

## 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!](#)



## June 6, 2018: Another Busy Day at Commission Chambers! These are Miami Beach United's Resolutions:

### NEW ITEMS TODAY - SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS

- Agenda Item R5-F - Ordinance Regarding Architectural District Parking Height Restrictions
- Agenda Item R5-I - Ordinance Regarding Restrictions on Single Use Carry Out Plastic Bags
- Agenda Item R5-J Resolution Regarding Exempting Small Businesses from Lobbyist Fees
- Agenda Item R5-L - Ordinance Regarding Single Use Carry Out Plastic Straws
- Agenda Item R9-L - Discussion Regarding Street Raising & Resiliency Issues

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

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

## Opposition to Ordinance Regarding Architectural District Parking Height Restrictions Exemption

## Ordinance R5-F

### Executive summary:

Seeking to allow increased height for a parking garage structure in an architectural district.

### Why It Matters

- The height restrictions were put in place for this architectural district to protect the character of the neighborhood; this exemption would allow a structure which overshadows the adjacent contributing buildings.
- The City has documented a declining trend in parking usage over the past three years, and the City is encouraging usage of public and/or shared ride transportation issues; therefore building excessive height to allow for more parking spots seems counter to the stated facts and goals.
- If an exemption is made in one historic district, someone seeking to do the same in another historic district will be able to point to this case as a precedent.

**Miami Beach United** is **IN OPPOSITION TO** this ordinance.

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

Read the Commission documents by clicking [HERE](#) .

## Support for Ordinance Regarding Restrictions on Single Use Carry Out Plastic Bags Ordinance R5-I

### Executive summary:

Plastic is polluting our natural resources and progressive cities are acting to limit use of single use plastic bags.

### Why It Matters

- Miami Beach cannot at this time mandate what private businesses do; however the City can legislate on this topic as it pertains to usage in the public right-of-way.
- The State of Florida has heretofore not permitted cities to make these decisions for themselves; however, that ruling is being challenged in court.
- As soon as the court challenge prevails, Miami Beach needs to act within the permitted scope to help protect our beaches and waterways that are so vital to our quality of life, our economic engine, and the overall health of the planet.

**Miami Beach United** supports this ordinance providing the long-sought protection.

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

Read the Commission documents by clicking [HERE](#) .

## Support for Resolution Exempting Small Businesses from Lobbyist Fees Resolution R5-J

### Executive summary:

This ordinance allows small business owners or their principals to address matters before the Commission without registering as a lobbyist, meaning that these business owners will be able to address the Commission on relevant matters in the same way that Miami Beach residents may.

### Why It Matters

- In the interest of transparency, lobbyists appearing before the Commission need to register as such prior to being permitted to address the City.
- The way this ordinance is written currently includes, as "lobbyists" independent business owners/principals, which means that a business person cannot advocate

on his own business' behalf without registering as a lobbyist and paying the significant attendant fee.

- This ordinance allows small business owners to appear before the commission to advocate on their own business' behalf.
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**Miami Beach United SUPPORTS** this resolution.

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

Read the Commission documents by clicking [HERE](#) .

## Support for Ordinance Regarding Restrictions on Single Use Plastic Straws and Stirrers Ordinance R5-L

### Executive summary:

Plastic is polluting our natural resources and progressive cities are acting to limit use of single use plastic straws and stirrers.

### Why It Matters

- Miami Beach cannot at this time mandate what private businesses do; however the City can legislate on this topic as it pertains to usage with contracts that are entered into with the City.
- Given the amount of discarded straws/stirrers, it is clear that the current ordinance on littering is inadequate.

**Miami Beach United** supports this ordinance providing the long-sought protection.

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

Read the Commission documents by clicking [HERE](#) .

## Support for Discussion Regarding Street Raising & Resiliency Issues Resolution R9-L

### Executive summary:

This item is to have have a discussion about the merits of re-evaluating the existing resiliency plan, and whether its recommendations are still the best course of action for the City.

### Why It Matters

- The City needs to be proactive in its approach to addressing resiliency issues.
- However, the plan that has been in motion since the previous Administration may not offer the best remediations, given a significant amount of learning about its implementation, and new research and input from outside experts on resilience, since the plan's inception
- A one-size-fits-all approach is not useful given the differences in various parts of our City.
- This would allow the City to fine-tune the plan given a lot of new and incremental information.

**Miami Beach United SUPPORTS** this resolution.

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

Read the Commission documents by clicking [HERE](#) .

**DID YOU KNOW  
THERE'S AN ELECTION RUNOFF?**

# Early Voting Begins June 9

*Special Run-Off Election - County Commissioner, District 5*

There will be a special run-off election for the Miami-Dade County Commissioner District 5 race on Tuesday, June 19. Early voting will be held at Miami Beach City Hall, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, FL, beginning on Saturday, June 9.

View polling schedule below:

- Saturday, June 9 | 8 AM - 4 PM
- Sunday, June 10 | 8 AM - 4 PM
- Monday, June 11 | 8 AM - 6 PM
- Tuesday, June 12 | 8 AM - 6 PM
- Wednesday, June 13 | 8 AM - 6 PM
- Thursday, June 14 | 8 AM - 6 PM
- Friday, June 15 | 8 AM - 6 PM
- Saturday, June 16 | 8 AM - 4 PM
- Sunday, June 17 | 8 AM - 4 PM

Visit the [Miami-Dade County Elections webpage](#) for more information.

## 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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## 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.