

From: Gemma Vaughan <GemmaV@peta.org>

Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 4:40:19 PM

To: Defillipo, Anthony <Anthony.Defillipo@cityymb.com>; Villard, Paule <Paule.Villard@cityymb.com>; Daniela Jean <daniela.jean@cityymb.com>; Smukler, Fortuna <Fortuna.Smukler@cityymb.com>; Fleurimond, McKenzie <McKenzie.Fleurimond@cityymb.com>; Kramer, Barbara <barbara.kramer@cityymb.com>; Joseph, Michael <Michael.Joseph@cityymb.com>; Sorey, Arthur <Arthur.Sorey@cityymb.com>; Merzius, Gedel <Gedel.Merzius@cityymb.com>

Subject: PETA Re: Unlawful balloon release scheduled July 14 in North Miami Beach

July 13, 2021

To: The Honorable Anthony F. DeFillipo, Mayor, City of North Miami Beach

Commissioners, City of North Miami Beach

Mr. Arthur Sorrey, City Manager, City of North Miami Beach

From: Gemma Vaughan, Senior Cruelty Caseworker, PETA

Re: Unlawful balloon release scheduled July 14 in North Miami Beach

PETA is an animal protection organization with more than 6.5 million members and supporters globally, hundreds of thousands residing in Florida. We write today concerning the City of North Miami Beach's apparent plans to release balloons and doves tomorrow, July 14, at the Julius Littman Performing Arts Theater during the [Hope 4 Haiti Solidarity Memorial](#) event. *Respectfully, we wish to make you aware that it is [unlawful to release balloons](#) in your state due to the notorious harm that balloon fragments cause to wildlife and the environment.* We also ask that you please take a moment to review the following information concerning dove releases.

Setting aside the birds' typically poor living conditions prior to their being released, attempting to find their way "home" from an unfamiliar location can be a life-threatening task for these captive-bred animals. Upon release and in their frantic attempts to return, doves can wander about for days without eating or resting, and during this stressful ordeal these birds can succumb to countless perils including extreme weather conditions, and attacks by raptors or other predators. In fact, PETA has received numerous calls from Good Samaritans who have come across horribly injured or badly malnourished banded birds; our own staff has personally collected the remains of several who were killed by larger animals. And lost birds are so common that a major [dove release website](#) contains a feature entitled "[Find a Bird?](#)" which means to assist guardians in their efforts to recover missing doves. I am sure that you were not aware of the law concerning balloon releases as well as the many problems that are associated with dove releases. May we hear that you will cancel the balloon release and replace the dove release with an activity that does not pose risks to animals?

Thank you for your consideration, may we hear from you soon?

Respectfully,

Gemma Vaughan, LMSW

Cruelty Investigations Department

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