

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!](#)



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

- Agenda Item **R5-A, R5-B, R5-C, R7-A, R7-I** - Ordinance Amendments for 500-700 Alton Road Projects
- Agenda Items **R5-I and R5-J** - North Beach Town Center - Central Core Comprehensive Plan Amendment and Central Core Land Development Regulations

Want to read the proposed Commission agenda items and get info about the Commission meeting on Wednesday? Click [here](#) .

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

Commission meetings start at 9 a.m. at the Commission Chambers on the 3rd floor of City Hall. There is a Sutnick Hour, at which residents may address the Commission on any subject, from 8:30-9, and 1:-1:30.

**Opposition to Ordinance Amendments
Regarding the 500-700 Alton Road Project
Agenda Items R5-A, R5-B, R5-C, R7-A, R7-I**

THIS IS TIME-CERTAIN AT 10 AM

(Previously C4-F and C4-A)

Executive summary:

The City is seeking to make significant alterations to the code for a massive development project, including but not limited to vacating a public right of way, and increasing height limits, without a public referendum.

Why It Matters

- Miami Beach United objects to the referral of rezoning and land development regulation amendments to the Planning Board unless and until a fully negotiated development agreement, spelling out every detail, has been completed. The Planning Board should have the benefit of complete information before rendering a recommendation.

Restating the original position:

- This development project is important because it sits at the southern gateway to the City of Miami Beach, and is the first thing visitors crossing the MacArthur Causeway will see. Currently, and for the last number of years, the site has been home to a derelict building and surrounding underutilized land. There is a great desire to see these city blocks developed in an appropriate manner; this should be a legacy project.
- Based on a review of the City charter, we believe the proposed transaction violates the charter by circumventing a required public referendum for the purpose of benefiting a single for-profit developer.
- Because of the dangerous precedent that would be set by allowing a tripling of FAR on one property and a six-fold increase (although that number seems to be increasing daily) in the height of a tower on that property, the City charter must be respected and followed by scheduling a City-wide referendum on this project before it is allowed to move forward.

Miami Beach United is **IN OPPOSITION TO** these amendments.

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

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

Opposition to Ordinance Addressing Changes to North Beach Town Center - Central Core Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations

R5-I and R5-J (previously R5-A & B, June 25,
2018 letter, and C4-F)

THIS IS TIME-CERTAIN AT 5 PM

(Previously C4-F and C4-A)

Executive summary:

The City is seeking to make significant alterations to the code governing North Beach Town Center, allowing for more than doubling the current height.

Why It Matters

- While there is much to like in this current version of the Town Center Overlay as proposed in this ordinance, this version still includes spot zoning to benefit a small handful of projects that seek to get to 200' (or in some cases, 220') maximum heights. Even with the public having voted for the increased FAR via referendum, the public believed that new buildings would stay within confines of the 125' foot maximum allowable height as determined by the North Beach Master plan.

- After 43 pages of analysis and recommendations from Allan Shulman, 192 pages of analysis and recommendations from Dover Kohl, collaborative community engagement from nearly 1000 stakeholders, four painstaking years of untold cost and effort, a Citywide voter referendum and a CNU award, the North Beach Master Plan as it was written was unanimously adopted by the Commission. The City should adhere to the will of the voters and residents.

Miami Beach United is **IN OPPOSITION TO** these amendments.

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

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

Miami Beach United Introduces Inaugural Annual "Commission Scorecard"

Tracks Commission Votes To Show How Resident-Friendly the City Of Miami Beach Elected Officials Are

Here's how it works:

Each month, Miami Beach United identifies and tracks issues coming before the Commission. Many of these issues become resolutions, voted on by the Board of Directors, and shared in advance of the monthly Commission meetings with the Mayor and Commissioners (and staff) of the city of Miami Beach. They are also shared with all of you via this mailing list for MBU.

In each case, whenever MBU passed a resolution on a matter before the Commission, the scorecard indicates whether or not an individual elected official supported or opposed the action recommended by MBU.

For ordinances, which require two hearings, only the final vote on Second Reading was recorded and counted.

In some cases, when MBU's recommendations were only partially implemented, that was treated as a neutral action, and that vote was excluded from the total score.

All items were weighted equally when calculating an overall percentage grade for each elected official during the measurement period.

This Commission Scorecard process will commence for the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year with the November 2018 Commission meeting, with the final scorecard to be published at the end of October 2019.

Click [here for more information](#) and [here to view the scorecard](#) in its entirety, including which resolutions were tracked.

2018 MBU Board of Directors

Officers

Nancy Liebman, Chairwoman Emeritus; Co-President
Tanya K. Bhatt, Co-President; Marketing & Communications
Saul Gross, Treasurer
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Jonathan Parker
Kirk Paskal
Ron Starkman



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.