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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!](#)



January 16, 2019: Another Busy Day at Commission Chambers! These are Miami Beach United's Resolutions:

- Agenda Item **C4-AD** - Proposed Amendments to Exempt Certain Performances from Classification as Live Entertainment in Residential Neighborhoods
- Agenda Items **C4-AF** - Proposed Ordinance Amendment Increasing Expiration Time Frames of Land Use/Planning Approvals Governing Development Agreements
- Agenda Item **R-5R** - Ordinance Establishing Office of Inspector General

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.

Referral of Proposed Ordinance Amendment to Exempt Certain Performances from Classification as Live Entertainment in Residential Neighborhoods Agenda Item C4-AD

Executive summary:

The City wants to explore, over the expressly-stated wishes of the neighborhood affected, allowing live entertainment to be performed at commercial establishments other than those which are licensed for live entertainment

Why It Matters

- Code enforcement already has difficulty ensuring that venues for live entertainment in residential neighborhoods are not a disturbance to residents.
- Significantly expanding the number of locations where live entertainment would be allowable poses an unacceptable risk to resident quality of life.
- Neighborhood protection is reliant on zoning prohibitions and other zoning controls already in place. This narrows the Code Enforcement function to be relatively manageable, though often ineffective. It would be impossible to rely on noise ordinance enforcement to manage excessive noise in establishments citywide without these zoning protections.
- The elected officials of the City Commission should uphold two decades of solid and effective planning and zoning decisions and this advocacy by city residents for their quality of life, rather than giving higher precedence to insistent commercial interests.

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](#).

Opposition to Proposed Ordinance Amendment Increasing Expiration Time Frames of Land Use/Planning Approvals Governing Development Agreements Agenda Item C4-AF

Executive summary:

This proposal seeks to change the window for development projects to get off the ground from 30 months to 30 years with no opportunity for community input, and over a time period wherein the community and residents' needs may have changed dramatically.

Why It Matters

- If an approved development is not constructed within a reasonable time, conditions affecting and affected by that development may have changed sufficiently so that a further review by a land use board is appropriate.
- Staff can make recommendations to the land use boards for the appropriate development timetables, but should not be able to override land use board decisions.
- While bringing all aspects of a development together can pose challenges for a developer, it is important to remember that a development agreement can also pose a level of uncertainty, exposure and vulnerability for a neighborhood as well.
- Moreover, boards offer incentives (variances) on the basis of hardships imposed by the benefits a particular project promised to bestow upon a neighborhood or historic significant asset. If those benefits are not provided, then the process should require the board to evaluate whether any such variances or approvals are still warranted, which this proposed amendment's language states as unnecessary.

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

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

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

Support for Ordinance Regarding Establishing Office of Inspector General

Agenda Item 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 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](#).

HOT OFF THE PRESS - the NEW Miami Beach United [website](#) !

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, 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.

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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.