

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!](#)



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.

January 15, 2020: Miami Beach United's Letter To Commission:

STEPS IN PROCESS TO POSSIBLY PERMIT THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH TO
ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY IN AREAS OF NORTH
BEACH

Agenda Item R7-A

Miami Beach United **STRONGLY urges the commission to pull from today's agenda** item [R7-A](#) , which directs the City Manager to transmit documents pertaining to a large area of North Beach to the County as part of the process to "REQUEST[...] MIAMI-DADE COUNTY [...] DECLARE SAID AREA AS SLUM AND BLIGHT AND DELEGATE REDEVELOPMENT POWERS TO THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH" until there is proper outreach to ensure clarity and accountability to the residents of the City of Miami Beach, especially those most immediately affected in the North Beach community, on what the intentions are (and powers to be conveyed will be) by way of this action.

The proposed area under consideration is not merely one or two neighborhoods; the area is enormous and includes massive amounts of park/ocean-facing public land, thereby having possible consequences for the entire City.

Because of the perceived-as-inflammatory wording in the R7-A documents, the lack of public discourse and education via community meetings or charrettes on what the goals, process, and desired outcome may be, there is significant concern. North Beach at this point is far from a slum in the eyes of most of the people who live in and around these areas. The community has become concerned, as a result of the past few years of development agreements differing significantly from what was agreed to in the Plan NoBe master plan, that this effort, however well-intended it may be, will become another opportunity for big corporate interests to overtake the concerns and desires of the community. We believe that slowing this process down and injecting thoughtful, open discourse and education will yield a better outcome for all.

Moreover, this initiative has significant implications for funding and services city-wide. A CRA sets up a mechanism to redirect tax growth in the area to the area. But that comes at the expense of the remainder of the City funds. If such a large area's property value growth is dedicated to capital and infrastructure projects in that geographic area, the general fund, which is where all City services are funded from, will suffer; consequently so will services city-wide. The expenditure projections for the City's budget indicate a need to sustain continued property value growth citywide (in the area of 5-7% per year) in future years, just to be able to afford current service levels. This past year grew by 3% and even with that growth, the City had to take actions to reduce costs including eliminating services and layoffs.

This deserves more thorough and measured analysis, which will be forthcoming, presumably, analyzing both best case and WORST case scenarios. Once a CRA is approved and bonds are issued it becomes virtually impossible to undo.

Again, the goals and eventual outcome may be laudable and desired, but without public discourse to explain the process, risks, and opportunities, there is no opportunity for engagement and education along the way. There should be no rush to proceed without further community engagement.

This proposal is intended to help curtail unlawful behavior on Ocean Drive that typically takes place during late night and early morning hours, particularly during high-impact events and weekends, and which compromises resident and visitor safety and quality of life.

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



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(Please note that at the time of the resolutions' drafting and adoption, the 2019 board was still in effect, as noted on each resolution document. However, at the time of drafting this newsletter, the 2020 board has been sworn in, as of 1/13/20.)



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. **We share our newsletters with over 8000 subscribers, 75% of whom are registered Miami Beach voters.**