

# CERT NEWSLETTER

## COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

2023 Quarterly Newsletter

May-August



### What's New in City CERT...

Welcome to the City of Miami Beach  
CERT newsletter!

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Our CERT Newsletter will be published three times per year: in January, May, and August. 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

### **Amani Ayers**



**Meet Amani Ayers.  
CERT Member for over  
15 years!**

**Mission: "I want to  
build long-lasting  
relationships with  
people and be an  
asset to humankind."**

I officially met Amani Ayers at the Miami Beach City Hall for the proclamation of 6/22/22 as the Miami Beach Community Emergency Response Team Day, but that was not the first time we had seen each other. She attends various cultural and city events/functions, serves on various boards, and volunteers her time to make the Miami Beach and South Florida communities better places to live, work and play.

Amani has been a Miami Beach resident for nearly forty (40) years and an active CERT member for the past fifteen (15) years. Originally from Baltimore, Maryland and a Bachelor of Arts graduate from Colgate University, Amani first visited Miami Beach during Spring break in the 70s and immediately fell in love with the sun, the sand, the sea and the feeling of being in a "Tropical paradise". Ten years later, she made her dream a reality when she relocated to a 1bdm apartment on Ocean Drive overlooking the palms and the ocean. Amani partnered with an owner of a local Juice Bar and together they established Miami Beach's 1st VEGAN RESTAURANT - OUR PLACE NATURAL FOODS on Washington Ave (1983 - 1994). Nowadays, Amani is a Realtor Associate at Platinum Properties International and markets herself as "The Go To Realtor." She is also a "culturalist", she loves all music genres, the theater, symphony, and the visual and performance arts and an avid traveler, that enjoys cruises.

Amani Ayers first heard about CERT when she attended the Miami Beach Neighborhood Leadership Academy and thought that being able to get education and hands on experience to be a first responder from a neighborhood perspective would be invaluable, especially that she was living in a condo where she was already active with emergency evacuation etc. and she is always willing to help.

As a condo resident and once a member of the board, Amani has been on scene for many emergencies throughout the years, and thanks to her CERT training she feels she has been able to respond to incidents and provide leadership and guidance. She is thankful that there have not been any major disasters in Miami Beach, though she experienced a rapid flooding where water on the streets had reached to 'breast level'. She felt that the training helped her to maintain composure, take leadership and be methodical and systematic on what to do and provide assistance to her neighbors.

We also asked Amani some questions that may be on your mind as well:

#### **Why should one get CERT trained and certified?**

For the benefit of their own safety, and the safety of their family, neighbors and to help others. CERT help makes sure that the citizens are empowered with the knowledge and mindset to handle certain emergencies until Fire rescue & Police get there and not let panic and fear take over during those situations.

It is also important for residents to be involved and be able to make a difference.

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

The knowledge you gain through the CERT program is invaluable for anyone! The training, techniques, and continuous practice that CERT provides prepares you for the unknown! You never know when you will need it- unfortunately things could happen with the blink of an eye. It also helps with mindset. On the occasion of an incident/emergency you would know what to do to help yourself, family, and neighbors more effectively and without panic.

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

The contributions during an emergency are on a 'hands on, grass-roots level'. Team members for each building would be able to identify cases specific for their building, and will know what to do, such as provide basic triage, and communicate with first responders on what's going on for their segment – it might be a small/individual segment but connected and can affect others.

**What about during non-emergencies?**

The information to communicate with each other is very important to be accurate and up to date and CERT volunteers can help make sure that the data is correct and current. They can assist identifying who are the people in their buildings, elderly, young, handicap etc. and work with their HOA to have awareness and consciousness and information in a restricted database.

**Hopes/Vision for CERT in Miami Beach:**

The City is doing well promoting itself as a city that cares for its residents. The hope is for the

Miami Beach CERT Program to continue to be a thriving part of the City government where the Leaders continue to support, fund, and promote it to further expand it through the communities.

Miami Beach is transient and growing fast and it is important to also have as much of diversified base of CERT trainees, for multiple languages, impaired individuals etc.

Amani is always on the lookout for additional classes and opportunities to volunteer. Next, she would like to become CPR certified. When asked on what CERT members should know about her, her reply was "I am always there for them, a helping hand & go to resource person for the community"

Thank you, Amani!

Reporting,  
Denitza Petrovia



*Denitza Petrova, Miami Beach CERT & Jessica Sandoval, Miami Dade County Emergency Management during Operation Heat Shield*



## 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](mailto: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.

*"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless." — Sherry Anderson*

## Event Calendar

Listed on this page are the trainings and events which will occur during the second 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.

April 30-May 6	<a href="#">Hurricane Preparedness Week</a>
May 9	Advanced CERT: Preparedness Presentations & Public Speaking
May 17	Preparedness/CERT Tables outside Commission Chambers
May 20-21	Basic CERT In-Class Training
May 26-29	<a href="#">Memorial Day Air &amp; Sea Show</a> (CERT ReHab Station-May 26 to 28) <b><u>NEED VOLUNTEERS</u></b>
May 28-June 9	2023 Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday
June 1	HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS!
June 17-18	Basic CERT In-Class Training
June 27	Advanced CERT Training: B2B/Back to Basics Refresher – Disaster Medical Operations Hands On
June 28	Preparedness/CERT Tables outside Commission Chambers
July 4	Fire on the Fourth Rehab Station & Preparedness Table (Miami Beach Bandshell & Ocean Terrace)
July 14	CERT Exercise Initial Planning Meeting
July 16 & 19	Advanced CERT Training: B2B/Back to Basics Refresher – Light Search and Rescue
August 9-12	<a href="#">Florida State CERT Conference</a>
August 13 & 16	Advanced CERT Training: B2B/Back to Basics Refresher – Fire Suppression & Utility Control

Assistance with CERT Equipment Inventory will occur every week on Tuesday from 2-3:30PM at the Division of Emergency Management.

Bimonthly CERT Team Virtual Check-in first Friday of every other month starting May 5 from 3:30-4PM. Microsoft Team invite will be sent May 1.

## Active CERT Volunteers



### Events Featured

- Natural Disaster Expo
- Spring Break Rehab
- Miami Beach PD Block Party
- Smorgasburg
- MDC Public Library Kids Club



Those who volunteered:

Alan Stang  
Josephine Vella  
Felix Montes  
Tatiana Davis  
Maryanne Patlak  
Riitta Helminen  
Charlie Rabins  
Denitza Petrova

Rosa Betancourt  
May Barazarte  
Antwan Terry  
Marcella Paz Cohen  
Maria Miranda  
Vincent Corbett  
Lissette Franco

Thank you and a job well done!

## Flooding

With hurricane season coming up, remember you can assist the City during a flood event. If you see any flooding in the City, take pictures and email them to:

[ControlRoomOperators@miamibeachfl.gov](mailto:ControlRoomOperators@miamibeachfl.gov)  
[DEM@miamibeachfl.gov](mailto:DEM@miamibeachfl.gov)

## Sky Spotter

With the recent tornados in Broward and Palm Beach counties, having trained volunteers on the ground has become increasingly important. The recent trip to the National Weather Service-Miami was postpone but will be rescheduled. Keep an eye on the CERT website calendar for the new date. You will also receive [SKYWARN® training](#), It is a volunteer program with

between 350,000 and 400,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service.



## 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

The [Ready Campaign](#) has resources that you can share to promote preparedness in your home and community. [Build a Kit](#), [Make a Plan](#), [Be Informed](#)! Additional resources are listed on your [CERT website](#).



## Extreme Heat



Extreme Heat posters are available in English, Spanish and Creole if anyone would like to post them around the City. Please contact Irene Valines at [CERT@miamibeachfl.gov](mailto:CERT@miamibeachfl.gov).

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

**Irene Valines**, CERT Program Manager  
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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



# CERT IN ACTION

