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Is Carollo's sick mind up to old tricks on Calle Ocho

BY GRANT MILLER

Publisher



Tourist mecca Ball & Chain and other food and beverage businesses have been told to stay closed. Not so good when City of Miami officials are letting customers with cash in hand stream into its neighbors up and down Calle Ocho.

So, what gives? Is Joe Carollo back to attacking Cuban-American entrepreneur Bill Fuller's businesses? Maybe.

In Carollo's sick mind, he would think it was a masterstroke. Keep iconic Ball & Chain shuttered under the cover of COVID-19 to make the point that even during a pandemic his power can't be stopped. Rubbing his hands together like the two-bit dictator he is, he might right now be contemplating the symbolic and real-world impact of such an act and laughing maniacally in an empty room and petting a white cat.

I wouldn't put it passed him. At the height of the vendetta, Joe was caught on camera lurking behind Ball & Chain, trying to stir up complaints from residents living nearby the business. He even gave city officials a personal tour of alleged violations, including some at Fuller properties.

Things got so bad that Fuller filed a lawsuit claiming Carollo was punishing him for supporting Joe's opponent, violating his first amendment right to free speech.

As for the facts, Ball & Chain and some other locations that serve alcohol are licensed by the State of Florida to serve food and drinks. The question now is about how the City of Miami enforces its rules.

I can tell you that the enforcement so far has been confusing and at times arbitrary. I know of at least one business that markets its bar as a speakeasy and serves food as a quality operation. But let's be honest — no one is there for the sliders.

In politics, perception is as bad as the real thing. In this case, it looks and smells like a sloppy, rotten Carollo special that he had his lackeys drop at the front door of Ball & Chain before knocking on its door and slinking away.

Crazy Joe just lost his legal challenge to stop his recall. Somebody needs to stand up and sue him and the city again, while he is on his heels.

Braman Miami staff, Miami Police roll up sleeves to help blood drive

BY SISSY DEMARIA-KOEHNE

With a critical blood shortage at hand, one of the city's most established car dealerships is getting into over drive.

Braman Miami, in partnership with OneBlood and the City of Miami Police Department, hosted a blood drive at its dealership, located at 2060 Biscayne Blvd., on May 7.

The initiative was hosted in direct response to the blood shortages in Miami stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. Blood collections have plummeted in recent weeks, due to the cancellation of many community and office blood drives. Cancer centers and hospitals across the country have issued an emergency call for blood donors because of a shortage brought on by various medical and societal complications related to COVID-19. Generous blood donors are the only source of blood for patients in need.

"These are tough times for everyone right now, but we can all do our own part to help our community get through this challenging time," said Mike Rodriguez, general manager of Braman Miami.

"Each whole blood donation has the

potential to save up to three lives and we're very proud to all work together to make a difference," added City of Miami Police Department Commander Freddie Cruz.

Braman Miami, through the

dealership's charitable arm, Braman Miami Hearts in Motion, teamed up with OneBlood and its Big Red Bus, along with the Miami Police Department. Donors received complimentary OneBlood T-shirts and a wellness checkup including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening.

A collection of car dealerships spanning Biscayne Boulevard in downtown Miami, Braman Miami was founded in 1975 by businessman Norman Braman with a single Cadillac dealership. Today, the dealership sells and services new and pre-owned BMWs, Bentleys, Rolls-Royces, Bugattis, Cadillacs, Minis, Hyundais, and Genesis, as well as an array of other certified pre-owned vehicles and pre-owned exotics, consistently ranking among the top dealers in the United States.

The company has a long history of supporting its local community, enjoying a proud legacy of supporting various nonprofits and important causes that encompass the realms of art, health and education.

For more information about Braman visit www.bramanmiami.com or call 305-720-2548.



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