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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!](#)



## May 8, 2019: Another Busy Day at Commission Chambers! These are Miami Beach United's Resolutions:

- **Letter To Commission re: Family of Ordinances Regulating High Impact Weekends** (pertaining to Agenda Items R5-G, H, I, J, K)
- Agenda Item **R5-Q** - Proposed Amendment Changing Regulations Governing Review of "Operable Storefronts"
- Agenda Item **C4 - U** - Proposed Amendment Changing Who Is Eligible for Positions on Historic Preservation Board
- Agenda Item **C4 - Z** - Ordinance Amendment Changing Positions on Historic Preservation Board, Design Review Board and Planning Board

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.

### **Letter To Commission re: Family of Ordinances Regulating High Impact Weekends Agenda Items R5-G, H, I, J, K**

In addition to the resolutions detailed in this newsletter, Miami Beach United would like to share thoughts on the family of ordinances proposed in response to the unfortunate

events of March 2019 and other similar high-impact weekends over the past few years.

We don't suppose to know what the silver bullet might be to resolving the issue of behavior which ranges from threatening and a nuisance, to downright violence, and which affects not just residents and business owners in and around the MXE district, but also affects visitors and our global brand. We appreciate that you are trying to find the right combination of tools to ensure that we don't have such problematic weeks going forward.

As the only 501(c)4 organization representing residents across the city, we feel it our role to share and amplify the two consistent requests we are hearing repeatedly from residents to be included in the mix of actions as you move forward.

The first is to ensure consistent enforcement of rules and laws already on the books, every day, equally across the city, at all times. This will go a very long way in sending a message, setting expectations, and making it crystal clear what sort of behavior is tolerated, at any time, in the city of Miami Beach.

The second is the preparatory anticipation of, and counter-programming for, high impact weekends where there are not already significant organized public access activities. Consider, for instance, the difference between Memorial Day weekend before the addition of the Air and Sea show, when visitors used to come down to a giant blank canvas that turned into a giant stretch of chaos, vs now, when visitors come and can choose to participate in a significant event based in and around the MXE. The city is not shut down, all are still welcome, and we still have an enormous influx of guests in town for the long weekend. However, even if visitors choose to not participate directly, this programming still flavors and sets the tone for the weekend, and unruly behavior has been significantly minimized versus years prior.

We are confident that with a judicious eye to applying existing regulations and with bold thinking about future events, this repeat crisis can be mitigated going forward, and its memory confined to the dustbin of history.

Download the MBU Letter to Commission by clicking [HERE](#).  
Read the Commission documents by clicking [HERE](#), [HERE](#), [HERE](#), [HERE](#), and [HERE](#).

## Conditional Support of Proposed Amendment Changing Regulations Governing Review of “Operable Storefronts” Agenda Item R5-Q

### Executive summary:

Currently certain types of changes to facades and entrances/windows for businesses in certain zones of the city MUST go in front of at least on Land Use board for approval. While this process safeguards residents from unintended consequences of the proposed changes, and protects the buildings/neighborhood characteristics, there may be an opportunity to improve/streamline the process in certain very specific instances..

### Why It Matters

- Currently the types of projects this ordinance would cover are fairly limited in scope, so the full Land Use Boards reviews may be onerous, in some situations for smaller proposed projects.
- In those instances, providing that the safeguards for residents are incorporated into the newly proposed administrative review, there can be an improvement in cost and expeditiousness of the process.
- The amendment must be revised to include the critical safeguards for residents which are currently provided for in the Land Use Boards' review process; these are:
  - the radius of neighbors to be noticed shall be those within a 375' radius (not the suggested 300' radius of the project)
  - all neighbors with that radius shall be informed of the proposed changes.
  - all neighbors within that radius shall have an opportunity to comment on the proposed project.

**Miami Beach United CONDITIONALLY SUPPORTS** this resolution PENDING INCLUSION OF THE POINTS DETAILED.

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

## Opposition to Amendments to Change the Calculations for North Beach Town Center Micro-Units Density Agenda Item R5-R AND R5-S

### Executive summary:

Zoning in North Beach Town Center has just been approved for massive changes; many of these ordinances were added to the City Code only six months ago. Yet again, however, the Commission is being asked to revise the Code to allow more than what the developers proposed to the City and to the neighborhood residents. This continues an alarming city-wide pattern of getting the City and residents to agree to one proposed development vision, but then coming back after the fact to increase height/density/other allowances which are significantly more than those to which the neighborhood had agreed. In general, there seems to be something quite amiss in a process which allows, a de-facto "bait and switch" effect for major development projects on a regular basis.

### Why It Matters

- The intriguing concept of micro-units may be an excellent option for housing for certain demographic groups. However, the cities in which it has proven to be successful to date have significant differences between them and North Beach as it currently exists. Given that major fact, and that there is no data to determine the success and viability of micro-units in North Beach, it makes no sense to reconfigure the calculations parameters to allow up to quadruple the number of micro-units than originally sold in to the neighborhood residents.
- Changing the calculation parameters in the absence of any empirical data about the viability of this concept in this city in this neighborhood, and without a clearer indication of what the impacts will be not only on access to affordable and workforce housing but also legitimate quality of life concerns such as density, congestion, infrastructure, transportation, parking, etc. as pertain to the entire North Beach community and the City as a whole, is unwarranted and dismissive of the neighborhoods' quality of life concerns regarding these as-yet uncharted waters.
- If the concept is a great success and if more can be reasonably justified based on the results, then amendments can be reviewed at a future date.

**Miami Beach United STRONGLY OPPOSES** this resolution.

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

## Opposition to Amendment to Change the Composition of the Historic Preservation Board, the Design Review Board and the Planning Board Agenda Item R5-W

### Executive summary:

This proposed amendment seeks to make changes to the roles and requirements of the members of the Historic Preservation Board (HPB), Design Review Board (DRB), and the Planning board. Water resources and resiliency concerns are a critically important factor that should be included in any discussion in front of those boards, but the manner in which this need is being addressed is problematic.

### Why It Matters

- This resolution seeks to add a water resources expert to 3 city boards - HPB, DRB and Planning - replacing one of the at-large members of each of those boards.

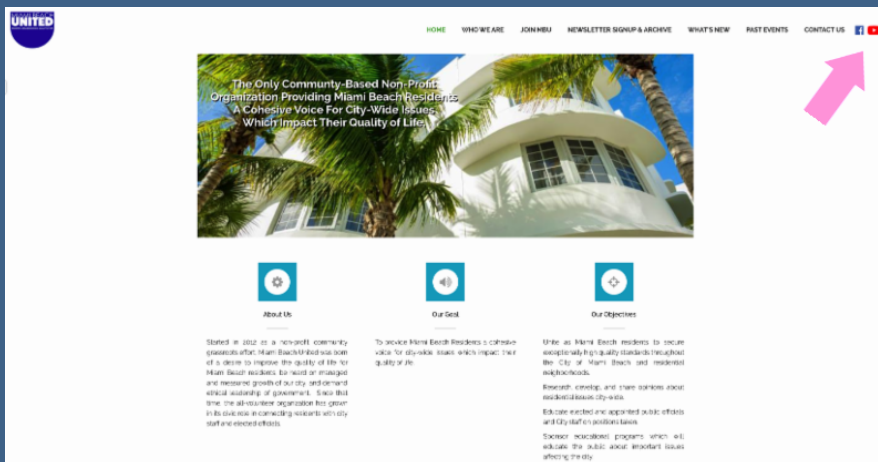
- The City has had difficulty filling professional positions on its Boards due to the fact that the professional experts appointed to these seats cannot be working on, or employed by companies who are working on, City contracts.
- The City would be better served by (1) hiring a water resource expert who could report to City Boards on all proposed projects having an impact on water resources, and/or (2) ensuring that water resource experts are hired to review proposed projects that affect water resources, much the way that developers currently are required to pay for traffic and noise experts hired by the City.
- Moreover, removing seats that can be filled by concerned citizens in favor of technical experts is cause for concern. When there are fewer seats on the Boards for concerned citizens, the deliberations of the Boards tend toward technical concerns rather than the interests of citizens. The proposed change is inconsistent with our democratic form of government.

Miami Beach United **STRONGLY OPPOSES** this resolution.

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.



## 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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## 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.