

MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER



February may be a short month, but it is a busy one here in Surfside.

As we prepare for the Tuesday, March 15 election, the Town will be hosting candidate forums for those running for Town office. Early next month, we will also host two community workshops—one virtual (Wednesday, March 2) and one in person (Thursday, March 3)—regarding the five ballot questions that will be presented to you, our residents. These workshops will provide an opportunity for you to ask questions prior to voting. Within this issue, you can find more information on the questions and answers to some frequently asked questions. There is more information on the Town website, as well.

Last month, we welcomed Rogelio Torres, Jr. as our Chief of Police. Chief Torres' focus will be on community policing and public safety. With more than three decades of experience, Chief Torres has worked in nearly all levels of policing and offers many new ideas to grow the strong connections between our officers and residents. Please get to know a little more about Chief Torres by reading his biography below, or stop by one of the monthly Coffee with the Cops events held at Starbucks.

Also, I invite you all to our second Third Thursday event, themed "AuthorTown," to take place on Thursday, February 17 on 95th Street between Collins and Harding avenues. It's a family-friendly event with plenty of fun, food and entertainment.

We hope to see you there!

Andrew Hyatt, Town Manager

NEW CHIEF IN TOWN: MEET ROGELIO TORRES, JR.

Chief Rogelio J. Torres, Jr.'s passion for law enforcement began as a teenager while participating in the police explorer program.

Those experiences led him to a nearly 34-year career with the Sunrise Police Department in Broward County. While there, Chief Torres worked his way up the ranks, becoming Deputy Chief of Police in 2018. In this role, Chief Torres managed all aspects of the Police Department, overseeing a staff of 302 personnel and a \$49 million budget until his retirement from Sunrise in 2019.

Since 2007, Chief Torres has served as an adjunct instructor at the Broward Police Academy, covering general law enforcement topics, vehicle operations, first aid, and firearms. He is a Subject Matter Expert with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement committee re-writing the Basic Recruit Firearms Curriculum and has been an active member on a number of police-related boards, including the Board of Directors for the Broward Police Benevolent Association.

Chief Torres holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Management from Union Institute & University. He is a graduate of the 58th Session of the University of Louisville-Southern Police Institute-Command Officers Development Course and the 257th Session of the Federal Bureau of Investigations National Academy.

For Chief Torres' family, public service runs deep. He and his wife have five sons, two of whom are police officers and two who serve as firefighter/paramedics.

