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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!



Save the Date
April 16, 2018

Members-Only Soiree
at the Starlight Roof:

Newly renovated
iconic ballroom

at the Miami Beach Resort & Spa, formerly the Doral Hotel

6:30-8:30 pm

details to follow

Not a member? Not a problem!
Click [here](#) to join today!

Save the Date
May 8, 2018

Forum Discussing the
CMB GO BOND:

What is it, how does
it work, and why
should I care?

Miami Beach Woman's Club

6-8 pm

details to follow

March 7, 2018: Another Busy Day at
Commission Chambers!
These are Miami Beach United's Resolutions:

- Agenda Item R5-A Religious Institution Parking Amendment
- Agenda Item R5-B Opposition to changes in CUP
- Agenda Item R5-G Balconies for Life Safety
- Agenda Item R5-L Standards of Conduct amendment
- Agenda Item R5-M Requirements for Commission Items

- Agenda Item R5-N Noise Ordinance Change of Hours
- Agenda Item R7-1 (and R5-D) Waiver of the Historic Preservation Board Application Fee

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

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

Opposition to Religious Institution Parking Amendment R5-A

Executive summary:

There are a number of religious institutions interspersed throughout residential areas. The RM-1 districts cover large areas of the city.

Why It Matters

- Buildings operated by religious institutions may be used not only for regular worship services, but also for a variety of other activities throughout the week that may be permitted by the institution. Parking in many neighborhoods is already in short supply, and increased intensity of use exacerbates this situation.

Miami Beach United is **OPPOSED** to this resolution which makes it administratively easier for religious institutions to obtain parking waivers via the Planning Board and not go to the Commission for approval.

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

Opposition to Changes to the Current Conditional Use Permit R5-B

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 Administrative Review of Balconies for Life Safety Modifications R5-G

Executive summary:

Some older buildings, most notably those historic buildings which contribute to the unique character of our City, have balconies and terraces that do not meet current minimum Life Safety Code requirements for railing height and the maximum width of openings within a rail.

Why It Matters

- In order to provide staff with more flexibility to review modifications to balconies to address the requirements of the Life Safety Codes, the provisions of Section 118-260 are proposed to be modified
- In addition, MBU would like the City to take all steps possible to advocate for a change in state law to exempt Historic Buildings from the new regulations on railings.

MBU supports this resolution to streamline the process for buildings that need to make life safety modifications to their railings and currently subject to Design Review Board review

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

Support for Amendments to the Ordinance Governing Standards of Conduct R5-L

Executive summary:

Currently, City Code Section 2-462(a) provides that, "[f]or a period of two years after leaving [C]ity service, no member of the [C]ity [C]ommission shall be eligible to apply for or to serve as employee, independent contractor, or agent for the [C]ity, or otherwise enter into any contract (other than for voluntary, noncompensated services) with the [C]ity on any matter. There was a recent issue with a former public official from the City of Miami Beach getting a significant job without any public notice.

Why It Matters

- While that is permissible if the Commission approves it with a 5/7ths vote, if they deem it to be in the best public interest, it is at odds with stated goals of transparency.
- The proposed ordinance amendment will require public meetings and input prior to voting on granting a waiver.
- We believe passing this amendment is in the interest of maintaining high ethical standards among elected officials and is reflective of the "Residents Right To Know."

MBU has passed a resolution which **supports** amendments to the ordinance governing standards of conduct

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

Support for Meeting Procedure and Agendas Requirements for Commission Items R5-M

Executive Summary:

The proposed Ordinance provides greater transparency, efficiency, and meaningful participation by the members of the City Commission and the public with regard to items published in City Commission meeting agendas.

Why It Matters:

- This ordinance would establish a best practices requirement that items published in a City Commission meeting agenda will not only include sufficient detail and information for the City Commission and the public to evaluate the items in a reasonable and timely manner, but would sufficiently advise the City Commission and the public of the nature of any requested actions that may be taken on the items.

MBU has passed a resolution which views this as **a step in the right direction**, but it does not go far enough. This ordinance is still too vague and difficult to enforce so modifications need to be made.

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

Support for Amending Noise Ordinance R5-N

Executive Summary:

This proposed Ordinance amends the City Code to prohibit the operation of power tools and landscaping equipment between the hours of 8:00 pm and 8:00 am, instead of the current prohibition that exists between 8:00 pm and 7:00 am.

Why It Matters:

This amendment addresses a longstanding quality of life issue for residents.

Miami Beach United supports this noise amendment.

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

Support for Waiver of the Historic Preservation Board Application Fee R7-1 (and R5-D)

Executive Summary:

This proposed Ordinance would allow the City Commission to waive development application fees for nonprofits, by a 4-7th vote of the City Commission, for a nonprofit art in public places application to the Historic Preservation Board or the Design Review Board so that not-for-profits that benefit the community can reduce their costs.

Why It Matters:

- Miami Design Preservation League (MDPL) is seeking a waiver to install a supergraphic within a Historic Preservation District on the property MDPL leases from the City as the MDPL "Visitor Center" located at 1001 Ocean Drive, Miami Beach, Florida.
- The proposed art installation will greatly enhance the sense of arrival and experience for residents and tourists who visit the Art Deco Welcome Center on Ocean Drive. The public art pieces also underscore the vital importance Art Deco has had on the Miami Beach brand and identity.

Miami Beach United supports these resolutions.

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.

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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.