

BAL HARBOUR

- V I L L A G E -

OFFICE OF THE VILLAGE MANAGER

LETTER TO COUNCIL

NO. 076-2020

To: Mayor Gabriel Groisman and Members of the Village Council

From: Jorge M. Gonzalez, Village Manager



Date: May 29, 2020

Subject: **Rainfall and Local Street Flooding Event May 24-26, 2020**

The purpose of this Letter to Council (LTC) is to provide you with information regarding the rainfall and local street flooding event which began during the early morning hours of Sunday May 24 and continued until midnight on May 26, 2020.

As you are aware, the Village experienced a significant amount of rainfall during this period which resulted in local street flooding along the Collins Avenue, 96 Street, and within the Gated Residential Community.

This rainfall was due to the disturbance which was positioned over much of South Florida and along with Bal Harbour Village, many areas of Miami Dade County experienced significant street flooding. This weather system also impacted the eastern coast of the U.S., as a named Tropical Storm, Bertha.

In terms of impact, according to the National Weather Service, Miami, FL from 12:01 am May 01 to midnight May 23, Miami received a total of 4.18 inches of rainfall, with the historic average rainfall for the entire month of May, recorded at 4.08 inches. From, 12:01 am Sunday May 24 to midnight Tuesday May 26, 14.67 inches of rain was received in Miami. The greatest 24-hour period recorded 7.16 inches of rainfall from 12:01 am yesterday May 26, to midnight, with much of this total received in just four hours. As of the last data received, from May 1, to midnight May 26, Miami received 18.88 inches of rain with little to no rainfall occurring through the today May 29, 2020. The last major storm event which affected Miami Dade County, Hurricane Irma in 2017, produced 8 to 10 inches of rain in the urban portions the County.

During this rain event, 7 staff assigned to the Parks and Public Spaces Department worked a total of one hundred forty (140)-manhours to manage both the Storm Water and Sanitary Sewer Systems in order mitigate the effects of this rainfall. In addition to the actions taken to remove storm water from the road surfaces such as operating the storm water stations, clearing debris from drains and monitoring system water levels, the Sanitary System management is a greater critical activity. When rainfall covers sanitary system structures in

roadways for extended periods of time, rainwater can enter the system and cause sanitary system overflows as occurred this past Monday at the Miami Dade County North wastewater treatment plant, in which 1.8 million gallons of sewage spilled due in part to the heavy rains. I am happy to report that the Village did not experience any sanitary system spills due to the diligent efforts of our staff.

In addition to the volume of rain, the time of the rainfall during several high tide periods impacted the removal of the rainwater from the roads due to the tide water covering the storm water outfalls which move rainfall volumes in excess of two inches to Biscayne Bay.

While many areas of the Village experienced periods of street flooding, most of the Village roads were generally free of standing water after less than five hours during these heavy rain periods. However, two areas within the Residential Gated Community, the intersection of Park and Camden Drives and the Bal Cross and Park Drives intersection, held standing rainwater on roadway surfaces for extended periods of time due to existing system deficiencies and ongoing Utility System construction activities. As part of the Village Utility System Rehabilitative efforts, both of these locations are currently in design for one area and under construction in the other. Upon completion of planned renovations, the storm water system in these areas are expected to function efficiently.

If you have, any questions please contact Director of Parks and Open Spaces John Oldenburg at joldenburg@balharbourfl.gov, 305.993.7368 or 954-205-9684.

JO/JMG