



## **CHARLES BURKETT FOR SURFSIDE MAYOR**

My name is Charles Burkett and I am running for Mayor of Surfside. I was born and raised in Miami Beach and have been a resident of Surfside for almost 12 years, I am very familiar with the issues facing our Town. I feel extremely lucky to be living in such a terrific community. I will continue to work hard to maintain our great traditions and move us forward. Over the last twenty years I have been involved exclusively with the purchase and renovation of a portfolio of historic and older properties, which are owned and managed by my Company. I have not, nor have I ever been, involved with any type of new construction development. Development and preservation through the restoration of older and historic properties is my only occupation. I wholeheartedly and unwaveringly supported the adoption of the charter amendment, which will protect us from greedy, shortsighted profiteers who would exploit loopholes in our zoning ordinances and would support further strengthening our codes to restrict height and density more!

I will be highlighting stark differences in the days to come. Current Commissioners, “**the block of 3**”, **Tim Will, Frank McBride and Orestes Jimenez**, have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with their votes at Commission meetings and in this campaign as they walk the Town with their desired commission replacement hopefuls, Mitch Kinzer and Joe Graubart. They have, at virtually every opportunity, voted together to produce the following. Kinzer and Graubart, campaigning with them, may also follow suit.

### **Votes by the “block of 3” Will, McBride & Jimenez**

- Refused to discuss and blocked reform on the hemorrhaging of up to \$80,000.00 per month in legal fees.
- In the first minutes after being elected, named an entire park after their benefactor (with no discussion whatsoever)
- Passed a 3 foot hedge height limitation for all homeowners
- Included possible jail time for violators of their new landscape ordinance
- Defeated a forensic audit vote to follow the unexplained money movements in more than 30 Town bank accounts.
- Refused to change their ordinance forcing homeowners to spend thousands to fix sewer lines on Town property
- Dragged their feet for two years on the televising of Town meetings until days before this election
- Voted for a Town Manager with no discussion - at least one of the other commissioners never met the candidate.
- Ignored the Community Center Committee’s plan and voted to support Tim Will’s plan drawn on his “napkin.”
- Constructed, without any plan or public input, hugely expensive and functionally deficient traffic circles.
- A kids water park with no, plan, competitive bids, public input or recycling water. It now may need to be removed.

My vision for Surfside is an Oceanfront Town of continued beauty, tranquility, safety, peace and comfort for all. Simply, I believe that our great Town can be much more than it is now and I would like your help.

### **If elected, I promise to:**

- Push to reduce the height and density zoning restrictions beyond those already in place. I propose a seven-story maximum height limitation on the Ocean and less than we now have across the street, period.
- Deny funds to Town Attorney Cypen’s throng of lawyer friends who profess to protect us, while lining their own pockets.
- Provide residents only, no cost decals to park in off street town lots encouraging patronage of our Town’s businesses.
- Repair and enhance our parks by investing and attending to them for our children’s enjoyment and safety.
- Investigate the possibility of burying ugly power lines in Surfside, using grants and outside funding sources, and replacing poles with landscaping and trees.
- Decrease our extremely high real property tax rate and eliminate the secret utility tax burden while increasing services through new efficiencies and new technologies at Town Hall.
- Welcome all sides & viewpoints. Instill a customer service & accountability mentality in all departments and staff.
- Increase police presence by reducing administrative burdens on our officers and returning them to their cars to patrol.
- Revitalize and renew our downtown district with preserved facades and other aesthetic improvement incentives.
- Slow down traffic by adding more modern traffic calming devices like those near the Mayor’s house on 88<sup>th</sup> St.
- Institute a design review board, of residents specializing in architecture, in our city to assist residents and businesses with their renovation projects and to insure a continuity and compatibility of designs, colors and features that will protect our Town’s diverse and historic culture and atmosphere.
- Streamline the permitting process relieving residents of the necessity to practically hire lawyers to pull permits.
- Institute a comprehensive landscaping plan for the entire Town both in the residential and commercial districts.
- Encourage business property owners to renovate using Federal Preservation tax credits as opposed to new construction.

Please visit with me and give me your thoughts at [goburkett@aol.com](mailto:goburkett@aol.com) or visit my company website at [www.burkettcompanies.com](http://www.burkettcompanies.com). See for yourself the type of properties I manage and work that I do on historic and older properties. Don’t be fooled by half-truths peddled by my opponents. All the best, Charles



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- ***PREVENT OCEANFRONT HEIGHTS OVER 7 STORIES***
- ***FURTHER REDUCE BUILDING DENSITY***
- ***STOP SPEEDING ON MAIN AND RESIDENTIAL STREETS***
- ***REDUCE THE TAX MILLAGE RATE ON OUR HOMES***
- ***INVESTIGATE THE HUGE LEGAL EXPENDITURES***
- ***IMPROVE OUR PARKS FOR OUR KID'S AND SENIORS***
- ***REVITALIZE DOWNTOWN - NEW SHOPS & PARKING***
- ***TELEWISE ALL COMMISSION AND BOARD MEETINGS***
- ***OBTAIN GRANTS FOR BURYING POWERLINES***
- ***NEW BEACHWALK WITH WALK AND BIKEWAY***
- ***NEW LANDSCAPING ON COLLINS & HARDING***
- ***SERVICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY AT TOWN HALL***

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