

Did You Know?

Newsletter: 1st edition

**Our Mayor,
Daniel Dietch,
and his Commission
allies have
been busy
turning our
“one of a kind”
Town paradise
into a Sunny
Isles / Miami
Beach look-a-like
including
gridlock traffic,
mega-projects
& masses of
tourists!**

**See how
inside...**



This entire newsletter is a political advertisement paid for & approved by Charles W. Burkett, no party affiliation, for Surfside Mayor

Did You Know?



Understanding, who is who, how they vote & what they stand for...

In 2018, Mayor Dietch's Commission passed 25 ordinances, making significant changes to our Town such as abolishing the Design Review Board, killing the Development Impact Committee (click [HERE](#) to see what the DIC board did) and addressing a Surfside Parking "Trust Fund", presumably to improve parking?

How did the votes go?

Of the potential 125 votes, with a few absences, there were just 2 no votes, or in other words, about 98.5% of the time, our Town Commission's Mayor & Commissioners voted in lockstep for every ordinance that was passed.

Every single one of our elected officials running for re-election, except one, voted YES - EVERY SINGLE TIME!

Dietch, Paul & Gielchinsky NEVER brought themselves to vote no for any of the passed ordinances. So much for diversity of thought, or vision?

Let's see if that pattern changed for 2019?

In 2019, Mayor Dietch's Commission passed 10 ordinances, again making significant changes in our Town for issues such as; how elected officials get reimbursed for their "official travel", changes to the this Commission's "Parking waiver program", lobbying & rules for qualifying to run for office in Town.

Of the 50 potential votes on these ordinances, with a few absences, there were 3 no votes, or in other words, about 94% of the time, our Town Commission's Mayor & Commissioners AGAIN voted in lockstep for every ordinance that was passed. And AGAIN, every single one of our elected officials running for re-election, except one voted YES - EVERY SINGLE TIME! While it goes without saying that ALL of our elected officials, hardly ever saw an ordinance, (that built bigger projects in Town, or added more hotels & tourists) that they didn't love and vote yes for; one of the more interesting items that our current elected officials felt the need to get involved with & "improve", was an existing ordinance dealing with paying them for their travel.

The old ordinance specifically noted that any costs related to family members and/or guests were not to be reimbursable. That specific language is nowhere to be found in the new ordinance.

Also, items that were prohibited in the old ordinance, are no longer specifically prohibited in the new ordinance, such as purchases of "personal items", "barber & beauty parlor fees", "medical expenses", "clothing", and expenditures associated with "recreation" or "gifts".

Lastly, the old ordinance had serious penalties for submitting requests which did not comply with the ordinance, or were fraudulent. The new ordinance has no such protections.

Read the entire new travel reimbursement ordinance and you can also compare it to the old ordinance, also [HERE](#).

In summary, current elected officials who are running for re-election in Town, who take the position that they are "independent" or that they "vote their conscience" - when it comes to their voting record, are denying the reality of those very voting records.

For the most part, this group in power (pictured above) is an echo-chamber, who basically, with virtually zero variation, has a solid voting record which reveals that they think, and vote - exactly alike. Anything they say to the contrary would be, to put it nicely - inaccurate, (including one of the most pressing, devastating and frightening issues we face), that they are against over-development.

Did You Know?

Only ten years ago, just before Daniel Dietch was elected Mayor, Surfside's beaches were peaceful, uncrowded and a major reason why Surfside's families wanted to live and raise their kids here. Our beaches used to look like this...

But then...

But Mayor Dietch had a different plan for Surfside's families. He decided Surfside needed more tourists, more hotels, more office buildings, more retail, more tax revenue - and he went to work.

Ten years later, residents are waking up to find their paradise is indeed being lost, if not lost already.

Today, hotels stack & store their gear all over the beach - for the use of THEIR guests.

And now...

Those hotels now bring mega crowds, to what used to be empty beach space - which residents treasured.

Mayor Dietch has also permitted those same tourists to enjoy our Community Center FOR FREE, ...while charging guests of residents \$5.00.

All along Surfside's oceanfront, OUR BEACHES NOW LOOK LIKE THIS...



Did You Know?

MAYOR DIETCH GIVES \$3M IN 30 YEAR, INTEREST FREE LOANS TO DEVELOPERS/BUILDERS

There's been a lot going on regarding "parking" in our Town, clever developers and our Mayor, Daniel Dietch.

In the past the Mayor's gone around Town saying that we need to build more parking, but at the same time, he has been selling the right NOT to build parking spaces to developers, who then promise to pay the Town of Surfside \$22,500, about half of what Miami Beach charges, \$40,000 per space, which of course is NOT increasing, but is reducing parking in our Town.

Mayor Dietch has actually exacerbated the problem by giving builders and developers the option to pay for each space not created, in exchange for the right to construct buildings in Surfside with less, or even no additional parking for their projects.

These "purchased" public parking spaces, are to be eliminated by builders in some cases, others are to be exclusively used by those buyers or just credited as "spaces built" by builders so they can get their permit to construct their building, as if they had actually provided parking.

This article will chronicle the give-away of at least 129 spaces just between 95th and 96th Streets only.

Mayor Dietch has not only given away parking, but he's financing the giveaway of our parking spaces, for up to 30 years, INTEREST FREE! Think about that for a moment. Our hard earned tax dollars, that we send to Surfside, are being lent to builders & developers by this Mayor, free of interest - for as long as 30 years! Here are a few examples of businesses or builders who have enjoyed this special deal:

- 1) CVS on Harding, in the 9500 block paid \$22,500 for 1 space for their own use.
- 2) Starbucks on Harding in the 9500 block, got on the interest free plan and got 10 years to pay \$45,000 @ \$4500 per year. To date they've paid \$31,500.

- 3) A large private building on 96th Street "bought" 22 spaces for \$495,000, on a 25 year payment plan, paying ZERO interest, with annual payments of \$16,500. The loan will not be paid in full until the year 2042!

- 4) A very large project, an almost 57,000 square foot building, on the 9500 block of Collins Avenue agree to pay \$2,272,500 for the right to NOT provide 101 additional parking spaces for their project. The payments on the loan don't begin until the project is finished. Mayor Dietch negotiated a ZERO interest rate loan, for a period of 25 years, with 25 equal payments due each year. Amount paid as of this date to the Town of Surfside? \$0.00

To summarize, Mayor Dietch has given builders and developers the right NOT to build parking, or allowed them to just eliminate it. These outrages are just in the 9500 block of Surfside alone; 129 parking spaces - gone! He's also charged them HALF the price that Miami Beach charges for the right to buy, eliminate, or not build the parking spaces. He's also granted them almost \$3,000,000 (of our money) in interest free financing for as long as 30 years!

And for the record, Mayor Dietch to date, has collected on behalf of the Town, with ZERO interest being paid by the purchasers, just 1% of the money due to the Town related to the sale of the parking spaces.

INTEREST FREE LOANS

FOR MAYOR DIETCH'S DEVELOPER & BUILDER FRIENDS

Documentary support can be found on my campaign website. Please also add your name to my mailing list so we can together stop the exploitation and ruination of our Town and its "one of a kind" quality of life.

www.surfside2020.com

Did You Know?

S
U
R
F
S
I
D
E
-
U
N
D
E
R
-
W
A
T
E
R



Mayor's report says flooding is fixed!

Residents suffering from flooding in their neighborhoods know that Mayor Dietch has done nothing to solve their problems, except give them platitudes.

Here's why...

A shocking excerpt from Mayor Dietch's own 2018 Comprehensive plan.

“there are currently no additional level of service projects required or needed for the Town's drainage system.”

Did You Know?

DADE ETHICS BOARD WRITES UP MAYOR DIETCH

Let's begin with understanding what our Mayor's day job is, and how he pays his bills.

This written finding by the Dade County Ethics Review Board is instructive:

"The Mayor of the Town of Surfside, who is employed by CH2MHill, a company with significant contracts in the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Program (BBCWP), ...together with the fact that he receives stock options from the company's performance, would create a reasonable possibility that he would benefit from the continuance and expansion of the program, such that he might, directly or indirectly profit or be enhanced by the action taken by the Town's Commission."

Or in other words, our Mayor is very connected in the Government world, he gets paid by a company that receives Government contracts, and at the same time in his Surfside Mayoral position, is making large Government deals with those same types of companies that live off of Government contracts.

It's not very hard to imagine that grateful recipients of Town of Surfside contracts, largesse and funding, won't soon forget who made their deals happen in the future when Surfside's and Dade County's conflict of interest rules are long forgotten, and former Mayor Dietch is back working at his day job and looking for future Government deals for his company.

MAYOR DIETCH CITED AGAIN FOR ETHICS VIOLATIONS.

Mayor Dietch was forced to remove all "self laudatory" videos being repeatedly shown, 24 hours a day, during a campaign, on the taxpayer funded Surfside television station.

Mr. Dietch has piously preached ethics from the dais, but when it comes to his own ethics, he seems to have little concern.

Mayor Dietch thought it perfectly acceptable to use taxpayer money and resources in an effort to promote himself during a campaign, however he was mistaken.

The ethics Commission found that over and over, the Mayor's repeated use of taxpayer funded television to promote himself was "unrelated to the legitimate public purpose of informing the public" and warned him in an opinion that, "exploitation of official position prohibited, of the County Ethics Code, prohibits use of municipal resources to produce and make publicly available, videos depicting elected officials standing for reelection, if there is no clear municipal purpose."



BY THE NUMBERS:

Mayor Burkett, 2009 vs. Mayor Dietch, 2018

New Construction work in Town:	\$6.5M	\$627M
Town Debt:	\$0.00	\$15.3M
Tourist taxes:	\$366K	\$2.05M
Water charges over cost:	\$297K	\$1.527M
Property Tax Rate:	4.73	5.60*
		(*up 19% in 2011)

The change has been devastating.

Mayor Dietch has allowed new construction to EXPLODE by 96 times! There are 68% more homes on Collins Avenue (and that's only as of 2015!) - that means THOUSANDS more residents, crowding & traffic.

Huge debt has been incurred by residents to finance water & sewer for mega projects.

Revenue to the Town is up almost 10x's, yet none spent on residents.

Water rates for residents have been DRAMATICALLY increased to fund development projects, and property taxes UP 19% for the same reason!

All this for more tourist taxes, that MUST be spent on?

...you guessed it, tourists!

When I left as Surfside's Mayor only ten years ago in 2010, it was expected that Daniel Dietch, who took my place as the next Mayor, would be a competent and prudent caretaker of our Town.

I left our town with low taxes, low density buildings, a vibrant and growing downtown, quiet and uncrowded beaches, friendly Town meetings, an accessible and responsive Town administration and a bright future for Surfside's growing population of families who wanted and appreciated all of that.

Today, after only 10 years of Daniel Dietch's leadership, Surfside, and its "last of its kind" oasis type lifestyle, is being demolished and sold out to developers and political insiders.

The final straw came in late 2018 when a secret deal was exposed to give ALL of our municipal government land (what Surfside residents know as their Town Center) to developers by way of a 99 year lease. This bombshell set in motion a grass roots effort and mobilized a dedicated group of residents, of which I was proud to be a member, who fought hard and long to stop a scheme that Mayor Daniel Dietch and his Commission had conceived and promoted in total darkness - even going so far as to attempt to justify that secrecy by telling residents it was against the law for elected officials to reveal what they were doing!

Revealing to Surfside residents how Mayor Daniel Dietch is systematically destroying our unique paradise and setting the Town of Surfside on a straight path to become like Sunny Isles, or Miami Beach, is my goal and it begs one simple question, and is what this entire campaign will be all about.

That simple question;

Do we want every square inch of our Town built out to its maximum capacity, with our peaceful, private way of life sacrificed on the altar of more condos, more hotels, more tourists for more tax revenue, as is being done now!

or,

Do we want to keep Surfside small, secluded, cozy and safe?

While residents think about their answer to the question above, my job will be to give residents the facts, and a choice;

Stay on the high intensity development path that Daniel Dietch has put us on for the last 10 years?

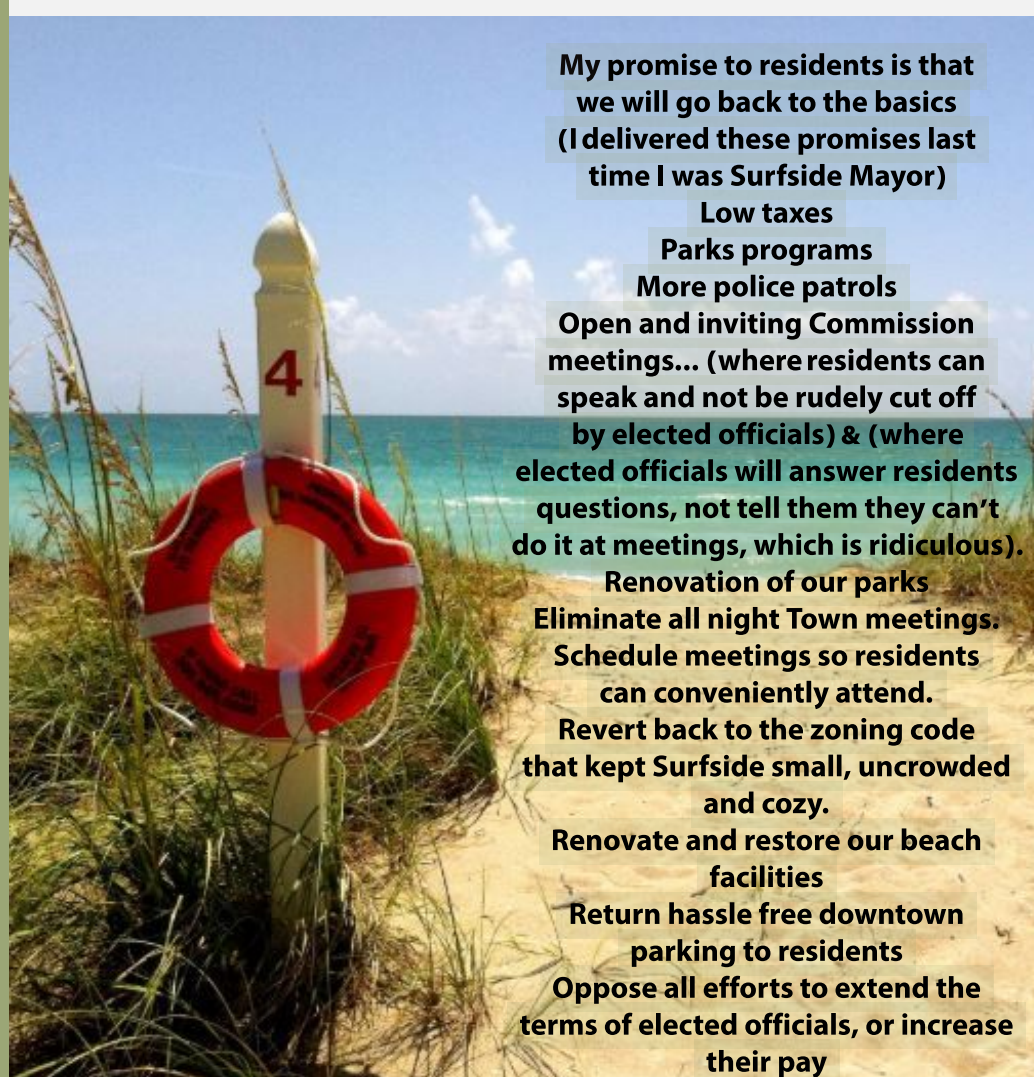
or,

Follow the path I believe in, and which I believe most residents want, the one that maintains Surfside as it's always been; a small, wonderful seaside oasis, with a quality of life unparalleled, one that Surfside's families treasure.



SURFSIDE WASN'T ALWAYS RUN BY EXPLOITATIVE LEADERS

Elect
Charles W. Burkett
for
Surfside Mayor ...Again.



My promise to residents is that we will go back to the basics (I delivered these promises last time I was Surfside Mayor)

Low taxes

Parks programs

More police patrols

Open and inviting Commission meetings... (where residents can speak and not be rudely cut off by elected officials) & (where elected officials will answer residents questions, not tell them they can't do it at meetings, which is ridiculous).

Renovation of our parks

Eliminate all night Town meetings.

Schedule meetings so residents can conveniently attend.

Revert back to the zoning code that kept Surfside small, uncrowded and cozy.

Renovate and restore our beach facilities

Return hassle free downtown parking to residents

Oppose all efforts to extend the terms of elected officials, or increase their pay