

MIAMI BEACH

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Staff Report & Recommendation

Design Review Board

TO: DRB Chairperson and Members

DATE: October 02, 2019

FROM: Thomas R. Mooney, AICP
Planning Director



SUBJECT: DRB19-0450
4701 Meridian Avenue—Ritz Carlton Residences

DRB19-0450, 4701 Meridian Avenue—Ritz Carlton residences. An application has been filed requesting Design Review Approval for the installation of a new monument sign including a variance to reduce the required front setback.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval with conditions

Approval of the variance request

HISTORY:

On January 8, 2013 the Design Review Board reviewed and approved the partial demolition, renovation, and adaptive re-use of the former hospital site as a new multifamily residential development, retaining existing nonconforming height, setbacks, floor area, and off-street parking, pursuant to DRB22942.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Lots 1 thru 16, Block 10 and Lots 11 thru 17, Block 13 of "Nautilus Addition of Miami Beach Bay Shore Co." According to the Plat Thereof, as Recorded in Plat Book 8, Page 130, of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida.

SITE DATA:

Zoning:	RM-1
Future Land Use:	RM-1
Lot Size:	185,788 SF
Existing FAR:	483,278 SF / 2.60* - Existing Non-Conforming (Max FAR = 1.25)
Height:	120 feet
Use:	Multifamily – 122 units, 318 parking spaces, and accessory uses.

SURROUNDING PROPERTIES:

East: Surprise Lake
North: Surprise Lake
South: Ritz Carlton villas
West: Ritz Carlton villas

THE PROJECT:

The applicant has submitted plans entitled "Final Submittal Monumental Signage Setback Variance", as prepared by **Stantec Architecture**, dated August 05, 2019.

The applicant is proposing the construction of a new detached monument at a reduced setback to mark its westside entrance to the residential complex.

The applicants is requesting the following variance:

1. A variance to reduce by 3'-6" the minimum required front setback of 10'-0" in order to construct a new detached monument sign at 6'-6" from the front property line facing Meridian Avenue / West 47th Street.
 - Variance requested from:

Sec. 138-19. - Detached sign.

Detached signs are signs not attached to or painted on a building but which are affixed to the ground. A sign attached to a surface detached from a building, such as a fence or wall, shall be considered a detached sign. All sides of a detached sign displaying signage will be calculated towards the max area. Such signs shall be governed by the following chart:

Maximum area RM (1-2), Detached Sign, Maximum area: 15 square feet.

Setback Requirements (1) Front yard: 10 feet.

The variance is to place the monument sign in a manner that is visible to oncoming traffic. The residential complex is unique not only for its former past life as a hospital, but in its vast land area occupying nearly 4.5 acres abutting Surprise Lake and resting north of a quiet, RS-4 zoned single family residential neighborhood.

As designed, the structure is proposed as a non-illuminated rectilinear black box with raised bronze letters and logo signifying the Ritz Carlton Residences mounted on a low wall (2'-0" high) to create a clear distinction between public and private property. The design of the address sign will not block the view corridors and will simply mark the building entrances with a clear line of sight from outside along the curving right-of-way. Staff is supportive of the variance.



Additionally, Section 138-19 of the Land Development Regulations allows for monument signs to be permitted higher than 5'-0" and up to 10'-0" from CMB grade when reviewed through the design review process. The proposed monument sign, attached to an existing low wall, measures 7'-1" from CMB grade (4.22' NGVD), as indicated on plans. However, the elevation of the sidewalk is 5.8' NGVD, as per survey submitted. Staff is supportive of the additional height for the sign, given its limited nature, and the massive residential complex of which it will identify.

PRACTICAL DIFFICULTY AND HARDSHIP CRITERIA

The applicant has submitted plans and documents with the application that **DO** satisfy Article 1, Section 2 of the Related Special Acts, allowing the granting of the requested variances if the Board finds that practical difficulties exist with respect to implementing the proposed project at the subject property.

The applicant has submitted plans and documents with the application that also **DO** indicate the following, as they relate to the requirements of Section 118-353(d), Miami Beach City Code:

- That special conditions and circumstances exist which are peculiar to the land, structure, or building involved and which are not applicable to other lands, structures, or buildings in the same zoning district;
- That the special conditions and circumstances do not result from the action of the applicant;
- That granting the variance requested will not confer on the applicant any special privilege that is denied by this Ordinance to other lands, buildings, or structures in the same zoning district;
- That literal interpretation of the provisions of this Ordinance would deprive the applicant of rights commonly enjoyed by other properties in the same zoning district under the terms of this Ordinance and would work unnecessary and undue hardship on the applicant;
- That the variance granted is the minimum variance that will make possible the reasonable use of the land, building or structure;
- That the granting of the variance will be in harmony with the general intent and purpose of this Ordinance and that such variance will not be injurious to the area involved or otherwise detrimental to the public welfare; and
- That the granting of this request is consistent with the comprehensive plan and does not reduce the levels of service as set forth in the plan.
- The granting of the variance will result in a structure and site that complies with the sea level rise and resiliency review criteria in chapter 133, article II, as applicable.

COMPLIANCE WITH ZONING CODE:

A preliminary review of the project indicates that the application, as proposed, appears to be inconsistent with the following section of the City Code, aside from the requested variances as noted herein this application:

1. As per survey submitted, grade elevation for the property is 5.8' NGVD. Plans shall be revised at the time of the building permit to indicate maximum height approved from 5.8' NGVD.
2. Approval of permit one monument signs to be up to 10'-0" in height from CMB Grade

The above noted comments shall not be considered final zoning review or approval. These and all zoning matters shall require final review and verification by the Zoning Administrator prior to the issuance of a Building Permit.

COMPLIANCE WITH DESIGN REVIEW CRITERIA:

Design Review encompasses the examination of architectural drawings for consistency with the criteria stated below with regard to the aesthetics, appearances, safety, and function of the structure or proposed structures in relation to the site, adjacent structures and surrounding community. Staff recommends that the following criteria are found to be satisfied, not satisfied or not applicable, as hereto indicated:

1. The existing and proposed conditions of the lot, including but not necessarily limited to topography, vegetation, trees, drainage, and waterways.
Not Satisfied; the applicant is requesting one variance from the Board.
2. The location of all existing and proposed buildings, drives, parking spaces, walkways, means of ingress and egress, drainage facilities, utility services, landscaping structures, signs, and lighting and screening devices.
Not Satisfied; the applicant is requesting one variance from the Board.
3. The dimensions of all buildings, structures, setbacks, parking spaces, floor area ratio, height, lot coverage and any other information that may be reasonably necessary to determine compliance with the requirements of the underlying zoning district, and any applicable overlays, for a particular application or project.
Not Satisfied; the applicant is requesting one variance from the Board.
4. The color, design, selection of landscape materials and architectural elements of Exterior Building surfaces and primary public interior areas for Developments requiring a Building Permit in areas of the City identified in section 118-252.
Not Satisfied; the applicant is requesting one variance from the Board.
5. The proposed site plan, and the location, appearance and design of new and existing Buildings and Structures are in conformity with the standards of this Ordinance and other applicable ordinances, architectural and design guidelines as adopted and amended periodically by the Design Review Board and Historic Preservation Boards, and all pertinent master plans.
Not Satisfied; the applicant is requesting one variance from the Board.
6. The proposed Structure, and/or additions or modifications to an existing structure, indicates a sensitivity to and is compatible with the environment and adjacent Structures, and enhances the appearance of the surrounding properties.
Not Satisfied; the applicant is requesting one variance from the Board.
7. The design and layout of the proposed site plan, as well as all new and existing buildings shall be reviewed so as to provide an efficient arrangement of land uses. Particular attention shall be given to safety, crime prevention and fire protection, relationship to the surrounding neighborhood, impact on contiguous and adjacent Buildings and lands, pedestrian sight lines and view corridors.
Satisfied

8. Pedestrian and vehicular traffic movement within and adjacent to the site shall be reviewed to ensure that clearly defined, segregated pedestrian access to the site and all buildings is provided for and that all parking spaces are usable and are safely and conveniently arranged; pedestrian furniture and bike racks shall be considered. Access to the Site from adjacent roads shall be designed so as to interfere as little as possible with traffic flow on these roads and to permit vehicles a rapid and safe ingress and egress to the Site.
Satisfied
9. Lighting shall be reviewed to ensure safe movement of persons and vehicles and reflection on public property for security purposes and to minimize glare and reflection on adjacent properties. Lighting shall be reviewed to assure that it enhances the appearance of structures at night.
Not Satisfied
10. Landscape and paving materials shall be reviewed to ensure an adequate relationship with and enhancement of the overall Site Plan design.
Satisfied
11. Buffering materials shall be reviewed to ensure that headlights of vehicles, noise, and light from structures are adequately shielded from public view, adjacent properties and pedestrian areas.
Satisfied
12. The proposed structure has an orientation and massing which is sensitive to and compatible with the building site and surrounding area and which creates or maintains important view corridor(s).
Not Satisfied; the applicant is requesting one variance from the Board.
13. The building has, where feasible, space in that part of the ground floor fronting a street or streets which is to be occupied for residential or commercial uses; likewise, the upper floors of the pedestal portion of the proposed building fronting a street, or streets shall have residential or commercial spaces, shall have the appearance of being a residential or commercial space or shall have an architectural treatment which shall buffer the appearance of the parking structure from the surrounding area and is integrated with the overall appearance of the project.
Satisfied
14. The building shall have an appropriate and fully integrated rooftop architectural treatment which substantially screens all mechanical equipment, stairs and elevator towers.
Satisfied
15. An addition on a building site shall be designed, sited and massed in a manner which is sensitive to and compatible with the existing improvement(s).
Not Applicable
16. All portions of a project fronting a street or sidewalk shall incorporate an architecturally appropriate amount of transparency at the first level in order to achieve pedestrian compatibility and adequate visual interest.
Satisfied

17. The location, design, screening and buffering of all required service bays, delivery bays, trash and refuse receptacles, as well as trash rooms shall be arranged so as to have a minimal impact on adjacent properties.
Not Applicable
18. In addition to the foregoing criteria, subsection [118-]104(6)(t) of the city Code shall apply to the design review board's review of any proposal to place, construct, modify or maintain a wireless communications facility or other over the air radio transmission or radio reception facility in the public rights-of-way.
Not Applicable
19. The structure and site complies with the sea level rise and resiliency review criteria in Chapter 133, Article II, as applicable.
Not Satisfied; see below

COMPLIANCE WITH SEA LEVEL RISE AND RESILIENCY REVIEW CRITERIA

Section 133-50(a) of the Land Development establishes review criteria for sea level rise and resiliency that must be considered as part of the review process for board orders. The following is an analysis of the request based upon these criteria:

- (1) A recycling or salvage plan for partial or total demolition shall be provided.
Not Satisfied
A recycling plan shall be provided as part of the submittal for a demolition/building permit to the building department.
- (2) Windows that are proposed to be replaced shall be hurricane proof impact windows.
Satisfied
- (3) Where feasible and appropriate, passive cooling systems, such as operable windows, shall be provided.
Satisfied
- (4) Whether resilient landscaping (salt tolerant, highly water-absorbent, native or Florida friendly plants) will be provided.
Satisfied
- (5) Whether adopted sea level rise projections in the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Action Plan, as may be revised from time-to-time by the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact, including a study of land elevation and elevation of surrounding properties were considered.
Satisfied
- (6) The ground floor, driveways, and garage ramping for new construction shall be adaptable to the raising of public rights-of-ways and adjacent land.
Satisfied
- (7) Where feasible and appropriate, all critical mechanical and electrical systems shall be located above base flood elevation.
Satisfied

- (8) Existing buildings shall be, where reasonably feasible and appropriate, elevated to the base flood elevation.

Not Applicable

- (9) When habitable space is located below the base flood elevation plus City of Miami Beach Freeboard, wet or dry flood proofing systems will be provided in accordance with Chapter of 54 of the City Code.

Satisfied

- (10) Where feasible and appropriate, water retention systems shall be provided.

Not Satisfied; as part of the civil engineering design to be provided at time of permit.

STAFF ANALYSIS:

DESIGN REVIEW

The applicant is proposing a new monument sign for the site facing West 47th Street for which a setback variance is requested.

As identified under the 'Project' section of the recommendation, staff is supportive of the proposed monument sign. Staff has no design concerns and recommends approval of the waiver for additional height.

VARIANCE ANALYSIS:

As identified under the 'Project' section of the recommendation, staff is supportive of the variance requested for the proposed monument sign.

RECOMMENDATION:

In view of the foregoing analysis, staff recommends the requested variances be **approved** and the design be **approved**, subject to the conditions enumerated in the attached Draft Order, which address the inconsistencies with the aforementioned Design Review criteria, Sea Level Rise, and Practical Difficulty and Hardship criteria, as applicable.

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD
City of Miami Beach, Florida

MEETING DATE: October 02, 2019

FILE NO: DRB19-0450

PROPERTY: **4701 Meridian Avenue—Ritz Carlton Residences**

APPLICANT: Lionheart Capital LLC

LEGAL: Lots 1 thru 16, Block 10 and Lots 11 thru 17, Block 13 of "Nautilus Addition of Miami Beach Bay Shore Co." According to the Plat Thereof, as Recorded in Plat Book 8, Page 130, of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida.

IN RE: An application has been filed requesting Design Review Approval for the installation of a new monument sign including a variance to reduce the required front setback

ORDER

The City of Miami Beach Design Review Board makes the following FINDINGS OF FACT, based upon the evidence, information, testimony and materials presented at the public hearing and which are part of the record for this matter:

I. Design Review

- A. The Board has jurisdiction pursuant to Section 118-252(a) of the Miami Beach Code. The property is not located within a designated local historic district and is not an individually designated historic site.
- B. Based on the plans and documents submitted with the application, testimony and information provided by the applicant, and the reasons set forth in the Planning Department Staff Report, the project as submitted is inconsistent with Design Review Criteria 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 12, and 19 in Section 118-251 of the Miami Beach Code.
- C. Based on the plans and documents submitted with the application, testimony and information provided by the applicant, and the reasons set forth in the Planning Department Staff Report, the project as submitted is inconsistent with the Sea Level Rise Criteria 1, 10, 11, and 12 in Section 133-50(a) of the Miami Beach Code.
- D. The project would be consistent with the criteria and requirements of Section 118-251 and/ or Section 133-50(a) if the following conditions are met:

1. Revised elevation, site plan, and floor plan drawings for the proposed new development at 4701 Meridian Avenue shall be submitted, at a minimum, such drawings shall incorporate the following:
 - a. The final design and details of the signs shall be provided; individually mounted, brushed aluminum channel letters shall be required, subject to the review and approval of staff. No exterior disconnect switches shall be allowed. Any required electric switchbox shall be placed inside the structure and shall not be visible from the right-of-way.
 - b. The final design and details including samples and color selection of the proposed monument sign shall be submitted in a manner to be reviewed and approved by staff consistent with the Design Review Criteria and/or the directions from the Board.
 - c. A copy of all pages of the recorded Final Order shall be scanned into the plans submitted for building permit, and shall be located immediately after the front cover page of the permit plans.
 - d. Prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy, the project Architect shall verify, in writing, that the subject project has been constructed in accordance with the plans approved by the Planning Department for Building Permit.

In accordance with Section 118-262, the applicant, or the city manager on behalf of the City Administration, or an affected person, Miami Design Preservation League or Dade Heritage Trust may seek review of any order of the Design Review Board by the City Commission, except that orders granting or denying a request for rehearing shall not be reviewed by the Commission.

II. Variance(s)

- A. The applicant filed an application with the Planning Department for the following variance(s) which were either approved by the Board with modifications, or denied:

The following variance was approved by the Board:

1. A variance to reduce by 3'-6" the minimum required front setback of 10'-0" in order to construct a new detached monument sign at 6'-6" from the front property line facing Meridian Avenue / West 47th Street.
- B. The applicant has submitted plans and documents with the application that satisfy Article 1, Section 2 of the Related Special Acts, allowing the granting of a variance if the Board finds that practical difficulties exist with respect to implementing the proposed project at the subject property.

The applicant has submitted plans and documents with the application that also indicate the following, as they relate to the requirements of Section 118-353(d), Miami Beach City Code:

That special conditions and circumstances exist which are peculiar to the land, structure, or building involved and which are not applicable to other lands, structures, or buildings in the same zoning district;

That the special conditions and circumstances do not result from the action of the applicant;

That granting the variance requested will not confer on the applicant any special privilege that is denied by this Ordinance to other lands, buildings, or structures in the same zoning district;

That literal interpretation of the provisions of this Ordinance would deprive the applicant of rights commonly enjoyed by other properties in the same zoning district under the terms of this Ordinance and would work unnecessary and undue hardship on the applicant;

That the variance granted is the minimum variance that will make possible the reasonable use of the land, building or structure;

That the granting of the variance will be in harmony with the general intent and purpose of this Ordinance and that such variance will not be injurious to the area involved or otherwise detrimental to the public welfare; and

That the granting of this request is consistent with the comprehensive plan and does not reduce the levels of service as set forth in the plan.

The granting of the variance will result in a structure and site that complies with the sea level rise and resiliency review criteria in chapter 133, article II, as applicable.

A. The Board hereby **Approves** the Variance request(s), and imposes the following conditions based on its authority in Section 118-354 of the Miami Beach City Code:

1. Substantial modifications to the plans submitted and approved as part of the application, as determined by the Planning Director or designee, may require the applicant to return to the Board for approval of the modified plans, even if the modifications do not affect variances approved by the Board.
2. If applicable, any portion of the low wall that encroaches within the 6'-0" FPL easement at the front of the property shall be subject to all pertinent requirements of such agreement.

The decision of the Board regarding variances shall be final and there shall be no further review thereof except by resort to a court of competent jurisdiction by petition for writ of certiorari.

III. General Terms and Conditions applying to both 'I. Design Review Approval and 'II. Variances' noted above.

- A. The applicant shall submit a hold harmless letter to the City Attorney's Office in a form acceptable to the City Attorney indemnifying and holding harmless the city

against any claim or loss in the event of an accident involving a motor vehicle or other instrumentality due to the proximity of the monument sign to the public right-of-way.

- B. A Construction Parking and Traffic Management Plan (CPTMP) shall be approved by the Parking Director pursuant to Chapter 106, Article II, Division 3 of the City Code, prior to the issuance of a Building Permit.
- C. The final building plans shall meet all other requirements of the Land Development Regulations of the City Code.
- D. The Final Order shall be recorded in the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, prior to the issuance of a Building Permit.
- E. Satisfaction of all conditions is required for the Planning Department to give its approval on a Certificate of Occupancy; a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy or Partial Certificate of Occupancy may also be conditionally granted Planning Departmental approval.
- F. The Final Order is not severable, and if any provision or condition hereof is held void or unconstitutional in a final decision by a court of competent jurisdiction, the order shall be returned to the Board for reconsideration as to whether the order meets the criteria for approval absent the stricken provision or condition, and/or it is appropriate to modify the remaining conditions or impose new conditions.
- G. The conditions of approval herein are binding on the applicant, the property's owners, operators, and all successors in interest and assigns.
- H. Nothing in this order authorizes a violation of the City Code or other applicable law, nor allows a relaxation of any requirement or standard set forth in the City Code.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, based upon the foregoing findings of fact, the evidence, information testimony and materials presented at the public hearing, which are part of the record for this matter, and the staff report and analysis, which are adopted herein, including the staff recommendations, which were amended and adopted by the Board, that the **application** is GRANTED for the above-referenced project subject to those certain conditions specified in Paragraph I, II, III of the Finding of Fact, to which the applicant has agreed.

PROVIDED, the applicant shall build substantially in accordance with the revised plans, entitled "Final Submittal Monumental Signage Setback Variance", as prepared by **Stantec Architecture**, dated August 05, 2019 and as approved by the Design Review Board, as determined by staff.

The issuance of the approval does not relieve the applicant from obtaining all other required Municipal, County and/or State reviews and permits, including final zoning approval. If adequate handicapped access is not provided on the Board approved plans, this approval does not mean that such handicapped access is not required. When requesting Building permit, the plans submitted to the Building Department for permit shall be consistent with the plans approved by the Board, modified in accordance with the conditions set forth in this Order.

If the Full Building Permit for the project is not issued within eighteen (18) months of the meeting date at which the original approval was granted, the application will expire and become null and void, unless the applicant makes an application to the Board for an extension of time, in accordance with the requirements and procedures of Chapter 118 of the City Code, the granting of any such extension of time shall be at the discretion of the Board. If the Full Building Permit for the project shall expire for any reason (including but not limited to construction not commencing and continuing, with required inspections, in accordance with the applicable Building Code), the application will expire and become null and void.

In accordance with Chapter 118 of the City Code, the violation of any conditions and safeguards that are a part of this Order shall be deemed a violation of the land development regulations of the City Code. Failure to comply with this **Order** shall subject the application to Chapter 118 of the City Code, for revocation or modification of the application.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20____.

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD
THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

BY: _____
JAMES G. MURPHY
CHIEF OF URBAN DESIGN
FOR THE CHAIR

STATE OF FLORIDA)
)SS
COUNTY OF MIAMI-DADE)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this _____ day of _____, 20____ by James G. Murphy, Chief of Urban Design, Planning Department, City of Miami Beach, Florida, a Florida Municipal Corporation, on behalf of the Corporation. He is personally known to me.

NOTARY PUBLIC
Miami-Dade County, Florida
My commission expires: _____

Approved As To Form:
City Attorney's Office: _____ ()

Filed with the Clerk of the Design Review Board on _____ ()