

## Advocate for Residents of Miami Beach

We are a community-based 501(c)4 not-for-profit organization providing Miami Beach residents a cohesive voice for city-wide issues that impact our quality of life. Click here to [join us](#)!



Happy Valentine's Day, Miami Beach!



## February 14, 2018: Another Busy Day at Commission Chambers! These are Miami Beach United's Resolutions:

- Agenda Item R5-P Sidewalk Café Operators
- Agenda Item R5-H Digital Supergraphics – Size Limits
- Agenda Item R7-K Opposition to Digital Kiosks
- Agenda Item R5-G Opposition to changes in CUP
- Agenda Item R5-B Support for Conservation District Guidelines
- Agenda Item R7-N Support for Reaffirming Opposition to Gambling

Want to read the proposed Commission agenda items? Click [here](#).

Want to contact your elected officials directly? Click [here](#).

**Don't forget our  
Forum on 2/20/18:  
Can Smart Street  
Design provide  
solutions for issues we  
face around the city?  
Miami Beach Woman's Club**

6-8 pm



**SPEAKERS FORUM**  
Tuesday, February 20, 2018@6pm  
**STREET DESIGN: A Possible "Silver Bullet"?**  
MIAMI BEACH WOMAN'S CLUB, 2401 Pine Tree Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33140  
Complimentary Parking at Hebrew Academy.

Street design is an integral part of and a crucial contributor to quality of life in an urban community, however, we often overlook the impact that a well-designed street can have and how far-reaching it can be! Too often now our streets are relegated to one function, and miss many key roles for which they were originally designed decades ago! Now more than ever, our streets must fulfill multiple functions, and do so safely for the most vulnerable users.

**Come learn how good street design can help:**

- Alleviate traffic congestion
- Alleviate flooding
- Increase Tax Revenues
- Reduce Carbon Emissions
- Improve Quality of Life for All

**Speakers include:**

- Victor Dover, Principal of Dover Kohl
- Tony Garcia, Principal of Street Plans Collaborative
- Tom Mooney, City of Miami Beach Planning Director

Follow us at: [facebook.com/MiBeachUnited/](https://facebook.com/MiBeachUnited/)

Since 2012, MIAMI BEACH UNITED has been dedicated to improving the quality of life for Miami Beach residents, managed and measured growth of our CITY, and ethical leadership of government - for a vibrant city rooted in HISTORY, its PEOPLE, RESOURCES & NEIGHBORHOODS, with focus on the FUTURE.

[miami-beach-united.org](http://miami-beach-united.org)

## Support for Curtailing "Bad Operators" among Ocean Drive's Sidewalk Cafes R5-P

### Executive summary:

The abuses of "bad operators" on Ocean Drive are negatively impacting residents' quality of life and the City's brand as a welcoming tourist destination. This ordinance proposes solutions to end those abuses.

### Why It Matters

- Visitors who have unpleasant experiences at the hands of these bad operators have access to powerful word-of-mouth social media tools which can, if the situation is not rectified, harm the City's economy and global reputation.

**MBU has passed a resolution** which **supports and urges** the City of Miami Beach to **add more "teeth"** to this proposed ordinance in order to maximize its efficacy.

Read the Resolution in its entirety by clicking [HERE](#) .

## Support for Limiting the HPB/DRP Approval Power for Digital Supergraphics R5-H

### Executive summary:

In 2016, the City Commission adopted an Ordinance amendment that reorganized and revised the signage section of the City Code to comply with recent US Supreme Court precedent. Prior to that, projected or illuminated still/changing images were not allowed in the City. Since the City Code was amended to allow electronic super graphics, only one project, located on Alton Road, has received approval from the Design Review Board for the construction of an illuminated supergraphic, it is larger than 90 feet by 37 feet.

### Why It Matters

- It is critical that oversized and inappropriate moving image and/or illuminated graphics must not overwhelm the character of the City's neighborhoods
- The HPB and DRB authority to approve such signage must be curtailed.

**MBU has passed a resolution** which **supports** the City of Miami Beach's proposed changes.

Read the Resolution in its entirety by clicking [HERE](#) .

## Opposition to Digital Kiosks R7-K

### Executive summary:

The City currently has ten static informational directories on Lincoln Road. The contract expired and is currently month-to-month; on January 11, 2017, the Mayor and City Commission approved the issuance of Request for Proposals for Interactive Digital Media Kiosks. The concern is that these kiosks will not just update those on Lincoln Road, but will also be installed in the public right-of-way, principally located on sidewalks and other public areas at various locations in the City.

#### **Why It Matters**

- The proposed kiosks will make a significant negative impact on the city's public spaces and there are minimal public benefits for installing kiosks throughout the city. People have a multitude of information choices via smart phones, which do not inflict clutter and blight in the city's public spaces.
- Digital kiosks will denigrate the ambiance of the city's commercial areas in which the city prides itself: its beautiful landscapes and the unique natural environment.
- The kiosks may not comply with strong Miami-Dade County sign laws that govern the Rights of Way.
- In a Miami Beach United survey, conducted on July 12, 2017, of 327 respondents, 207 were opposed to digital kiosks; 53 were undecided, and only 67 were in favor of "the installation of interactive digital kiosks in Miami Beach."
- As indicated in the Letter to Commission on the subject, "Polling conducted by the City indicated "Negative public opinion. To gauge the public's opinion of the kiosk units, a public survey was conducted by the Communications Department via Google Surveys rating the following: user-friendliness; technology and touch screen capabilities; and, preference of which one would fit best throughout the City. A total of 76 responses were received. Overall, most respondents reported a negative experience or opinion regarding the kiosks. The general sentiment of those responding was that the kiosks were not appropriate for Miami Beach, and would not positively impact public spaces."

**MBU has passed a resolution** which **opposes** digital kiosks as information sources for tourists and residents.

Read the Resolution in its entirety by clicking [HERE](#) .

## Opposition to Changes to the Current Conditional Use Permit R5-G

Miami Beach United continues to **oppose** any changes to the existing ordinance governing the Conditional Use Permit appeal process. These changes would limit the ability of homeowners to protect themselves against excessive commercial intrusion.

Read the resolution by clicking [HERE](#) .

## Support for Conservation District Guidelines R5-B

#### **Executive Summary:**

With the recent landmark designation of the historic MiMo buildings in the North Beach Conservation District, the next step is ensuring that guidelines are created for development in those areas.

#### **Why It Matters:**

Guidelines will allow the Conservation District to redevelop in a way that will preserve the unique character of the MiMo Historic neighborhoods

**MBU has passed a resolution approving** a list of guidelines to be incorporated by the City.

Read the resolution by clicking [HERE](#) .

# Support for Reaffirming Opposition to Gambling R7-N

**MBU** has passed a resolution supporting the Commission in reaffirming the City's longstanding policy against casino gambling, and opposing any expansion by the Florida Legislature of casino gambling operations in Florida.

Read the resolution by clicking [HERE](#).

## The New MBU Resident Scorecard: Coming Soon!

Miami Beach United will compile a scorecard to educate and inform residents. The new "Resident Scorecard" measures Commission and Committee votes to show how resident-friendly the City of Miami Beach Mayor and Commissioners are.

### Here's how it works:

- Miami Beach United identifies and tracks issues that affect Miami Beach residents' quality of life.
- Official votes cast by elected officials are logged and scored on a scale from 0-100%. The highest score represents the most resident-friendly voting record.
- The resident scorecard will be updated monthly, distributed over email and shared on social media.

## 2018 MBU Board of Directors

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Nancy Liebman, Chairwoman Emeritus; Co-President  
Tanya K. Bhatt, Co-President; Marketing & Communications  
Saul Gross, Treasurer  
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## Our Mission

Dedicated to improving the quality of life for Miami Beach residents, managed and measured growth of our city, and ethical leadership of government – for a vibrant city rooted in history, its people, resources and neighborhoods, with focus on the future – by providing

educational and analytical focus on the organization, structure, policies and performance of Miami Beach government.