Miami commissioners repeal protest law

By CAROLYN SALAZAR

csalazar@herald.com

Three months after a global trade summit in Miami prompted city commissioners to revisit the rules governing demonstrations, they repealed a controversial new law some say gave police too much power during protests.

Commissioners voted 4-0 to repeal the rally ordinance, following months of controversy over a law civil libertarians say chilled free speech and unfairly targeted a specific group because of its anti-free trade message.

"This was a necessary thing to do so we can go back to normal in the city of Miami," said Commissioner Tomás Regalado, who made the push to repeal his own ordinance. "It's dangerous to give police all the power to decide what people can take to rallies."