

# Brutal dictator will reap what he sows

## OUR OPINION: CASTRO'S DEATH NO TIME FOR OFFICIAL CELEBRATION

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South Florida can expect the death of Fidel Castro to send masses of people into Miami streets. It also is a good idea for local government to plan for safety and crowd control. People who have suffered at the tyrant's hands naturally will be relieved, some will even be pleased by news of Castro's passing. They may celebrate privately or publicly, and with good reason. Castro's death will create hope of a better future for Cuba.

So it is reassuring that that city of Miami insisted yesterday that it is not organizing any event that celebrates Castro's death. If anything, the dictator's demise will present an opportunity to remind a worldwide audience how much pain he inflicted on Cuba's people and why his regime must be buried, too.

Commissioner Tomás Regalado initially proposed having an event after Castro's death at the Orange Bowl, in Little Havana. He told the Miami Herald's Editorial Board that if bands were invited, they would play, for example, protest and patriotic songs -- not dance music. Commissioner Regalado said that the city's official position is that this would be an "event" -- not a party. Yet he also declared that, "The city has a moral responsibility to help people celebrate."

That's is a distinction without a difference. And once the news got out, Miami's image started taking a beating. The headline on [www.Foxnews.com](http://www.Foxnews.com) on Monday shows exactly what Miami projected: "It's a Castro-Palooza! Miami plans Orange Bowl fest when dictator dies." And criticism rained on the mayor and commissioners.

Realistically, no authority is going to be able to contain the crowds likely to overwhelm *Calle Ocho* and other streets, tooting horns, waving signs and celebrating the hope of change in Cuba after Castro dies. The spontaneous reaction could be akin to the Italians who cheered dictator Benito Mussolini's execution or Romanians celebrating the executions of Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife. Despots breed hate and reap what they sow.

South Florida leaders should attempt to channel the sentiments constructively. An Orange Bowl event could pay homage to the more than 10,000 people summarily executed by Castro's regime.

Ceremonies could be dedicated to mourning the tens of thousands of Cubans who lost their lives in attempts to cross the Florida straits in search of freedom. Rallies could be focused on decrying the imprisonment of hundreds of political prisoners.

The real celebration should wait until Cuba is, in fact, free of communist tyranny.