

Dear Friend:

As I am sure you read in the newspaper, the Coral Gables Police Department has made a change **THAT AFFECTS THE SAFETY OF OUR FAMILIES AND OUR HOMES.**

For decades, our City has been divided in Patrolling Zones. Officers were assigned a specific and limited zone to patrol. This insured a highly visible, consistent police presence throughout the City. It also insured an extremely rapid response time to citizen calls, a well-known benefit of Gables living envied by the rest of Dade County.

With each new area annexed, City Officials have assured us that our neighborhoods would continue to remain well patrolled and safe. Patrol zones would become smaller with additional Officers added to cover the new areas. The fact is this has **NOT** happened.

And now, the Police Department has **ELIMINATED THE STRUCTURE of ZONE PATROLLING** altogether. Last month, with the approval of the City Manager, the Police Department decided to do away with individual zones and simply divide the City into 2 areas—North of US 1 and South of US 1!

Consider that where before there were at least 7 distinct, specified zones assigned to patrol, there is now just “South of US 1.” Officers are assigned to be either “North of US 1” or “South of US 1”.... **SOMEWHERE.** With no specific zones to patrol, they just drive where they choose.

The official rationalization given for this change was in order to “reduce overtime pay” to Police Officers. What this did reduce is the Police presence in our neighborhoods. In effect, Coral Gables Police are everywhere, but nowhere to be seen.

The impact of no Zone Patrolling has not gone unnoticed. Since this change, in just one of the old Zones south of Coco Plum, a boat on a trailer was stolen right from the side of home with several other thefts occurring nearby.

Our City needs to return to having structured, organized patrol zones reinstated to insure that our Neighborhoods are protected the way our residents deserve.

I ask that you write or email the Commissioners to voice your concern over this threat to our City's safety.

Thanks for your help in this urgent matter.

Andy

For your convenience, I have included the email addresses of the Mayor and Commissioners and a sample draft of an email:

[donslesnick@coralgables.com](mailto:donslesnick@coralgables.com)  
[wkerdyk@coralgables.com](mailto:wkerdyk@coralgables.com)  
[manderson@coralgables.com](mailto:manderson@coralgables.com)  
[wwithers@coralgables.com](mailto:wwithers@coralgables.com)  
[rcabrera@coralgables.com](mailto:rcabrera@coralgables.com)

Dear (*Commissioner*)

I am concerned about the safety of our Coral Gables neighborhoods since the Police Department eliminated Zone Patrols.

I live on (*street/neighborhood*) and request that you work to REINSTATE POLICE PATROL ZONES in Coral Gables.

Sincerely,