

## 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!](#)



## June 5, 2019: Another Busy Day at Commission Chambers! There are Miami Beach United's Resolutions:

- Agenda Item **R5-C** - Amendment to Regulations Governing Review of “Operable Storefronts”
- Agenda Item **R5-K** - Amendment to Change the Composition of the Historic Preservation Board, the Design Review Board and the Planning Board
- Agenda Item **R5-O** - Amendment to Change to Qualifications for HPB Positions

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.

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

#### 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, WHICH WAS ALSO PRESENTED AT FIRST READING.

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

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

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

#### 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** continues to **STRONGLY OPPOSE** this resolution.

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

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

Opposition to Amendment of Qualifications for Historic Preservation  
Board (HPB) Positions  
Agenda Item R5-O

**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.
- MBU, however, has no objection to the changes in residency requirements proposed by the Planning Board which eliminated the must "currently reside" requirement which was in the original proposed amendment.

**Miami Beach United OPPOSES** this resolution as currently written.

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



...it's not just another "standard" social event...  
**SAVE THE DATE: 6/13/19 6-8 PM**  
Summer Soiree at The Standard!  
More info coming soon.

#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

##### Officers

Tanya K. Bhatt, President; Marketing  
Saul Gross, Treasurer  
Rhea D'Souza, V.P. Membership, Recording Secretary  
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Jack Johnson  
Adam Kravitz  
Sarah Leddick  
Scott Needelman  
Kirk Paskal  
Sylvia Winitzky

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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.