marine Patrol was 19. Currently there are 16 officers. Therefore, the MRC recommends a total of 26 officers, consisting of 1 Lieutenant (currently have a LT), 3 Sergeants (currently have 2 SGTs), and need 1 more in order to utilize the free slip and office and Merrill-Stevens 7 days a week), and 22 Officers (currently have 16 therefore need 6 more).

In addition, MRC respectfully recommends City apply for Grant funding to purchase an additional Marine Patrol Vessel. Police Chief is increasing "Patrols", and the MRC recommends that includes increased "Patrols" by Marine Patrol along the Miami River.

Miami-Dade Sherriff's Office Marine Patrol

The Miami Dade County / Miami Dade Sherriff Office's current FY 26-27 Budget includes approved funding for 4 Officers, but currently there are only 2 filled positions and 2 funded vacancies which need to be filled for a marine patrol officer and a diver.

In addition, the MRC respectfully recommends the Miami Dade County / Miami Dade Sherriff Office's FY 27-28 budget please include funding for an additional Seargeant to run the Miami River squad, and 2 additional marine patrol officers, in order to have 2 teams consisting of 3 officers per team in the unincorporated Miami-Dade County portion of Port Miami River and the Tamiami Canal. Furthermore, the MRC recommends the Miami-Dade Sherriff Office accept the offered free slip at Hurricane Cove Marina.