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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!](#)



We hope all of you, our neighbors, friends, colleagues and greater community, are staying safe. If you haven't already signed up for the City's CORONAVIRUS direct emails, or text alerts to your phone, you can do so via [this link](#) on the City's website.

New Resident-Friendly Initiatives from Miami Beach United

Today, Miami Beach United announces two new initiatives that we are proposing to the Commission for adoption. The first concerns what we believe to be a **broken process of legislation which favors developers over residents**, and hampers transparency in the complicated process of getting projects through the City's legislative process. The second proposes **changes to the contracts the City has with the two tow companies** which service Miami Beach. Long a source of frustration for residents and visitors alike, these tow contracts have just undergone review by our new Inspector General and are ripe for re-evaluation and renegotiation.

These two initiatives are a proactive continuation of Miami Beach United's central mission, to close loopholes, prioritize transparency, and give residents a chance to get informed, get involved, and be heard on issues which may affect them.

Our first such initiative, in 2017, was the proposal and subsequent City's adoption of the Residents Right To Know (RRTK) ordinance, which, as the *Miami Herald* wrote at the time, ensured that "The city will be required to email resident associations and individuals who request to be notified when public or private projects might affect their quality of life. That could range from public infrastructure improvements to private real estate developments that require city approvals." As a result of that initiative, there are now a variety of ways in which residents can more easily engage with the City on issues which affect them. Learn more about the RRTK and find ways to connect with the City [here](#).

A recent development in the spirit of keeping residents informed and connected with the City about projects which affect them is the new Neighborhood Affairs Division Residents Portal, just launched on the City's website. As City Manager Jimmy Morales states in his Letter to Commission, "While refreshing the city's website to ensure that all project information was clear and accurate, the newly created web portal is a one-stop-shop where all community projects will now be housed cultivating a seamless experience for residents looking for information." You can read the entire letter [here](#), and visit the new portal, miamibeachfl.gov/nad, [here](#).

Please see below for more information on the **Tow Contracts** and the **Broken Process** proposals. Questions may be directed to info@miamibeachunited.org.

TOW CONTRACTS

A Resolution to Improve The Transparency and Fairness In the City's Towing Contracts

Executive Summary:

Miami Beach United recommends the revision of the City of Miami Beach tow contracts to ensure transparency and fairness by allowing for an RFP process that promotes competition, better rates, and enhanced customer service for residents of and visitors to the City of Miami Beach. Miami Beach United's resolution articulates point-by-point improvements that should be made.

Why It Matters:

- The tow companies have been operating on a month to month basis since 2018.
- The Commission has been waiting for an independent audit to complete before the new permit, allowing for contracts, is created.
- The Inspector General audit was released September 2020.
- This is the perfect time to address needed improvements in the City's tow contracts.

Read the article in the *Miami Herald* about this issue [HERE](#)

Read the MBU Resolution, articulating point-by-point improvements that should be made, in its entirety by clicking [HERE](#)

Read the three Inspector General reports by clicking [HERE](#), [HERE](#), and [HERE](#). Please note: each report has the same cover page addressing all three reports; please look at the 2nd page to see which topic the specific report is covering.

Read the existing City of Miami Beach 2015-2018 Towing Permit document [HERE](#).

BROKEN PROCESS

A Resolution to Amend the Land Development Regulations to Ensure Resident Involvement in the Development Process

Executive Summary:

Development proposals move through the City's process with little opportunity for resident input. The system allows developers to take advantage of a process which allows projects to be approved without any significant requirement that resident concerns be taken into account. In short, the process is broken and it is time to fix it.

Why It Matters:

- The speed and frequency of new development projects, or significant alterations to already-approved projects, racing through the city's legislative process has increased over the past few years.
- For those not intimately involved in the process, it can be very complicated and opaque.
- As residents are dealing with the health and economic impacts of COVID there have been no provisions offered to improve resident input.
- Miami Beach United proposes six (6) simple adjustments to improve transparency and engagement.

Read the MBU Resolution, outlining the point-by-point amendments that should be made, in its entirety by clicking clicking [HERE](#)
Read the Municode, the City's Municipal Code documents for the indicated sections of Code to be adjusted, by clicking [HERE](#)

For Miami Beach United's recommendations on the 6 City of Miami Beach ballot questions please click [here](#).



For voter information, please click [here](#).



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