

CERT NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

2023 Quarterly Newsletter
September-December



What's New in City CERT...

Welcome to the City of Miami Beach
CERT newsletter!

Here you will find:

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Our CERT Newsletter will be published three times per year: in January, May, and September. Please peruse the sections and let us know if there is any content you would like to see added. Please check our website often for new content. We will add new information when it becomes available and necessary for CERT activity.

CERT Volunteer of the Quarter



Ray Breslin

This quarter, we would like to introduce you to our fellow Miami Beach resident and an active CERT member, Ray Breslin, who is also one of the pioneers, completing the very first CERT Leadership Academy of City of Miami Beach in 2002, (similarly to Jeff Gordon, whom we introduced in our 1st Newsletter.)

Originally from Binghamton, New York, Ray studied, worked, and lived in Rochester, NY until age 50. In 1998 he decided to relocate to Miami Beach with his life partner, now Husband, Patrick Pecoraro, and soon after, opened Bresaro Suites at the Mantell Plaza specializing in weekly and monthly rentals.

He has a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering from Rochester Institute of Technology and a diverse work experience, from Quality Control Supervision for Xerox Corp, to Real estate sales & brokerage, Commercial photo finisher sales & production, Travel agency sales etc.

Ray looked at the move to Miami Beach as a transition to retirement. What he now realizes, was just a transition in life where he had the opportunity to look at our community and see how he could make a difference in the quality of life, for the lives of the people around as well. He feels he has been able to make a difference and is well respected within the community. In addition to CERT, he completed the Citizen's Police Academy basic and advance courses.

Ray has been a member of the Collins Park Neighborhood Association since 2003 and president since 2007 and is one of only 11 residents selected to sit on the Mayor's GO Bond Advisory Panel. He has also served on several City Committees:

- The Collins Park Cultural Oversight Committee - 8 years
- Sister Cities Committee - 4 years
- Transportation Parking and Bicycle-Pedestrian Facilities committee - 6 years
- The Cultural Arts Council (CAC) - 2 years - appointed by the Commission in 2020
- Historic Preservation Board – at present

We also asked Ray a few questions:

How would you describe yourself?

I am honest, trustworthy and a good team player. If I feel something is wrong, I'll say so. I will also say how I think it can be fixed.

The thing I like most about myself is that when I start something, I will work tirelessly to complete it. I am an excellent problem solver and am most frustrated by the amount of time it takes to get things done. The thing I like least about myself is that I can be a procrastinator in starting a project because I know how I'll be once I start.

Why did you get CERT trained?

I chose to be CERT trained because I was the president of a neighborhood Association and the President of 2 Condo boards and I couldn't expect others to do it if I hadn't.

Have you experienced any disaster events or have any of the learnings come in handy?

I have not experienced any natural disasters only mock training. Frankly, I hope I never do but I'm ready.

What would you say to people that are curious about CERT but unsure whether to put in the time?

You won't realize it is worth the time until you do it. I was a Boy Scout just one badge away from Eagle Scout. This is like another merit badge.

How do you think CERT volunteers can help the City of Miami Beach during emergencies?

Once trained in CERT, one can be valuable if an emergency should arrive. None of us ever wants to be in that situation but when and if you are, you want to be prepared and CERT does that for you.

What about non-emergencies?

CERT offers a camaraderie that wants you to maintain your training and interface with those you trained. Being able to offer services and work together on a non-emergency is crucial.

Hopes/Vision for CERT in Miami Beach

I have not really thought about a vision for CERT in Miami Beach beyond what is currently offered. We are fortunate enough to have a community that is proactive and I'm happy to be part of it.

Thank you, Ray, for your active involvement. Our Miami Beach and CERT community is lucky to have you!

Reporting,

Denitza Petrova

Your Leadership Team

Your CERT Team Leads are organized as follows:

33139



Ron Andruff



Ombretta Argo



Amani Ayers



Charlie Rabins



Maryanne
Patlak



Mark Wohl

33140



Chaya Dachoh



Brian Gillis



Jeff Gordon

33141



Glenn
Costales



Joann Kersey



Alan Stang

Condominiums



Felix Montes
(Green
Diamond)

Hotels



Lucas Guzman
(Confidante)

Businesses



Wanda Correa
(Starwood
Properties)

Newsletter Reporter



Denitza Petrova

If you are interested in forming a team in your neighborhood, building or business, please email CERT@miamibeachfl.gov with the subject line "Forming CERT Team" and team leadership will respond to you based on your location or type of team.

*None of us got where we are solely by pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps.
We got here because somebody - a parent, a teacher, an Ivy League crony or a
few nuns - bent down and helped us pick up our boots.*

Thurgood Marshall

I would add "a volunteer".

Event Calendar

Listed on this page are the trainings and events which will occur during the third quarter of 2023. You will find **additional opportunities** to attend on the CERT page of the [city's website](#). To volunteer for any of the events or to register for the Advanced CERT trainings please contact Irene Valines at the Miami Beach Fire Department's Division of Emergency Management. There are other Advanced trainings coming, so continue checking the CERT online calendar or sign up to the calendar online for updates.

September 1-30	National Preparedness Month (Check your calendar invites or the CERT website for all upcoming "Hungry for Knowledge" Games.)
September 14	Sustainachella: Hurricane Preparedness
September 16/17	Basic CERT In-Class Training
October 1-31	Cybersecurity Awareness Month
October 6	City CERT Check-In Call
October 7	Tour of the National Weather Service/Advanced CERT Training: Sky Spotter
October 8-14	National Fire Prevention Week
October 21/22	Basic CERT In-Class Training (Teen)
November 5	Operation "Heat Fury" Neighborhood CERT Exercise
November 10	Veteran Day City Holiday/Parade in Lummus Park
November 30	Last day of Hurricane Season
December 1	City CERT Check-In Call
December 5-9	National Influenza Vaccination Week

We need your help. For each activity, a calendar invite has been emailed to you. For volunteering/attendance, you would select either decline, tentative or accept. Please chose one. You can come into the calendar invite and change your answer before the event/training. When creating the sign-in sheet, **we depend upon the responses. If you accept to participate, please come, and assist.** For some reason, this past quarter, some of the events had volunteers listed to assist and no one showed up.

Also, when you have the first shift, the beginning time listed is the setup time. The last hour listed is breakdown. If you signup for the late shift, please stay until the site is completely broken down and stored in the Division's trailer/truck.

Active CERT Volunteers this Past Quarter

Regine Rey
Vince Corbett
Jose Polo
Felix Montes
Denitza Petrova
Charlie Rabins
Elisha Moultrie
Avery Griffin
Andrea Orane
Winfred Brown
Gary Martinez
Ray Breslin

Armani Ayers
Alan Stang
Tatiana Davis
Brian Gillis
Pablo Arus
Daniel Taylor
Wanda Currea
Riitta Helminen
Marcella Paz Cohen
Andrew Lundsten
Ombretta Andruff
Ron Andruff

Penha Azoubel-Mitchell
Nick Mitchell
Lizette Perez
Michelle Green
Jean Vandesande
Angela Ortiz
Rosa Betancourt
Maryanne Patlak
Katherine Adams
Aracely Polo
Alysia Marsh



Thank you and a job well done!

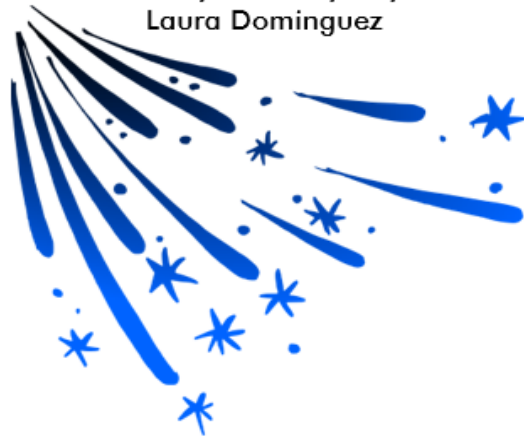


Welcome New CERT Volunteers

Julio Garcia
Daniel Taylor
Maria Penha Azoubel-
Mitchell
Nick Mitchell
Aracely Polo
Denis Hillar

Marc Chevalier
Gary Martinez
Alysia Marsh
Andrew Lundsten
Mikayla Henry
Marichelle Henry
Keith Clougherty
Susanna Purucker

Angela Ortiz
Lavette Spivey Jackson
Katherine Adams
Mary Alex Freylersythe
Laura Dominguez



Merit

Do not forget to sign into [Merit](#), our accountability and tracking app. We have so many of you who have not accepted your Merits. Check your inbox and your junk mail. If you feel you have not received a Merit for volunteering or training please email Irene Valines to let her know. As you come to events and trainings, you will continue to sign into Merit. We are documenting hours to see who gives the most hours of volunteerism for a special recognition at the end of the year. If you have questions regarding [Merit](#), please contact Irene Valines at the Division of Emergency Management at 305.673.7736.

Important Resources

Unfortunately, disasters have been occurring so very often (ie. hurricanes, fires, floods, etc.). After disasters happen, Emergency Management fields calls from concerned citizens about where to drop off donations (another way of saying “Cleaning Out The Closet”). We share that financial contributions to [recognized disaster relief organizations](#) is the fastest and most effective method of donating. The financial contributions help kickstart the economic recovery of the local businesses in the area affected. For more information you can go to [FEMA’s Recovery Site](#). Do not forget to be that “pebble in the water” and share this with everyone you come in contact with or through social media and newsletters.



Additional resources are listed on your [CERT website](#).

CERT IN ACTION



Thank you for helping to make Miami Beach a more resilient City.

Irene Valines, CERT Program Manager

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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We are committed to providing excellent public service and safety to all who live, work and play in our vibrant, tropical, historic community.



CERT Program
Manager

SAVE THE DATE

2024 NHSC—Miami Beach, FL

