

## Advocate for Residents of Miami Beach

We are a community-based 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization providing Miami Beach residents a cohesive voice for city-wide issues that impact our quality of life. [Join us!](#)



## 7/26/17: Big Day Ahead at the Commission Chambers! These are Miami Beach United's Resolutions:

- North Beach Log Cabin
- Formula Chain Limitation
- Residents Right To Know: ready to become law!

## Support for North Beach Log Cabin Restoration and Preservation

### Executive summary:

The Log Cabin, on the site of the proposed [North Beach Yard](#), and an important, unique piece of Miami Beach history, is the subject of a great deal of attention of late. (See press from [the Miami Herald](#), [Miami New Times](#), and [Channel 10](#) and [America TeVe Canal 41.](#))

Built in 1934 as a family home, and in continual use since then (since 1975 as a City-owned nursery where many city residents bought plant and Christmas trees, since 2011 as a City storage facility), the structure is a fixture in North Beach. Identified as a key element of the North Shore in the Dover Kohl Master Plan, and included as part of the vision of the North Beach Yard as presented, the City's Finance Committee voted to demolish rather than to restore the structure, citing years of neglect that have rendered the Cabin unsalvageable.

### Why It Matters

- This one-of-a-kind structure in Miami Beach illustrates a chapter of history the City's history; once demolished, it is lost forever.
- A similar structure has just been preserved in Biscayne Park to great acclaim, providing an excellent road map (read more [here](#)).

**MBU has passed a resolution** which urges the City of Miami Beach to:

- immediately cease with any plan to demolish the Log Cabin while
- seek a professional with relevant historic preservation and wooden log cabin expertise to review the cabin's structure and its opportunity for adaptive reuse on the site and estimated costs

and which

- recommends that the North Beach residents be included in the discussion and planning for the Log Cabin's future.

**Read the Resolution in its entirety:** [MBU North Beach Cabin Resolution](#)

## Support for Protecting the Character of Ocean Drive & Historic Districts

### **Executive summary:**

Certain areas in the city, formerly beloved by most, now seem to be plagued by unfortunate incidents and issues which contribute to the lessening of quality of life for residents and decreasing of positive experiences for visitors. In the hopes of mitigating many of those issues, the City is taking a look at a number of ways to address these issues, most notably, in the immediate short term, regarding the areas of and adjacent to Ocean Drive.

### **Why It Matters**

- Residents choose to live in Miami Beach and visitors select it as a destination to enjoy its uniqueness, its beautiful atmosphere, its local shops and weather - a combination which is rare and therefore is the economic engine which drives this city.
- It is important to maintain and build upon these qualities that appeal to residents and visitors alike and which contribute to the City's distinctive brand.
- We need to ensure that we do not become "Anyplace, USA" but rather that we maintain our distinctive vibe and culture, and that we encourage local home-grown business to thrive.

**MBU has passed a resolution** which supports the City of Miami Beach's proposed formula chain limitation as a way to:

- maintain a strong tourist business
- continue to encourage the community to enjoy the local businesses.

**Read the Resolution in its entirety:** [MBU Formula Chain Resolution](#)

## Residents Right to Know: Set for Final Vote!

### **Executive summary:**

Did you know that we do not have an established right to be notified of many things happening in our neighborhoods? Miami Beach United's Residents Right to Know initiative is designed change that, with key elements to improve transparency and communication about initiatives affecting residents' quality of life. The resolution is up for final vote, to be adopted as law, on Wednesday, 7/26/17. City Attorney Raul Aguila supports the effort, stating "The Residents' Right to Know Ordinance is a groundbreaking proposal that, together with the recent implementation of the MB Resident Connect system, will provide residents with unprecedented targeted electronic notices of specific City actions."

### **Why it matters:**

- The Residents Right to Know will ensure that residents are notified when something is planned in their neighborhood which will impact their quality of life.
- In addition, residents will also be able to be more engaged in the City's plans, designs and implementations.

- This new right will be good for residents and ultimately the City which will end up with better decisions and solutions.
- The Residents Right to Know has been a collaborative effort spearheaded by MBU while working closely with City Commissioners, City Attorney and residents.
- The final Commission vote will be held on July 26th. Please encourage your elected officials to adopt our resolution into law.

**Read the Proposed Ordinance in its entirety:** [Residents Right to Know Ordinance](#)

**HOA & Neighborhood Association Letters of Support from all Across Miami Beach:**  
[Alton Road Homeowners Letter of Support](#)

[North Beach Neighbors Alliance Letter of Support](#)

[Flamingo Park Neighborhood Association Letter of Support](#)

[Bayshore Homeowners Letter of Support](#)

[South of Fifth Neighborhood Association Letter of Support](#)

[Belle Isle Residents Association Letter of Support](#)

[Fairway Park Neighborhood Association Letter of Support](#)

[Sunset Harbour Neighborhood Association Letter of Support](#)

## Want to learn more about key issues up for discussion at City Hall on 7/26/17?

**Fellow engaged resident and Executive Director of the Miami Design Preservation League Daniel Ciraldo has created a spreadsheet highlighting a number of key issues before the Commission on Wednesday, which may help you to sort through what's on tap at City Hall this week. Color-coded (per Daniel's views) as follows:**

Green = Good

Yellow = Unsure

Red = Bad

No Color = No Position

View/download the document here: [Commission Meeting 7/26/17 Key Items/Status](#)

View the entire 2,000+ item agenda for the meeting here:

[City of Miami Beach Commission Meeting Agenda 7/26/17](#)

If you're interested in sharing your thoughts on an item but cannot attend the Commission meeting, here's how to reach your Mayor, Commissioners, and City Manager:

Mayor Philip Levine  
 305.673.7035  
[PhilipLevine@miamibeachfl.gov](mailto:PhilipLevine@miamibeachfl.gov)

Commissioner Micky Steinberg  
 305.673.7103  
[MickeySteinberg@miamibeachfl.gov](mailto:MickeySteinberg@miamibeachfl.gov)

Commissioner Michael Grieco  
 305.673.7104  
[MichaelGrieco@miamibeachfl.gov](mailto:MichaelGrieco@miamibeachfl.gov)

Commissioner Joy Malakoff  
 305.673.7106

JoyMalakoff@miamibeachfl.gov

Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez  
305-673-7105  
Kristen@miamibeachfl.gov

Commissioner Ricky Arriola  
305-673-7107  
RickyArriola@miamibeachfl.gov

Commissioner John Elizabeth Alemán  
305.673.7102  
JohnAleman@miamibeachfl.gov

Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager  
305.673.7010  
JimmyMorales@miamibeachfl.gov

## 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.

### 2017 MBU Board of Directors

#### Officers

Nancy Liebman, Chairwoman Emeritus  
Michael Barrineau, President  
Saul Gross, Treasurer  
Tanya K. Bhatt, V.P. Marketing & Communications  
Stacy Kilroy, V.P. Membership  
Michael Ritus, V.P. Nominating  
Wanda Mouzon, Recording Secretary

#### Directors

Jorge Exposito  
Christine Florez  
Herb Frank  
Jorge Gonzalez  
Mike Hammon  
Adam Kravitz  
Paul Mokha  
Mark Needle  
Gabriel Paez  
Jonathan Parker  
Kirk Paskal  
Mark Samuelian

Ron Starkman  
Stacy Wanerman  
Fern Watts



## 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.