

## **Miami Beach and Beijing plan exchange**

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The city of Miami Beach said it will send an official delegation of civic, business and tourism leaders to China and then will host a return delegation from that country.

Mayor David Dermer and Vice Mayor Jerry Libbin are to be in China with a group of 26 local representatives, Nov. 7-13, to meet with counterparts in Beijing.

The following week, Nov. 18-23, Miami Beach is to reciprocate by hosting 26 Chinese delegates and a Chinese celebrity.

The purpose of the visits is to strengthen municipal government ties between the Beijing District Government and the city of Miami Beach, explore and develop mutually beneficial business cooperation programs, initiate cultural exchanges, explore opportunities for business cooperation in development of Beijing's Olympic District, and introduce cultural and business opportunities to each city's citizens.

"My vision is that, by creating cultural exchange and business cooperation programs, we will make travel and doing business in the corresponding city more desirable, thus fulfilling two of the most important missions we have: that of creating additional tourism, as well as new business involvement in our cities," Libbin said. "Some estimates point to an influx of as many as 100 million Chinese travelers coming to the U.S. annually by 2020. We intend for Miami Beach to capture a significant share of those tourists."

The Miami Beach delegation's first official stop is to be a meeting with the Beijing Chaoyang government to establish official relations between the Chaoyang District and the city of Miami Beach.

The itinerary also includes visits to Tiananmen Square, the emerging Olympic village, the Xiu Shui Silk Market, as well as a dance performance by a local theater troupe as part of the cultural exchange program.

Once the Chinese delegation comes to Miami Beach, business presentations are to include informal seminars and workshops on how to do business in China, investment opportunities at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing and real estate investment opportunities in Beijing.