

City Manager
Sunny Isles Beach, FL

BACKGROUND

The City of Sunny Isles Beach is a dynamic, upscale community of approximately 17,000. The City is located on the barrier islands between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intercoastal Waterway in Northern Miami-Dade County. Once considered a sleepy hamlet north of Miami Beach, Sunny Isles Beach is now a force in its own right. Based on a desire to control its own destiny and provide a higher level of service to its residents, the City incorporated in 1997. Since then the City has developed into a financially strong city while building a state of the art city hall, making significant improvements to the drainage and building numerous parks - no small feat for a city located on a barrier island that is 2.5 miles long and half a mile wide. Many high rise condominiums have replaced the mom and pop motels that dotted the beach at one time. While the City has some single family homes, the landscape is dominated by the high rises. The community is served by two new schools: one is kindergarten through eighth grade and the second is the high school.

BUSINESS AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Sunny Isles is largely residential and caters to both fulltime and part year residents. As a result, its primary businesses cater to these elements. The largest employers, for example, are: Newport Beachside Resort (350 employees), Trump International Resort (257 employees), Acqualina Resort and Spa (230), the City of Sunny Isles Beach (178), Publix (155), Double Tree Hotels (116), Marco Polo Beach Resort (110) and Marenas Resort (100). The largest property tax payers are of a similar nature.

While the median age is 35.3, the population is composed of a significant number of retirees. 32% of the population is over 65, 51% is between the ages of 25 and 65, 6% is between 18 and 25, 8% is between 5 and 25 and the remaining 3% are under 5 years old. The median household size is 1.87 and the median family income in 1999 dollars was \$40,309. The population is 92% white, 2% African American, 2% Asian and the remainder is some other race or more than one race. 37% of the population is Hispanic or Latino. The City also has a significant population of Russian origin.

THE GOVERNMENT

The City Commission is comprised of a Mayor and four Commissioners. All are elected at large and serve staggered four year terms. The government is modeled along the lines of the traditional council-manager plan. The elected officials are all successful in their own right and interested in providing high quality services to their constituents. It is an active, involved

Commission and members spend a great deal of time at City Hall. They want and expect a high level of communication between them and their manager.

The City's assessed value is presently approximately \$6.1 billion and has held steady, even in the current downturn. The reason is that new construction has offset the decline in property growth. That is not anticipated to continue in the current year. The general fund budget for FY 2010-2011 is approximately \$28,000,000 and the total budget is \$51.5 million. City has approximately 178 full time employees. Most traditional services are provided except water, sewer, solid waste and fire services, which are provided primarily by Miami-Dade County.

THE CHALLENGES

While Sunny Isles Beach has many advantages – it is small enough to be manageable and financially strong, it is not without challenges. Over the years, it has been managed conservatively and its total assessed property value has held relatively constant. As a result, it has not had the financial issues many other municipalities have had. Less new construction is anticipated in the next few years and as a result, the finances will have to be watched carefully. The second significant challenge revolves around capital projects. While much has been done to bring the City up to the standards, it hopes to complete several significant projects in the next four years. Three of these are replacing the current pier and adding two new parks. The last is to add a second north-south route that can be used in the case of emergencies. Right now, the only north-south route in the City is Collins Avenue. The intended second route requires adding a bridge to North Bay Road which would be used for pedestrian traffic and emergency vehicles. Between permitting and construction, the manager will have his/her hands full. The third challenge is traffic and it is also always an issue, particularly during the winter months. It is not clear, however, that much can be done about it. Finally, Sunny Isles has come a long way in its few years of existence. Residents now want to protect the quality of life that they have.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

The ideal candidate will have a demonstrated track record of accomplishment and experience with planning, redevelopment and construction/public works. He/She will have excellent communication skills. The individual will be focused on keeping the Commissioners informed while also being responsive to their needs. She/He should also have an eye on employee morale and maintain it at a high level. While the City is in excellent financial condition now, its elected officials want someone with strong financial skills and who is prudent in the use of the public's money. The individual should plan to be involved in the community. He/She needs to have a "good mind and a strong backbone" and should plan to roll up his/her sleeves and get his/her hands dirty. The selected candidate will be willing to tell it like it is and able to deal diplomatically, effectively and equally with five elected officials with strong views. She/He will also recognize the Mayor plays a leading role in the government and the community. The individual will also be someone who foresees problems and takes action to avoid them before they become significant issues.

The ideal candidate will have Bachelor's degree (Masters preferred) and a minimum of five years experience as a senior level municipal manager or as a private sector senior executive overseeing multiple functional areas. Experience with diversity and working with other ethnic groups will also be important. Experience working in South Florida and with key players in Miami-Dade County and in Tallahassee are a plus.

COMPENSATION

Salary commensurate with experience and the salary range is \$150,000 to \$200,000. The Commission is, however, more interested in getting the right person. Benefits are excellent and Sunny Isles Beach participates in the Florida Retirement System.

RESIDENCY

Residency is not required.

HOW TO APPLY

E-mail resume to Colin Baenziger at ***RecruitOne@cb-asso.com*** by February 18, 2011. Questions should be directed to Colin at (561) 707-3537.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Sunny Isles Beach is an equal opportunity employer. Under Florida law, all applications are a public record and subject to disclosure. Veteran's preference will be awarded if applicable and according to Florida Law.