The Only Community-Based Non-Profit Organization Providing Miami Beach Residents A Cohesive Voice For City-Wide Issues Which Impact Their Quality of Life

We advocate for Residents of Miami Beach! Click here to join us!

City Commission Meeting

The July 20nd 2022 Commission Meeting starts at 8:30 a.m. with the Sutnick Hour where residents may speak on any topic.

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 <u>facebook.com/cityofmiamibeach</u>.

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 Wednesday? Click <u>here</u>. Want to contact your elected officials directly? Click <u>here</u>.

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



C4 B Discuss Conversion Of Noise Violations From An Excessive And

Unnecessary Standard To A Decibel-Based System Pilot Program

C7 W Resolution To Enforce Unreasonably Loud And Excessive Noise Emanating

From Mechanical Or Electronic Sound-Making Devices In Motor Vehicles, And

Related Signage, Investigation Of Applicability To Special Events

Executive Summary:

These items endeavor to bring a consistent, objective metric to measure sound pollution, and find a way to fairly enforce violations which impact quality of life.

Why It Matters:

Miami Beach United SUPPORTS these two items.

- These two noise control related efforts that propose to develop a clearer definition
 of excessive noise, and to enforce existing state legislation authorizing enforcement
 of excessive noise emanating from motor vehicles seek to address a long-standing
 source of frustration.
- We applaud efforts by the Commission to make Miami Beach a more pleasant place to in which to work, live, and visit.

Read the Commission documents by clicking <u>HERE</u> and <u>HERE</u>.

Referral To The Land Use And Sustainability Committee And The Planning Board -

Ocean Terrace Overlay LDR Amendment

C4 C

Executive Summary:

This addresses the often-overlooked fact that Ocean Terrace, in North Beach, is also zoned as a Mixed Use Entertainment district, as is Ocean Drive in South Beach, and seeks to evaluate if the zoning enacted decades ago is still in the best interest of the surrounding community, or if it will bring hard-to-control unintended consequences as that area becomes rehabilitated.

Why It Matters:

Miami Beach United SUPPORTS this proposal.

- This the referral, and eventual passage, of the Ocean Terrace Overlay LDR amendment as it seeks to prevent the same issues plaguing Ocean Drive from occurring on Ocean Terrace.
- Both Ocean Drive and Ocean Terrace are zoned Mixed-Use Entertainment; this was done decades ago to incentivize new business to help preserve and reinvigorate the neighborhoods.
- Both neighborhoods have benefited from the desired outcome of the initial zoning (although the Ocean Terrace project has not yet commenced), but there have been unintended consequences which have been hard to control.
- Ocean Drive suffers from numerous problems related to its zoning. Crime, unreasonably loud noise, and rowdy behavior by patrons are just some of the many problems inherent in a MXE district; no one wants to see those issues exported to North Beach as the Ocean Terrace project comes online.
- This LDR amendment will eliminate most of the components of a MXE district which encourage undesirable activity.

Read the Commission documents by clicking HERE.

Ordinance Amendment Governing Height Of Rooftop Additions in CD-3 District

R5 A - SECOND READING

Executive Summary:

This ordinance seeks to undo decades of historic protections in certain CD3 districts (a CD3 district in Miami Beach refers to a commercial, high intensity district, many of which fall under historic preservation protections) for the benefit of private commercial gain, and putting at risk the iconic architecture and character of place which makes Miami Beach unique.

Why It Matters:

Miami Beach United **OPPOSES** this ordinance the permitting of multi-story habitable roof top additions in an arbitrarily created 6 block area which spans parts of the Ocean Drive/Collins Historic District, the Flamingo Park Historic District, and the Museum Historic District.

- For over 30 years, existing structures within these historic districts have only been permitted to have habitable one-story rooftop additions, with a maximum floor to ceiling height of 12 feet, with no variances permitted.
- There is no compelling reason to change our longstanding rules respecting historic properties and limiting rooftop additions in these three historic districts.
- This change, if permitted, would predictably be expected to spiral out of control in other areas of our cherished historic districts, undoing decades of thoughtful historic preservation land use management.

Read the Commission documents by clicking HERE.

Ordinance Amendment Governing Demolition By Neglect and Replication

Requirements

R5 G - FIRST READING

Executive Summary:

This item strengthens and clarifies the existing laws governing what happens with buildings that are demolished as a result of neglectful ownership.

Why It Matters:

Miami Beach United SUPPORTS this item.

- This item would strengthen the City's demolition by neglect procedures and provide more specific guidance to both property owners and the Historic Planning Board.
- It would establish clear and objective criteria consistent with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Reconstruction of Historic Buildings, for the Board to evaluate during their review of applications for Certificate of Appropriateness.
- Making these changes will not lessen the ability of the HPB to make decisions on a case by case basis as to how to proceed.
- It will disincentivize derelict owners from trying to circumnavigate the city's laws regarding demolition by neglect.

Read the Commission documents by clicking <u>HERE</u>.

Ordinance Establishing Special Election Date

R5 M - FIRST READING

Executive Summary:

This item seeks to establish the date for the election to fill the late Commissioner Samuelian's vacancy in the event the the Commission chooses to proceed with an election rather than an appointment.

Why It Matters:

Miami Beach United SUPPORTS this item.

- Establishing the Special Election Date for the filling of Commission Group II Vacancy in the event City Commission chooses to fill said vacancy by election is of paramount importance.
- It must be held concurrently with the already-scheduled November 2022 election, not later, or in November 2023.
- Claims that there is not enough time for candidates and voters to engage in a proper election cycle are misnomers, to be generous.
- In normal election cycles, some candidates do not file to run until the last possible date, in September, before the election in November of the same year.
- In England, their entire NATIONAL election cycles last only SIX WEEKS; surely a small coastal city of 90,000 full time residents can manage to pull off an election in FOUR MONTHS.

Read the Commission documents by clicking HERE.

Discuss/Take Action on Filling of Vacant Seat on Commission

Hiami Herald

MIAMI HERALD LETTER TO THE EDITOR

"LET US CHOOSE"

"Miami Beach United urges the City Commission to fill elections vs. appointments, they also overwhelmingly the vacancy created by Commissioner Mark Samuelian's supported elections by at least 70%. untimely passing by holding an election, not by appointment, and not by a hybrid of an appointment until the November 2023 election.

2022, residents could vote on their own representation rather than having a replacement picked by the commission, which is consistent with the voters' overwhelmingly stated will. In 2020, Miami-Dade County asked voters if they preferred elections or appointments when replacing county seats; the ordinance won with voters selecting elections.

Putting this vacancy to the public vote is the right thing to do. The timing allows for early voting on this topic, as with all the other questions on the ballot, for As part of the regularly scheduled election in November the November election. While it's possible there may be a run-off election needed in December, for which voting would be one day only, doing the right thing for the voters and residents of this city now shouldn't be predicated on a "what if' scenario that might not come to pass."

vice president, government affairs, on behalf of the Miami Similarly, when Miami Beach voters were asked about Beach United board

Executive Summary:

The sudden and unexpected passing of Commissioner Mark Samuelian leaves a vacancy on the City Commission which must be filled in the most transparent and democratic manner possible: letting residents vote on who will fill the seat for the remaining 3+ years of the term.

- Ronald Starkman

Why It Matters:

Miami Beach United urges the Commission to fill the vacancy created by the late Commissioner Mark Samuelian's tragic and untimely passing by holding an election, not

by appointment, and <u>not</u> by a hybrid of an appointment until the November 2023 election.

- An election as part of the regularly scheduled election in November 2022 allows residents to VOTE on THEIR OWN REPRESENTATION rather than having a replacement picked by the Commission, which is is consistent with the voters' overwhelmingly stated will.
- In 2020 the county asked the voters if they preferred elections or appointments when replacing county seats; the ordinance won with voters selecting elections over appointments.
- Similarly, when Miami Beach voters were asked about elections vs. appointments, they overwhelmingly voted in support of elections (70-80%).

Putting this vacancy to the public vote is the right thing to do.

- The timing allows for early voting on this topic, as with all the other questions on the ballot, for the November election.
- While it's possible there may be a run-off election needed in December, for which
 voting would be on one day only, doing the right thing for the voters and residents
 of this city shouldn't be predicated on a "what if" scenario which may not come to
 pass.

Moreover, as the City Charter is silent on the point of what happens when a Commission is deadlocked over the issue of a vote vs. an appointment to fill a vacancy,

 Miami Beach United urges, as part of the upcoming Charter review (see item C7 X), that language be added to the effect of, "In the event of a deadlocked Commission, the default will be filling the vacancy by election."

Read the Commission documents by clicking <u>HERE</u>.

North Beach Oceanside Resort Overlay - Comprehensive Plan and LDR

Amendments to Increase FAR from 3.0 to 4.5 In The Area of the Former Deauville

Hotel

R5 N AND R5 O - FIRST READING

Executive Summary:

This proposal, which would need to be put before the voters on the November ballot AND IS THEREFORE SUBJECT TO BEING APPROVED BY THE ELECTORATE, would create an overlay within the North Beach Historic Resort District that would increase F.A.R. by 50% for parcels bounded by Collins and the ocean, and 66th and 68th streets. (For more information on understanding F.A.R., click here.)

Why It Matters:

Miami Beach United, along with the rest of the city, is eager to see the North Beach community surrounding the abandoned Deauville property restored to bustling commerce for residents, tourists, and business owners. However, we **OPPOSE** this proposed overlay for a number of reasons; these are just a few:

- As the City writes on its own website, "Receiving local historic designation in 2005, the North Beach Historic Resort District stretches from 63 to 71 Streets along Collins Avenue. After World War II, when hoteliers were given the official go-ahead by the city to present live performances, this area developed into a major tourist and entertainment attraction populated by large, luxurious resort hotels fronting the Atlantic Ocean." This overlay undermines that historic designation and would irreversibly change the district.
- There is no replication requirement, no requirements to preserve any part of the historic tower or other elements and is a profound step backward in the laws protecting historic properties and the proper redevelopment process in the City.

- This is being rushed to the voters without the proper process of sharing plans, getting public input, working with the community. In too many cases in the past, when a project of significant impact is put to the voters without the fine details being laid out, developers come back asking for more after the approval has been granted. This project in this neighborhood is far too large, impactful, and significant to do incorrectly and improperly.
- To date there has not been any project presented which might warrant a dramatic 50% increase in FAR.
- The buildable square footage allowable under the current FAR of 3.0 as of right already allows for a significantly larger development than currently sits on the land within the proposed overlay (approximately 719k sq. ft. including amenities); increasing the allowable FAR to an excessive 4.5 would take that well over 1 million+ sq. ft.
- The city is asking for the electorate to take an enormous leap of faith no renderings of a proposal have been provided to illustrate what the possible impacts to sightlines, skylines, shade, etc. might be on the surrounding neighborhood from the ocean and the street sides, or for the neighbors to the north and south
- Even as the City proposes increasing FAR by 50%, it is doing so without confirming what, if ANY, public benefit would be provided in return. The reasoning provided by some that "the development itself is an enormous public benefit" is a misnomer bordering on an insult to the electorate's intelligence.
- There are virtually no other parts of the city where there is such a high FAR, other than the Wolfsonian expansion project and the North Beach Town center projects, neither of which are oceanfront property.
- This is a tremendously rushed endeavor; when and if a project gets proposed which might seek additional FAR, that would be the time to begin community outreach, and work through the vetting process of the various city Boards and bring it to the voting electorate to determine the best desired outcome. There is no justification to provide carte blanche before a single rendering of a project has been shared.

Read the Commission documents by clicking <u>HERE</u>, and <u>HERE</u>.

Ordinance Amendment To Remove Internal Audit Staff From Under The Supervision

Of The Inspector General

R5 R - FIRST READING

Executive Summary:

This item significantly weakens the function of the Inspector General, thereby removing any teeth from the Office.

Why It Matters:

Miami Beach United **OPPOSES** this item.

- The Internal Audit function has always had responsibility for auditing city programs, contracts, or expenditures for the purpose of identifying control issues, noncompliance with municipal laws, inefficiency, mismanagement, or fraud.
- The transfer in 2018 of this critical function from the City Manager to the newly created Office of the Inspector General was intended to give the Internal Audit staff the independence needed to freely report on deficiencies in the City's operating departments and insulate them from political pressure in the case of audits of "favored" vendors or external organizations.
- We are frankly shocked at this proposed organization change which is a significant setback to the sacrosanct goal of continuing to increase trust in City government.

Read the Commission documents by clicking <u>HERE</u>.

Leasing of City Property at 1688 Lenox Avenue (.86 Acres) And 1080 Lincoln Lane

North (1.10 Acres), and at 1664 Meridian Avenue for Various Reasons/Income

Streams

R7 C, R7 F, R7 G

Executive Summary:

The city is, once again, proposing to lease (instead of sell?) city properties

Why It Matters:

Miami Beach United is not taking a position on whether or not these items should go to the electorate at some point.

- However, we have serious concerns about the lack of specific information on the process and content of the proposed projects under consideration.
- Each of these, which involve the leasing of public property, would have sizeable impacts on the community, yet residents are being asked to vote on something without any real information on how it might benefit or detract from their quality of life.
- We believe this to be a premature action which requires further review and input regarding specific plans and impacts, and the City should provide much more information to residents on each of them before rushing them onto a ballot.

Read the Commission documents by clicking HERE, HERE, and HERE.

Vacation Of Portions Of Alton Court (The "Row"), Generally Located Between The

Road And 17th Street

R7 K - FIRST READING

Executive Summary:

This item seeks to permit the abutting property owners to aggregate F.A.R. of their properties without going to the voters for approval, as dictated by our charter.

Why It Matters:

Miami Beach United **OPPOSES** this the vacation of Alton Court between Lincoln Road and 17th Street, so that FAR can be transferred across the alley from the east side of West Avenue to the west side of Alton Road.

- The Miami Beach Land Use regulations do not permit transferring FAR between non- contiguous parcels in this zoning district, so what is proposed is not permitted.
- To get around this problem, the applicant seeks to "vacate" the alley known as Alton Court to create a unified development site that spans both sides of the existing alley. But the alley will still be open to vehicular traffic, so this "vacation" is for the sole purpose of increasing the FAR of the applicant's development on the west side of Alton Road.
- The purpose of the City Charter provision that currently 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.
- Clever lawyers for developers have argued that the City Charter doesn't mean what it clearly says, and developers should be permitted to transfer FAR across alleys without voter approval.

The City Commission has placed on the August 23, 2022 ballot a proposed amendment to the City charter which clarifies that "all or a portion of any ... alley, may not be vacated... if it has the effect of aggregating the floor area of any unified abutting parcels, unless such

aggregation of floor area is first approved by a vote of the electors of the City of Miami Beach." This, clearly, is an attempt to do an end-run around a proposed strengthening of the Charter language.

Read the Commission documents by clicking <u>HERE.</u>

Compiling A Database Of Conditional Use Permits (CUPs) Issued By The Planning

Board

R7 M - FIRST READING

Executive Summary:

This ordinance seeks to make getting information about businesses throughout the city easier for residents to access.

Why It Matters:

Miami Beach United SUPPORTS this item which directs the City to

- Compile a database of conditional use permits (CUPs) issued by the Planning Board and to make them readily accessible to the general public.
- Doing so ehances the availability of information and furthers the objectives of our Residents Right to Know Ordinance.

Read the Commission documents by clicking <u>HERE</u>.

Resolution Repealing The Submission Of A Previously Approved Ballot Question

Amending The Ability Of The Commission To Vote For Vacations And Replace It

With A Ballot Question In November With Wording That Vacations Require Voter

Approval Only If They Are Used To Increase The FAR Of An Abutting Parcel

R7 Q and R7 W - FIRST READING

Executive Summary:

A Commissioner is seeking to undo a settled Commission vote that wasn't agreeable and replace it with one that he deems to be more favorable.

Why It Matters:

Miami Beach United **OPPOSES** this latest ballot question sleight-of-hand seeking to allow the FAR on a piece of property to be increased above what is allowed under the code, without voter approval.

- According to Roberts Rules, which govern conduct at government meetings, "The motion to reconsider may be made only by a member who voted on the prevailing side in the original vote."
- In this instance, the sponsoring Commissioner was on the losing side of a 4-3 Commission vote which approved putting on the August 23, 2022 ballot a change to the City charter requiring voter approval to aggregate abutting public and private properties.
- This is a strategy that has been used with increasing frequency by the Commission to transfer FAR associated with public land to private developers.
- Therefore, per Roberts Rules, since the Commissioner was on the losing side of that vote, he should not have the right to reconsider the vote; reconsideration must be done only by a commissioner on the winning side of the vote who changed their mind, which is not the case, regardless of what semantics may be used to dance around this reality.

Moreover, this latest ballot question being proposed to replace the one the Commissioner is attempting to repeal, (among a blizzard of FAR increases already on the November 8, 2022 ballot), seeks to allow transfers of FAR from one private property to another non-abutting private property, by pretending to vacate public land between the two properties.

Read the Commission documents by clicking HERE and HERE.

Approval For Any Sale Of Lease Of Ten (10) Years Of More Of City-Owned Property Located Between West 43rd Street And West 40th Street, From Pine Tree Drive On The East To Alton Road On The West

R7 S - FIRST READING

Executive Summary:

This item seeks to gauge voter's interest in changing the use and functionality of surface parking lots along the 41st St. business corridor by putting the question to the voters in November.

Why It Matters:

Miami Beach United **SUPPORTS** this item.

- This item asks the electorate for voter approval regarding the sale or lease of ten years or more of city owned property located between 43rd St and 40th St, aka parking lots supporting the business district on 41st St. T
- The sale or lease of these parking lots could severely impact retail businesses in this district driving away customers who are unable to find parking a comfortable walking distance from shops, banks, offices, medical buildings.
- Moreover. we would like to see this cautious approach applied citywide.

Read the Commission documents by clicking HERE.

Increasing FAR From 2.0 To Maximum Of 4.5 For Redevelopments Along Ocean

Drive And East Side Of Collins Avenue, Between 5th And 16th Streets

R7 T - FIRST READING

Executive Summary:

This item seeks to gauge voter's interest in more than doubling allowable F.A.R. in service of reimagining the Ocean Drive MXE corridor by putting the question to the voters in November.

Why It Matters:

Miami Beach United does not oppose placing issues before the electorate, but we have **SERIOUS concerns** about this item.

- This proposes to increase FAR from a maximum of 2.0 to a maximum of 4.5 for redevelopments along Ocean Drive and the east side of Collins Avenue, between 5th And 16th Streets, in order to to provide a bonus FAR incentive only for owners who agree to completely prohibit all alcohol sales after midnight, outdoor entertainment, and short-term rentals, with design/operational criteria established by ordinance.
- While on the surface it may seem appealing to eliminate some of the very issues that have caused havoc on Ocean Drive, this would allow an increase of more than double the currently allowable far, and have no height limits.
- Moreover, as proposed, the language also implies an absence of the usual reviews by land use boards ("design and operational criteria established by

ordinance"), in favor of granting that power to whatever Commission is seated at the time, and its general ambiguity affords the possibility of development without sufficient input or review.

• This would effectively destroy the iconic picture postcard skyline that is the image for Miami Beach's unique "fun in the sun" brand.

Read the Commission documents by clicking <u>HERE</u>.

Increase Maximum FAR From 2.0 To 2.75 In RPS4 District In South Of Fifth

Neighborhood As An Incentive For The Conversion Of Existing Hotel Properties

Into Residential Use

R7 U - FIRST READING

Executive Summary:

This item seeks to gauge voter's interest in increasing FAR in the SOFNA neighborhood in service of converting existing Hotel properties to residential use by putting the question to the voters in November.

Why It Matters:

Miami Beach United SUPPORTS this item.

- This zoning change is also supported by the South of Fifth Neighborhood Association (SOFNA), since this will enable the property owner to replace the existing 224 room Marriott Stanton Hotel with a new, approximately 39-unit residential building, with the same square footage and height of the existing structure.
- Short term rentals would be prohibited.
- We are in agreement with SOFNA, who discuss in their resolution the benefits of a reduction in the number of transients in this predominantly residential area.
- This requires voter approval, since zoning was changed from an FAR of 3.0 to an FAR of 2.0 after the original building was constructed in 2002, and a 2.75 FAR is needed to maintain the same footprint for a new building and not penalize the property owner for this desirable change.

Read the Commission documents by clicking <u>HERE</u>.

Increase FAR From 1.0 To 2.0 In 1st Street Overlay Located East Side Of

Washington Avenue Between 1st And 2nd Streets

R7 V - FIRST READING

Executive Summary:

This item seeks to gauge voter's interest in increasing allowable F.A.R. in South of Fifth Neighborhood in service of incentivizing existing residential or office use properties by putting the question to the voters in November.

Why It Matters:

Miami Beach United is not taking a position on whether or not these items should go to the electorate but we **OPPOSE** the proposed F.A.R. change.

- This effort appears to be designed primarily to allow the existing office building at 119 Washington Avenue to enclose outdoor spaces for the addition of more offices.
- The building, under the original zoning, was built to a F.A.R. of 2.0; this request would increase its F.A.R. above even what was allowed before downzoning to an FAR of 1.0.

- The current zoning is intended to preserve the low-scale character of the interior sections of the South of Fifth neighborhood.
- Current zoning laws should be respected.

Read the Commission documents by clicking HERE.

R7 Y A Charter Amendment Requiring That Vacancies Be Filled By Special

Election, And Not By Appointment, Within 90 Days After A 30 Day Initial Period For Calling The Election.

R7 Z A Charter Amendment Requiring There To Be A Special Election If A Majority

Of The Commission Cannot Agree On Whether To Appoint Or Have A Special

Election Or A Majority Cannot Agree On Whom To Appoint.

C7 X A Resolution Of The Mayor And City Commission Of The City Of Miami Beach, Florida, Creating The City Of Miami Beach Ad Hoc Charter Review And Revision Board; And Providing For The Manner Of Its Appointment And The Terms Of Office Of Its Members

Executive Summary:

The City is trying to find a resolution to the Commission vacancy created by the untimely passing of the late lamented Commissioner Mark Samuelian.

Why It Matters:

Miami Beach United **SUPPORTS** "Submitting to the electorate a Charter Amendment requiring that vacancies be filled by special election, and not by appointment, within 90 days after a 30-day initial period for calling the election." (Agenda Item R7Y).

- Miami Beach United notes that the residents of Miami Beach have repeatedly expressed their desire to fill vacancies in elective office via elections and not appointment, most recently in the 2020 Miami-Dade County referendum relating to exactly the same issue regarding vacant County Commission seats.
- At a time when American democracy is under attack, Miami Beach's elected officials should always fight for more democracy, not less.

As a technical point, Miami Beach United suggests that the 90-day requirement should be changed to "as soon as practicable, but in no event later than the next scheduled general or city election." This is because a strict 90-day limit might have unforeseen consequences (such as that the 90 days might fall only shortly before an election would have been held anyway).

Miami Beach United **OPPOSES** "Submitting to the electorate a Charter Amendment requiring there to be a special election if a majority of the Commission cannot agree on whether to appoint or have a special election or a majority cannot agree on whom to appoint." (Agenda Item R7Z).

 Although appealing at first glance, Miami Beach United notes that R7Z is too limited and there is no reasonable rationale as to (a) why it only applies to vacancies not caused by resignation and (b) why the default election should be the next city general election.

Miami Beach United believes that if the Commission cannot pass R7Y (clearly establishing elections for vacancies), then the issue should be part of the Charter Review process proposed by Commissioner Fernandez in **Agenda Item C7X**, rather than put to the voters as a slapdash solution which only applies in a limited circumstances (i.e. not

encompassing vacancies caused by resignation) and could potentially result in almost two year vacancies, when there would clearly be earlier opportunities to hold an election economically.

Read the Commission documents by clicking HERE, HERE, and HERE.

Approval Of A General Obligation Bond (\$ Not Shown) To Fund Arts And Cultural

Institutions

R7 AA - FIRST READING

Executive Summary:

This item seeks to gauge voter's interest in approving a General Obligation (G.O.) Bond in service of funding arts and cultural institutions by putting the question to the voters in November.

Why It Matters:

Miami Beach United **OPPOSES** this ballot question.seeking to approve authorizing a General Obligation Bond (G.O. Bond) to construct and improve facilities for arts and cultural institutions.

- While MBU believes it is important to financially support arts and cultural organizations, and their facilities, we do not consider the G.O. Bond process the correct avenue to appropriate funding for this purpose.
- MBU feels that the commission's ordinary budgeting process, where all the City's capital and operating needs are ranked and prioritized, is better suited to provide funding for projects to create or maintain facilities for arts and culture, and to support arts and cultural organizations.
- Moreover, Resolution R7 AA lacks the details and information that would allow the electorate to consider whether incurring debt is justified, since no specific projects, facilities, organizations, funding amounts, or plans are provided.

Read the Commission documents by clicking HERE.









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.

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