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

Save The Date
Annual Membership Meeting
1/26/22 via Zoom 6-7:30 p.m.
Details to follow; see you there!

City Commission Meeting

The January 20, 2022 Commission Meeting
will be held in a hybrid format - [click here for more info.](#)

To join the virtual commission meeting via Zoom:

Please click this link to join the webinar: <https://miamibeachfl.gov.zoom.us/j/81392857671>

Access ID 81392857671#

To join via phone:

US: +1. 301.715.8592 or 1.888.475.4499 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 81392857671#

It will also be streamed live on MBTV Channel 660 on Atlantic Broadband or 99 on AT&T U-Verse, on the City's website, and on Facebook Live at facebook.com/cityofmiamibeach.

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

Via Zoom, 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. Or via phone, press *9 to raise a hand to be placed in queue to speak.

Want to read the proposed Commission agenda items and get info about the Commission meeting on Thursday? Click [here](#).

Want to contact your elected officials directly? Click [here](#).

Commission Meeting January 20, 2022 These are Miami Beach United's Resolutions:

ESTABLISH A UNIFIED TRACKING SYSTEM FOR DATA PERTAINING TO ARRESTS/CRIMES COMMITTED IN CITY OF MIAMI BEACH

C7-AJ

Executive Summary:

As an initial step towards reducing crime, restoring residents' quality of life, and improving our city's image, having complete, accurate, and accessible statistical data pertaining to the prosecution of defendants arrested for criminal offenses within the City of Miami Beach is critical.

Why It Matters:

- Residents of Miami Beach have repeatedly expressed concern about increased criminal activity which threatens both the quality of life in the City for those who live and visit here, and the perception of Miami Beach throughout the world as a safe vacation and convention/event destination.
- Have complete accurate and accessible statistical data, including that pertaining to the prosecution of those defendants arrested for the commission of criminal offenses within the City of Miami Beach, is a crucial component on which to base sound policy decisions.
- This proposal authorizes the City's Attorney's Office and the Miami Beach Police Department to prepare and execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office, to establish a unified tracking system for this data.

Miami Beach United **SUPPORTS** this resolution.

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

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

ADOPT REGULATIONS ON THE USE OF GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS WITHIN THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH

R5-B - SECOND READING

Executive Summary:

This ordinance seeks to further reduce the use of gas-operated leaf blowers citywide to support the City's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions while improving quality of life.

Why It Matters:

- In line with efforts to reduce emissions, municipal operations have begun transitioning away from gas-powered leaf blowers.
- The city's Public Works Department's Sanitation Division is already in the process of transitioning to electric/battery-powered blowers and expects to replace its existing gas-powered inventory by Spring of 2022.
- This ordinance paves the way for private individual users and business owners to do the same.
- Transitioning away from gas-powered leaf blowers is a positive step for communities and their residents, resulting in benefits including but not limited to reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, improving water quality, and mitigating noise pollution, and promoting operational effectiveness.

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

ALCOHOL SALES - DISTANCE SEPARATION AND DELIVERY HOURS

R5-F - SECOND READING

Executive Summary:

This item seeks to strike a balance between the public safety concerns associated with the sale of alcoholic beverages; the convenience of the City's residents and visitors who desire to purchase alcoholic beverages, as well as the economic vitality of the City's retail stores; and the City's interest in enforcing uniform regulations throughout particular neighborhoods and commercial districts.

Why It Matters:

- Currently liquor retail establishments may be located as close together as 700 ft. As more areas in the city become tourist destinations with new hotels, it is important to manage the proliferation of new liquor stores which often go along with that new development, and the attendant nuisance crimes that seem to follow.
- As online delivery apps make liquor sales accessible virtually around the clock, it is important to ensure that any existing retailers who sell alcohol confine their sales to their permitted brick and mortar store operating hours, to minimize the potential of negatively impacting residents' quality of life.
- Furthermore, MBU urges the Commission to include in the existing definition of retail store operations such as retail and neighborhood fulfillment centers, as well as third-party alcohol delivery applications such as Instacart and DoorDash, etc.; and to require that deliveries be made only to a physical address and not to public areas including parks, streets, and sidewalks.

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

LANDSCAPE NEIGHBORHOOD OVERLAYS - TREE PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION

R5-I - SECOND READING

Executive Summary:

Improving our city's resiliency is a critical goal moving forward. Adding shade trees to our canopy is an important step in that goal, but it should not come at the expense of existing palm trees; it should be an additive step.

Why It Matters:

- It is also important to preserve prominent, iconic palm tree landscapes, which contribute to the unique, individual character of specific neighborhoods.
- This item allows for neighborhoods to have a say in their place-making landscape, rather than have it be dictated with no recourse.

Miami Beach United **SUPPORTS** this resolution.

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

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

**AMENDMENTS REGARDING DEFINITIONS OF CONVENIENCE STORES AND
RETAIL FULFILLMENT CENTERS; CREATE CITYWIDE REGULATIONS FOR
NEIGHBORHOOD AND RETAIL FULFILLMENT CENTERS**

R5-L - SECOND READING

Executive Summary:

When City code was written, the concept of "retail fulfillment centers" did not exist. This seeks to manage permitted uses of retail fulfillment centers in a comprehensive manner.

Why It Matters:

Creating a definition that

- more accurately captures the distinction between retail fulfillment center and a convenience store and
- identifies zoning districts where retail fulfillment centers may be permitted or not,

addresses the need to close any loopholes that might allow warehouse-like fulfillment centers to proliferate in our neighborhoods.

Miami Beach United **SUPPORTS** this resolution.

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

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

EXPANDED NOTICE FOR RESIDENTIAL RENT INCREASES

R5-T

Executive Summary:

This ordinance seeks to establish a required notice period of 60 days (with which all residential landlords must comply) prior to increasing the rental rate of residential tenants beyond a specified percent, thereby ensuring that residents have, if needed, ample time to find other housing and still be in compliance with their 30-day notice requirements.

Why It Matters:

- While this has always been an issue, recent economic realities have put new pressures on tenants as landlords seek to capitalize on market conditions; many

tenants who were previously able to find and secure a residential property in which to reside within the City have been surprised by landlords suddenly seeking sometimes very substantial increases to the tenant's periodic or monthly rental payment.

- Such notice has all too often been provided by landlords to their tenants at the last possible moment, which has forced many tenants into precarious positions.
- This ordinance would establish a mandatory 60 day minimum notice period (which is the maximum time allowable under Florida law) to be given to a tenant by a residential landlord prior to increasing the rental rate beyond five percent at the end of a lease.

Miami Beach United **SUPPORTS** this resolution.

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

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

ESTABLISH A UNIFIED TRACKING SYSTEM FOR DATA PERTAINING TO ARRESTS/CRIMES COMMITTED IN CITY OF MIAMI BEACH

R7-F

Executive Summary:

In the ongoing effort to make sound policy decisions which will help with reducing crime, restoring residents' quality of life, and improving our city's image, sharing data utilized by the Miami Beach Police Department and Code Compliance Department is necessary to assist the Mayor and City Commission in making effective, informed, data-supported decisions.

Why It Matters:

- Residents of Miami Beach have repeatedly expressed concern about increased criminal activity which threatens both the quality of life in the City for those who live and visit here and the perception of Miami Beach throughout the world as a safe vacation and convention/event destination.
- This resolution does not seek any underlying data itself in order to maintain certain sensitive or protected information, including, without limitation, security, infrastructure, investigative, and/or intelligence information which is confidential and exempt from public disclosure under Florida law
- This resolution is not intended to divulge any of the sensitive or protected data or compromise vital departmental functions and/or put crime victim, witness, informant or City employee safety or well-being in jeopardy
- The purpose of this resolution is to permit the Mayor and City Commission to better understand and assess departmental operation in order to make sound policy decisions.

Miami Beach United **SUPPORTS** this resolution.

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

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

FUNDING OF A CONCEPTUAL DESIGN FOR THE BYRON CARLYLE THEATER

R7-N

Executive Summary:

This resolution seeks to immediately initiate the conceptual design options process for the Byron Carlyle theater renovation, to be informed by community outreach, survey remits, and input of industry professionals, using the previously allocated funding of up to \$400,000 from the city's FY 2022 budget, with the final approach and concept to be subsequently presented for approval by the mayor and city commission.

Why It Matters:

- This process was funded via the inclusion of \$400,000 in the City Budget at the end of 2021, and commitments to residents were made by the City to engage in community outreach and study to determine a vision and path forward for the Byron Carlyle.
- The commission committed to a process that will determine the concept and design for an arts and culture center at the Byron Carlyle, and to steps to move forward, without any further delay, with transparent and active community engagement, and to not hold the project hostage to approvals for the community complex on 72nd Street.
- Any attempts to bring "ideas" to the Commission in subsequent months which have not been the result of the aforementioned community input process cannot, by definition, be a transparent solution.
- The commission should not ignore the voices of the community and cultural organizations which have already proposed a vision of what the Byron Carlyle could be; the vote by the CRA advisory committee in support of funding the preliminary study, and the residents of North Beach who want to see the Byron Carlyle come back to life in a meaningful way - not as only a movie theater, and not as a sale to a developer who wanted to add yet more micro units to the Town Center corridor.
- It's time to stop stonewalling and get to work on this project that will add significant value and community benefit to North Beach.

Miami Beach United **SUPPORTS** this item.

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

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

FUNDING FOR 72ND STREET COMMUNITY COMPLEX DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**R7-P****Executive Summary:**

The City is not acting as a prudent fiduciary if it chooses to use every current surplus funding source to pay for an incredibly expensive, discretionary and controversial parking garage and recreational facility. Clearly this puts at risk the City's ability to complete the many unfunded essential infrastructure projects either currently planned or not yet identified.

Why It Matters:

- The 72nd Street Complex project was included in the GO Bond, and sold to voters, with a budget of \$53.8 million (\$64.4 million including soft costs).
- All three bidders who responded to the RFP have come in significantly above that cost as the scope of the project has grown.
- The City now estimates total project costs at over \$100 million if the top ranked bidder (Haskell) is selected.

- The sponsor of this resolution proposes that this enormous funding gap be closed by issuing more debt, and by tapping funds from a combination of an unrelated legal settlement, resort taxes, the general fund, and budget surpluses from other capital projects. These monies proposed could be used to fund project cost overruns; to bolster reserves; to fund a myriad of other unfunded projects of benefit to the community; and to cover budget shortfalls on future GO bond projects needed to maintain critical infrastructure.
- The appropriate solution to this funding shortfall is to redefine the scope of the 72nd Street Complex project and reconfigure the design to fall into the voter-approved funding range. If no such agreement can be reached, the project should be eliminated and the funds redeployed to other projects beneficial to the North Beach community.

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

ENSURE THAT ALL FIVE PARCELS OF THE NORTH SHORE LIBRARY SITE REMAIN UNIFIED, SHALL NOT BE SUBDIVIDED, AND THAT SALE OR LEASE THEREOF BE SUBJECT TO VOTER REFERENDUM APPROVAL

R7-R

Executive Summary:

This ordinance seeks direct the City administration to specify in any Requests For Proposal for the sale or lease of the North Shore Library Site that all five parcels comprising the Library Site, including the three city-owned waterfront parcels located east of the library building, shall remain unified, and shall not be subdivided in any manner for purposes of the sale or lease thereof.

Why It Matters:

- The City is the owner of the property comprised of five parcels, located at 7505 and 7515 Collins Ave, Miami Beach, which is currently the home of the Miami-Dade County Branch North Shore Public Library (the "Library Site").
- Requiring voter referendum approval for the sale or long-term lease of the City's most important and valuable real estate assets is a core value enshrined in the City's Charter; and waterfront parcels cannot be sold, leased, or otherwise disposed without an approval by a majority vote of the voters in a City-wide referendum in accordance with Section 1.03(b)(1) of the City Charter.
- Maintaining the unity of all five parcels for purposes of any future sale or lease of the Library Site will ensure that it is not subdivided to avoid voter input into the sale, and that it will generate the greatest possible sale price by not diminishing the value of the land by subdividing it into smaller parcels without water frontage.

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

ACTIONS REGARDING THE DEAUVILLE

Executive Summary:

The iconic contributing Deauville Beach Resort and Hotel property, classified as a contributing building within the North Beach Resort Local Historic District, is the most visible and egregious (but by no means only) victim of demolition by neglect in our city. This campus, designed by Mid-Century Modern architect Melvin Grossman in 1957 has national and international significance not just because of its architecture, but also because of its cultural and artistic legacy, including but not limited to visits from President John F. Kennedy, Sammy Davis Jr. at a time when Black performers weren't welcome in Miami Beach, and most notably, the broadcast of the Ed Sullivan show in 1964 which helped launch Beatlemania in the United States.

Why It Matters:

Miami Beach United supports aggressive action in support of the five Historic Preservation Board recommendations, including but not limited to:

- Procuring the services of an independent structural engineer with expertise on historic preservation to do an independent site visit and study to help determine what elements of the building could be saved, rather than relying on confirming what the report, commissioned by the owners who seek the structures' demolition, would have the City believe; and to not make any decisions until the independent report is complete.
- Memorializing the interior and exterior architectural details of the Deauville through the use of 3D laser scan that may be used as measured plans should portions be demolished and need to be rebuilt.
- Identify any possible original building elements that may be salvaged including but not limited to the "... dramatic sweeping porte-cochere, the legendary Napoleon ballroom from which the Ed Sullivan show was broadcast, as well as the front of honeycomb pattern, ornamental hollow clay blocks for the ballroom facade facing Collins that have been incorporated into all the previous restoration plans we have seen;" striking elevator doors, etc.

In addition, MBU urges the following additional actions be undertaken by the Commission, including but not limited to:

- Immediately instituting additional safety measures that may be necessary to protect the public in areas not limited to the Beachwalk and Collins Avenue.
- Immediately forcing vacation of the squatters who are currently living in the Deauville and institute effective measures to keep them from returning.
- Strengthening the demolition noticing regulations to include residents and business owners within a minimum of 1 mile radius, and with a minimum of 45 days' notice.
- Removing the demolition process, should it come to that, from the purview of the owners who have shown a flagrant disregard for the rule of law, and for complying with city orders, so that no "mistakes" are made.

Without aggressive, decisive, and swift action, this blatant flouting of the City's rules and regulations, and the scoffing at the rule of law that has been these owners' playbook, will become the norm in a city which claims to value both its architectural heritage and the enforcing of the laws on its books.

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

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



New 2022 board will be sworn in on 1/26/22, after the publication of this email.



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.