From:	Mark Kruea
To:	City Council; Karen.riordan@visitmyrtlebeach.com; Amy Prock; MBrown@cityofmyrtlebeach.com
Cc:	Kaycey Vrettos; cpendergrass@cityofmyrtlebeach.com
Subject:	Facebook safety questions
Date:	Tuesday, June 16, 2020 10:19:03 AM

Getting lots of similar calls and emails to this Facebook DM. See below, and my response…

Hello, my family and I are coming down to Myrtle Beach in July and I just came across this post. In her bio, it says she a "former 911 dispatcher." Can you confirm what she's saying? My families safety is priority.

9:55

Pat Hogan
Sunday at 1:32 PM ·

If any of you are planning to come to Myrtle Beach, Please be careful. I would say be off the boardwalk by no later than 6 PM and definitely do not plan on driving on ocean boulevard after 7. This is a dangerous place after dark. This is not being shown on the national news and the Mayor is not doing anything to help the Police. There are rumors - AGAIN RUMORS - that police are being told to tone down reports about assaults and violence in their reports. The safest place for you after 6 is in your hotel room. Quiet walks on the beach at sunset could leed to assaults. Random shootings are taking place almost daily here lately. PLEASE use caution if you do go out after dark. Park close to attractions or restaurants. Stay alert to your surroundings. This has become no place to let your guard down. I'm not trying to scare anyone but I do want you to be safe. Just pay attention. Close attention.

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I haven't seen this anywhere else, so wanted to go straight to you guys for guidance.

Thanks for inquiring and for visiting. I do not know whether the person from the post is a former 911 supervisor or, if so, where she might have worked. We are aware of this post and can say with certainty that no one is being told to "tone down" anything. Based on my knowledge and experience of the last few weeks, the content in this post is a big exaggeration. That said, we have had larger, rowdier crowds than normal the last few weekends, with some incidents -- including shootings -- although certainly not "daily." Visitors from other places and states brought their beefs here and acted out. The police officers were right there and quickly made arrests. It's always a good idea to stay alert to your surroundings. The city is stepping up law enforcement, traffic control and other measures to make sure that Ocean Boulevard is a safe environment. The mayor and City Council are certainly helping and are concerned both that our visitors are not behaving well and that this sort of message is what people are taking away from the conversation. Again, we are addressing the issues that have arisen during the first few weeks since restrictions on people's lives because of COVID-19 were lifted. The claim that anything is being hidden or covered up simply is not true.

Sent by Mark Kruea

photograph

The employees of the City of Myrtle Beach are a diverse group of individuals who blend their unique talents to create the most effective, elite team of public servants in South Carolina.

Mark Kruea

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