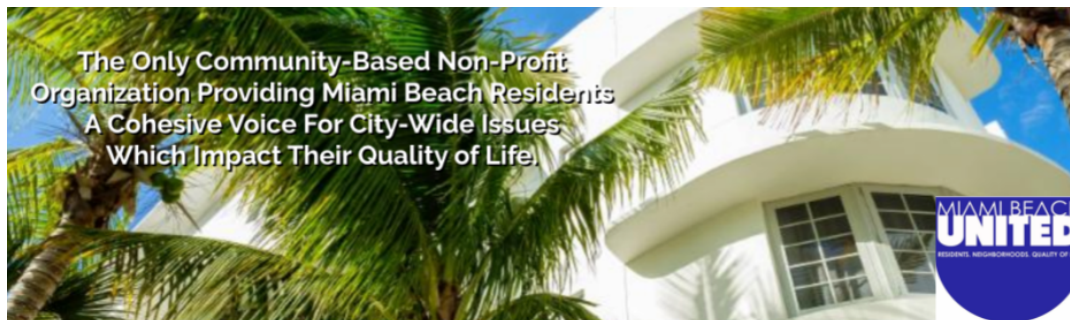




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We advocate for Residents of Miami Beach! Click [here to join us!](#)

**CORRECTION TO R5-J:
MIAMI BEACH UNITED STRONGLY SUPPORTS THIS PROPOSED
ORDINANCE. PLEASE SEE LAST ITEM IN THIS NEWSLETTER
FOR DETAILS!**


Commission Meeting



To participate or provide comments during our Commission Meeting, join the webinar at:
<https://miamibeachfl-gov.zoom.us/j/81392857671>

Via phone:
301.715.8592 or 888.475.4499 (Toll Free)
Webinar ID: 813 9285 7671

**Wednesday, February 10, 2021
8:30 a.m.**

 To watch the meeting live, it can be streamed via Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/cityofmiamibeach) or watched on MBTV channel 660 on Atlantic Broadband or channel 99 on AT&T U-Verse.

The city is following CDC recommended safety guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
In-Person Public Participation Members of the public who do not have access to a computer and wish to provide public comment at the Commission meeting, may appear in-person at Miami Beach City Hall, First Floor Conference Room, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33139. At this location, members of the public will be provided access to a computer to provide public comment (only in audio form) on an agenda item and/or at the Dr. Stanley Sutnick's Citizen Forum from 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
To request this material in alternate format, sign language interpreter (five-day notice required), information on access for persons with disabilities, and/or any accommodation to review any document or participate in any city-sponsored proceedings, call 305-664-2489 and select 1 for English or 2 for Spanish, then option 6 TTY users may call via 711 (Florida Relay Service).

The February 10, 2021 Commission Meeting will be held VIRTUALLY.

To join the virtual commission meeting via Zoom:

Please click this link to join the webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81392857671>
ID is 813 9285 7671#

To join via phone:

US: +1. 1.929.205.6099 or 1.888.475.4499 (Toll Free)
Webinar ID: 813 9285 7671#

It will also be streamed live on MBTV, on the City's website, and on Facebook Live at [facebook.com/cityofmiamibeach](https://www.facebook.com/cityofmiamibeach).

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK ON AN ITEM DURING THE MEETING:

Please click the "raise hand" button on the screen to raise your hand as soon as the item is called. This will pull you to the top of the list and make it easier for the team to find you in the list of attendees.

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 Meeting February 10, 2021 These Are Miami Beach United's Resolutions

VACATION OF 21ST STREET FOR SEAGULL HOTEL

C4-D AND R7-B

Executive Summary:

The questionable legal maneuver of vacating yet another street is being proposed to circumvent Section 1.03c of the City Charter, which prohibits a transfer of FAR to a non-abutting property without a City-wide referendum, for the benefit of a developer. The "vacating of 21st Street" is a legal fiction, since will remain open to traffic and will serve the same function in the future as it does today.

Why It Matters:

- The use of "vacations" by the MB Commission has grown from its use to vacate small alleyways to more recently the vacating city thoroughfares to permit enormous transfers of FAR.
- The City Charter amendment, which requires voter approval to increase allowable FAR on a development site, was intended to relieve the pressure on elected officials to approve FAR increases requested by powerful developers and level the playing field for ordinary residents.
- By its recent actions, the Commission appears to be ignoring the intentions of the voters who passed this progressive legislation.
- This end-run around the Charter has happened too many times in recent years and is subverting the will of residents who specifically approved this Charter

amendment.

Miami Beach United **OPPOSES** this resolution.
Read the MBU Resolution in its entirety by clicking [HERE](#)
Read the Commission documents by clicking [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

COMPOSITION OF NORTH BEACH CRA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

C7-AA

Executive Summary:

A resolution to create an oversight committee for the North Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) giving residents from within the affected community a seat at the table to ensure their needs, goals, and concerns are taken into account as this planning process gets underway. This amendment extends the pool of possible members of the advisory committee.

Why It Matters:

- You cannot redevelop a community WITHOUT significant ongoing input from that community!
- Successful CRAs are achieved through maximum resident involvement and input.
- North Beach residents who will be affected by, but have no financial stake in, the CRA need a vehicle to express concerns regarding the CRA process and its impact on their quality of life.
- The CRA boundaries are so narrowly drawn that it may be difficult to find residents from within the CRA to serve on the committee; extending the boundaries to 300 feet beyond the boundaries will broaden the pool of prospective candidates.

Miami Beach United **SUPPORTS** this resolution.
Read the MBU Resolution in its entirety by clicking [HERE](#)
Read the Commission documents by clicking [HERE](#)

HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD REVIEW OF HEIGHT INCREASES

C7-N

Executive Summary: While it seems that this proposal may have been well intended, we believe it actually does more harm than good, by addressing the review of height increases of over 25 feet, not all height increases, and not including review of massing and scale, prior to review by the Planning Board.

Why It Matters:

- As proposed, the ordinance only lets the Historic Planning Board review amendments pertaining to height increases of 25' or more in a historic district.
- 25' represents a 50% increase in height in many historic districts, which would have an inordinate impact on nearby historic buildings.
- New construction in a historic neighborhood would tower 30' or more over existing historic buildings due to the higher flood elevations required by current City code.
- The ordinance should require HPB review of **any** amendment that proposes **any** height increase in a historic district.

- Miami Beach United **SUPPORTS** the original proposal of the Historic Preservation Board, rather than this version, which proposes "to require HPB review of any proposed amendment that impacts height, massing or scale within the City's local historic districts, prior to review by the Planning Board."

Miami Beach United **OPPOSES** this resolution.
Read the MBU Resolution in its entirety by clicking [HERE](#)
Read the Commission documents by clicking [HERE](#)

STAY-AWAY ORDERS FOR DEFENDANTS

C7-U

Executive Summary: On November 25, 2020, the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court held that judges have no authority to issue standalone stay away orders because there is no explicit statutory provision which would allow them to do so, even when ordered pursuant to a plea agreement among the parties. The inability of judges to order those defendants who commit crimes tied to particular victims or locations, to stay away from such victims or locations, may create potentially dangerous situations which directly lead to additional criminal activity, disorderly conduct and/or quality of life offenses.

Why It Matters:

- Given our serious and increase in safety, violence, and quality of life issues with which the City has been dealing in various neighborhoods over the past few years, this is a very important issue.
- The City has a substantial interest in judges' ability to issue standalone stay away orders and to enforce violations of contempt for such orders, when crimes are committed within the City of Miami Beach, specifically affecting residents, businesses and visitors.
- The types of crimes subject to this include (but are not necessarily limited to) battery, petit theft, trespassing, disorderly intoxication, and open containers of alcohol, the very same which contribute to the chaos in South Beach in particular.

Miami Beach United **SUPPORTS** this resolution.
Read the MBU Resolution in its entirety by clicking [HERE](#)
Read the Commission documents by clicking [HERE](#)

HISTORIC DESIGNATION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL INN

R5-A

Executive Summary: This ordinance amends the land development regulations to allow for the historic designation of the International Inn in North Beach.

Why It Matters:

- The International Inn is a unique architectural gem.
- It provides the opportunity to reinvigorate an under-the-radar corner of North Beach.
- It provides an opportunity for this business to become an economic driver and an important cornerstone of the community.

Miami Beach United **SUPPORTS** this resolution.

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

HEIGHT LIMITS FOR OFFICE USE BUILDINGS IN SUNSET HARBOR

R5-E

Executive Summary: This draft ordinance was prepared by a representative of a property owner in the Sunset Harbour area, who is seeking to develop a mixed-use project with an office component; it includes recommendations from city staff and the planning board. Within the proscribed geographic boundaries, it permits an additional ten feet of height in certain cases provided the development program is not significantly altered from the approved plans. This would permit a developer to increase floor-to-ceiling heights of the office floors to make them more economically viable.

Why It Matters:

- While this is geared to a "pilot project" in Sunset Harbour, we have seen precedents set which then are able to be used as arguments for allowing the same changes in other parts of the city.
- It seems premature to pass such an ordinance prior to the codification of the proposed Sunset Harbour Neighborhood Vision Plan; at that time, modifications can be discussed in context of the approved plan.
- This is one of two draft ordinances being discussed on this agenda regarding development in the Sunset Harbour neighborhood. C4B concerns an overall vision for future development; this one addresses incentivizing office development by allowing additional height. They should be reviewed in tandem.
- As currently drafted, this ordinance does not address quality of life issues such as limitations on usage, noise, etc. that may arise out of this passage, thereby opening the door to unintended consequences and upsetting the balance which has made this neighborhood's renaissance a success.

Miami Beach United **OPPOSES** this resolution.
Read the MBU Resolution in its entirety by clicking [HERE](#)
Read the Commission documents by clicking [HERE](#)

AMENDMENT TO EXCEPTIONS FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR COMPOSITION OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

R5-H

Executive Summary: This amendment proposes exceptions to the qualifications of the composition of City boards and committees which could allow candidates with no ties to Miami Beach to serve on those boards or committees.

Why It Matters:

- Section 4 (c) of this draft amendment effectively removes the requirement that an individual have an affiliation to Miami Beach.
- City boards and committees should be made up of Miami Beach residents and business owners only.

- There are plenty of applicants from our resident pool who are willing and qualified to serve; they should be considered first.
- The only time a non-resident or non-business owner should be considered is if there is absolutely no one else within our resident pool with the necessary qualifications to fill the position.

Miami Beach United **OPPOSES** this resolution.
 Read the MBU Resolution in its entirety by clicking [HERE](#)
 Read the Commission documents by clicking [HERE](#)

SIDEWALK CAFE CRITERIA
R5-J

Executive Summary: The proposed ordinance tightens and makes more stringent the requirements to obtain AND renew licenses for sidewalk cafes, in service of cleaning up the bad actors who take their use of city property for private sidewalk cafes for granted, rather than as a privilege.

Why It Matters:

- This amendment tightens guidelines and sets strict objective identifiable criteria which shall be considered by the city manager, or designee, prior to making the determination to approve or deny the issuance of a sidewalk café permit (or renewal thereof.)
- The ability to operate a sidewalk cafe is a privilege, not a right, and should be made available to only those operators who demonstrate consistent adherence to excellent business practices required by the city of Miami Beach.
- Miami Beach United has long been supportive of codifying and enforcing tighter controls on operators seeking to operate outdoor cafes; indeed several of our resolutions in the past on this subject have encouraged stricter guidelines.

Miami Beach United **SUPPORTS** this resolution.
 Read the MBU Resolution in its entirety by clicking [HERE](#)
 Read the Commission documents by clicking [HERE](#)

2021 Miami Beach United Board of Directors



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