RESOLUTION No. 2009-93-1038

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, APPROVING *THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS OUR HOMES, OUR STREETS AND OUR COMMUNITY INITIATIVE* AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ALL REQUIRED AGREEMENTS AND TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE INITIATIVE; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, in an effort to create a safer community, the City Council would like to create the City of Miami Gardens *Our Homes, Our Streets and Our Community* Initiative ("Initiative), and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Initiative is to enhance community relations, share information and foster partnerships within the City, and

WHEREAS, representatives from the Police Department, Neighborhood Watch Groups and community members will be participants in the Initiative, and

WHEREAS, the Initiative will consist of the following:

a. Quarterly walks with assigned police officers, in communities that sponsor Neighborhood Watch Programs in order to boost membership, build police/community relations and gather information;
b. Addressing the aesthetic condition of homes and streets throughout the City by using various tools including Neighborhood revitalization Strategy Area designations;
c. Creating a partnership with the City of Miami Gardens Junior Council to create positive relationships in our middle and high schools, and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of the Initiative will be Six Thousand, Two Hundred Dollars ($6,200) and will be taken from the Police overtime line item, and

WHEREAS, City staff is requesting that the City Council approve the Initiative and authorize the City Manager to take all steps necessary in order to implement the Initiative,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS: The foregoing Whereas paragraphs are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true, and the same are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution.

Section 2. AUTHORIZATION: The City Council of the City of Miami Gardens hereby approves the ***City of Miami Gardens Our Homes, Our Streets and Our Community Initiative*** as outlined in the Agenda Cover Memorandum that accompanies this item, and authorizes the City Manager to execute all required agreements and to take all necessary steps to implement the Initiative.

Section 3. EFFECTIVE DATE: This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its final passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS AT ITS REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MAY 13, 2009.

SHIRLEY GIBSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

RONETTA TAYLOR, MMC, CITY CLERK

PREPARED BY: SONJA KNIGHTON DICKENS, ESQ.
City Attorney

SPONSORED BY: COUNCILMAN OLIVER GILBERT, III

MOVED BY: Councilman Gilbert
SECOND BY: Councilwoman Pritchett

VOTE: 7-0

Mayor Shirley Gibson	_X_(Yes)	___(No)
Vice Mayor Barbara Watson	_X_(Yes)	___(No)
Councilman Melvin L. Bratton	_X_(Yes)	___(No)
Councilman Aaron Campbell	_X_(Yes)	___(No)
Councilman Oliver Gilbert, III	_X_(Yes)	___(No)
Councilwoman Sharon Pritchett	_X_(Yes)	___(No)
Councilman André Williams	_X_(Yes)	___(No)

SKD/teh

1515 NW 167 Street, Building 5 Suite 200
Miami Gardens, Florida 33169

City of Miami Gardens
Agenda Cover Memo

Council Meeting Date:	*May 13, 2009*		**Item Type:** *(Enter X in box)*	**Resolution**	**Ordinance**		**Other**	
				X				
Fiscal Impact: *(Enter X in box)*	Yes	No	**Ordinance Reading:** *(Enter X in box)*		**1st Reading**		**2nd Reading**	
	X		**Public Hearing:** *(Enter X in box)*		**Yes**	**No**	**Yes**	**No**
Funding Source:	**(Police Budget)**		**Advertising Requirement:** *(Enter X in box)*		**Yes**		**No**	
Contract/P.O. Required: *(Enter X in box)*	Yes	No	**RFP/RFQ/Bid #:**					
		X						
Sponsor Name	**Councilman Oliver Gilbert**		**Department:**		***Police Department***			

Short Title:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, APPROVING *THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS OUR HOMES, OUR STREETS AND OUR COMMUNITY INITIATIVE* AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ALL REQUIRED AGREEMENTS AND TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE INITIATIVE; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Staff Summary:

In an effort to enhance community relations, share information and foster partnerships within the City of Miami Gardens (CMG) the ***Our Homes, Our Streets and Our Community*** initiative is being proposed for implementation. This initiative will involve direct participation of the Police Department, Neighborhood Watch Groups and community members interacting for the purpose of creating safer communities throughout the City.

The initiative will consist of quarterly walks in communities that sponsor Neighborhood Watch Programs in order to boost membership, build police / community relations and gather information. Representatives from the Watch Programs will go door to door with police officers promoting the Neighborhood Watch concept and exchanging information with their neighbors. The success of the program will not depend on those joining, although it is the desired outcome, but instead on an increased awareness of who their neighbors are, who their police officers are and the building of a relationship between all involved.

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Our Home, Our Streets, and Our City Community Initiative

It is anticipated that nine neighborhoods will be targeted each quarter with a police officer assigned to each group. The content of the walks will be fluid and can be adjusted to meet the needs of the Department and/or the City if a specific event or incident has taken place. The overall objective of the program is face-to-face contact, which will create positive interactions. The City and the Department is taking this first step in order to engage our residents in order to enhance our process and create a spirit of trust and cooperation.

A related component of this initiative involves the aesthetic condition of the homes and streets throughout the City. We know that how a neighborhood looks often has a direct correlation to its safety. Rundown homes tend to foster criminal behavior, in addition to negatively affecting property values. The City recently approved a Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA) for the Bunche Park area, with the purpose of addressing the exterior condition of residential properties. This effort will include the exterior painting and fence repair of some of the homes, some street and drainage improvements, and possibly some tree planting along the public right of way. We will begin by targeting particular blocks within this neighborhood with the objective of creating "model blocks" that can be duplicated Citywide.

An additional component of the ***Our Homes, Our Streets and Our Community*** initiative is to partner with the CMG Junior Council to create positive relationships in our middle and high schools. The Junior Council has been at the forefront of youth issues and can be enlisted to foster positive relations between community members, the Police Department and schoolchildren. Additionally the Junior Council can be instrumental in implementing Youth Crime watch programs, which are an integral part of prevention of crimes in our schools and communities.

Costs for this initiative will be incurred from the Department's overtime line item, which will cover the expense of officers being assigned to each group. The approximate yearly costs will be $6200.00. Results of the initiative will be captured and evaluated based on number of new Watch members registered and information received on open cases.

Proposed Action:

Councilman Oliver Gilbert recommends that the City Council approve the implementation of the Our Homes, Our Streets, and Our Community Initiative in the City of Miami Gardens.

Attachment: