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**We 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!](#)



## February 13, 2019: Another Busy Day at Commission Chambers! These are Miami Beach United's Resolutions:

- Agenda Item **R5-E (formerly R5-R)** - Ordinance Establishing Office of Inspector General
- Agenda Items **C4-AF** - Proposed Ordinance Amendment Increasing Expiration Time Frames of Land Use/Planning Approvals Governing Development Agreements

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.

## Support for Ordinance Regarding Establishing Office of Inspector General Agenda Item R5-E (formerly R5-R)

### Executive summary:

The residents of the City of Miami Beach passed the measure in November 2018 to establish the Office of Inspector General.

### Why It Matters

- There had been concerns initially that the proposed Office of Inspector General would just add another layer of bureaucracy to city government at an increased cost to taxpayers.
- The primary role of the function has evolved from law enforcement/prosecution to one focused primarily on improving the efficiency and quality of services provided by government by incorporating existing internal audit functions and expanding performance improvement capabilities.
- We continue to feel, however, that this position should require a 5/7ths majority vote necessary to remove the IG: not only does this provide a measure of independence, it is a key element in how this role was presented to the residents.
- Overall, we are now hopeful that the independence offered by this new branch of city government will be of benefit to residents.

**Miami Beach United** is **SUPPORTS** this resolution.

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

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

## Opposition to Proposed Amendment Changing Positions on Historic Preservation Board Agenda Item C4-Q

### Executive summary:

This proposed amendment seeks to make changes to the roles and requirements of the members of the Historic Preservation Board (HPB) for the City of Miami Beach, effectively undermining the roles of the Dade Heritage Trust (DHT) and Miami Design Preservation League (MDPL) on the HPB.

### Why It Matters

- It is curious that this is being brought up at all, since the current HP Board was just UNANIMOUSLY reinstated in its entirety; there is no issue that has been articulated which this amendment would resolve.
- These proposed changes could run afoul of Sec. 1.06 of the City Charter which requires approval by a majority of the voters in a Citywide referendum prior to enacting less stringent historic preservation standards or regulations.
- The very purpose of this board is to present knowledgeable and informed voices to guide the City's decisions relative to development's impact on preservation. By eliminating these two most informed seats' voting rights, the amendment effectively silences the very experts who have the broadest and most long-range view of preservation issues.
- Crafting a requirement dictating that the other 5 HPB members may not even be MEMBERS of either MDPL or DHT seems to be a limitation of free speech; it makes sense that someone interested in preservation and historic buildings would be a member of either of those organizations.


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

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

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

#ICYMI - the NEW Miami Beach United [website](#) is live !

Thanks to outstanding marketer and indefatigable MBU founding member Herb Sosa, MBU was launched in 2012 with a strong visual brand and web presence. But, as anyone who works with websites knows, the one drawback to websites is that the moment they go live, they have been surpassed by newer technology! So, after eight extremely good years, we say goodbye to our old site and welcome our new site. Still located at [www.miamibeachunited.org](http://www.miamibeachunited.org), the new site is packed with new features, including a digital "suggestion box" in the footer, a new [YouTube channel](#) (more videos on the way), and an [archive of past newsletters](#) with live links to past resolutions and supporting documents.

If you missed our Sea Level Rise Forum on January 26, fear not. You can view the event in its entirety on the [Miami Beach United YouTube channel](#), and you can view the follow-up email with links to relevant documents mentioned during the presentation [here](#).

## Miami Beach United's 2018 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 for the legislative year 2018.

### 2019 Miami Beach United Board of Directors

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Nancy Liebman, Chair Emerita



### 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.