



# MIAMIBEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # *059-2014*

LETTER TO COMMISSION

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: February 24, 2014

SUBJECT: Spring Break Surf Camp for Children with Autism

You are cordially invited to attend the upcoming annual Spring Break Surf Camp for Children with Autism to be held during Spring Break 2014 which runs from March 23<sup>rd</sup> thru the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Since 2008, Miami Beach Parks & Recreation, in conjunction with the University of Miami Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) has hosted a Surf Camp for Children with Autism. This week long camp gives children ages 8-12 with either low to high functioning Autism, pervasive developmental disorder, or Asperger syndrome a chance to surf and be part of a recreational activity like any typical child. Children are selected for the camp after undergoing evaluations with CARD and City of Miami Beach staff to ensure that the camp will be beneficial to them.

A "Meet & Greet" will be held on the first day of camp at Normandy Isle Pool, 7030 Trouville Esplanade, where campers and their families will have the opportunity to meet staff and get oriented on the camp specifics. The educational component of the camp will be held at South Pointe Park, 1 Washington Avenue, and the actual surfing component will be held at the beach adjacent to the park. On the first day of camp, participants will be evaluated on their swimming skills as well as receive some surf practice. During the remainder of the week, the campers will ride surfboards and kayaks, build sand castles, and enjoy the ocean waves. At the end of the camp, there will be surfing demonstrations and a highly popular award ceremony.

This camp will provide a unique and wonderful experience that could for some be a once in a lifetime experience.

Should you have additional questions, please contact John Rebar.

JLM/JMT/JR/JM/  
Attachment

- c: J. Mark Taxis, Assistant City Manager
- John Rebar, Parks & Recreation Director
- Julio Magrisso, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director