

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-31217

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO DEVELOP AND LAUNCH AN INSPIRATIONAL RESILIENCY VISION CAMPAIGN, CONSISTENT WITH THE GUIDANCE SET FORTH IN THIS RESOLUTION, WHICH WILL ENVISION HOW THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH WILL LOOK LIKE IN THIRTY YEARS OR LONGER, AND FURTHER DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO PRESENT A RECOMMENDED APPROACH TO THE RESILIENCY VISION CAMPAIGN BEFORE THE LAND USE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AT ITS MAY 26, 2020 MEETING.

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach (the "City") is comprised of a number of islands with approximately 70 miles of shoreline along numerous canals and waterways, the Atlantic Ocean, and Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve, all of which support a wide variety of flora and fauna; and

WHEREAS, as a coastal barrier island, the City is extremely vulnerable to environmental threats such as rising sea levels and coastal flooding; and

WHEREAS, City's elected officials and Administration have shown an impressive commitment in the last few years to addressing these environmental concerns, such as planning to invest over \$658 million to raise roads to a 3.7-foot NAVD and improve stormwater drainage in the most vulnerable areas, focusing on green infrastructure, elevating roads and public seawalls, and establishing a Tree Preservation Program; and

WHEREAS, the City also developed and adopted a comprehensive strategy, known as the Strategic Plan Through the Lens of Resilience (the "Strategic Plan"), which will focus on the City's needs in both near- term and long-term time horizons by strategically building resilience through policies, projects and services; and

WHEREAS, while the City's Strategic Plan and its commitment to taking a proactive approach to resiliency have already positioned it as a world leader in the climate adaptation space, the City's efforts could be further recognized through an inspirational resiliency vision campaign detailing how the City will look like in the next thirty years or longer; and

WHEREAS, Urban Sustainability Directors Network, which consists of local government practitioners dedicated to accelerate and enhancing urban sustainability in U.S. communities, recommended that the City develop and launch a visionary campaign through collaboration with artists, educators, and students to create a vision and/or art of what the City will look like in the future.(see Attachment A); and

WHEREAS, the Resiliency Vision campaign should illustrate the City's resiliency efforts, the fight against sea level rise, and planned mitigation and adaptation measures the City envisions for the future; and

WHEREAS, the Resiliency Vision campaign should also address and depict open questions on sustainability, such as: (1) long-term land planning, including potential expansions through land redistribution; (2) long-term zoning and building codes; (3) evolution and preservation of historic properties and neighborhoods; (4) the future role of water transport and which roads could become future waterways; (5) the future role of floating homes and where they might be located; (6) the future role of aerial supply and human transport; and (7) whether road spending to support private car transport should take lower priority to resilience investments for non-private vehicle and non-car transport; and

WHEREAS, per the recommendation of the Urban Land Institute's 2018 Advisory Services Panel Report, the Resiliency Vision campaign should also depict and promote a "living with water" concept; and

WHEREAS, the "living with water" approach entails not only the use of different technologies to manage water, but also different attitudes about convenience, mobility, health, and aesthetics, such as embracing green and blue infrastructure that can manage water using natural systems; and

WHEREAS, University of Miami graduate, Isaac Stein, developed a futuristic Visionary Plan for the City of Miami Beach as part of his architecture senior capstone project, where he embraced the concept of "living with water"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stein's project, which included visual depictions of restoring and replanting native storm surge-reduction flora such as mangroves, building large sand dunes between the ocean and waterfront properties, reducing reliance on cars by bringing back trolleys, widening bike paths, and building raised walkways through natural ecosystems and water canals, is just one of the many examples on how to visualize the way the City will look like in the future (see Attachment B); and

WHEREAS, consistent with recommendations from the Urban Sustainability Directors Network and the Urban Land Institute, the Mayor and City Commission direct the City Administration to work in collaboration with artists, educators, students, and businesses to create and launch a Resiliency Vision campaign, depicting how the City will look like in thirty years, incorporating the guidance set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby direct the City Administration to develop and launch an inspirational Resiliency Vision campaign, consistent with the guidance set forth in this Resolution, which will envision how the City of Miami Beach will look like in thirty years or longer, and further direct the City Administration to present a recommended approach to the

Resiliency Vision campaign before the Land Use and Sustainability Committee at its May 26, 2020 meeting.

PASSED and ADOPTED this 18 day of March, 2020.

ATTEST:

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk
3/19/2020

Dan Gelber, Mayor

(sponsored by Commissioner Mark Samuelian)



APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

City Attorney 3-10-20
Date

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
FROM: Raul J. Aguila, City Attorney
DATE: March 18, 2020

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO DEVELOP AND LAUNCH AN INSPIRATIONAL RESILIENCY VISION CAMPAIGN, CONSISTENT WITH THE GUIDANCE SET FORTH IN THIS RESOLUTION, WHICH WILL ENVISION HOW THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH WILL LOOK LIKE IN THIRTY YEARS OR LONGER, AND FURTHER DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO PRESENT A RECOMMENDED APPROACH TO THE RESILIENCY VISION CAMPAIGN BEFORE THE LAND USE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AT ITS MAY 26, 2020 MEETING.

RECOMMENDATION

Pursuant to the request of Commissioner Mark Samuelian, the above-referenced Resolution is submitted for consideration by the City Commission at the March 18, 2020 Commission meeting.

Applicable Area

Not Applicable

Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-14?

No

Does this item utilize G.O. Bond Funds?

No

Legislative Tracking

Office of the City Attorney

Sponsor

Commissioner Mark Samuelian

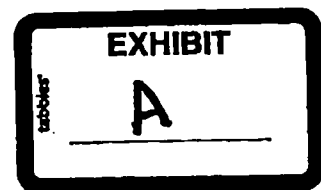
ATTACHMENTS:

Description

- Resolution

USDN directors network

- ✓ #1 Recommendation: **Develop Terminology Toolkits and Protocol**
 - Eliminate technical terms
 - Require vetted communications teams with all hired consultants
- ✓ #2 Recommendation: **Implement Public Safety Framing**
 - All Resilience efforts brought under public safety umbrella
- ✓ #3 Recommendation: **Revise Community Engagement**
 - Utilize 3rd party to facilitate public meetings and Change format of public meetings
 - Partner with Appreciative Inquiry or other group on co-designed projects
- ✓ #4 Recommendation: **Launch Vision Campaign**
 - Work with artists , educators, students to create art of what MB will look like in the future
- ✓ #5 Recommendation: **Ensure Confident Communications by City Officials**
 - find unity in policy implementation so that city staff can engage the community confidently and with conviction
- ✓ #6 Recommendation: **Collect and Amplify Positive Testimonials**
 - elevate and share positive stories
- ✓ #7 Recommendation: **Establish Systems for Cross-Departmental Communications**
 - set up systems for frequent cross-departmental communications and information sharing



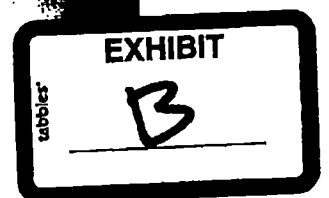


THIS VISIONARY PLAN COULD HELP MIAMI BEACH DEAL WITH RISING SEA LEVELS

In the course of reporting my December *V.F.* feature, “Waterworld,” about Miami Beach’s efforts to reconcile its building boom with alarming forecasts of sea-level rise, I met a young man named Isaac Stein who had already given the subject plenty of thought. While he was still an undergraduate at the University of Miami, majoring in architecture, Stein, now 24 years old and with the urban-design and landscape architecture firm West 8, devoted his senior thesis project to an impressive, ambitious plan for Miami Beach to survive through the next five feet of sea-level rise. Here, he talks us through the mitigation and adaptation measures he envisions.

BY DAVID KAMP

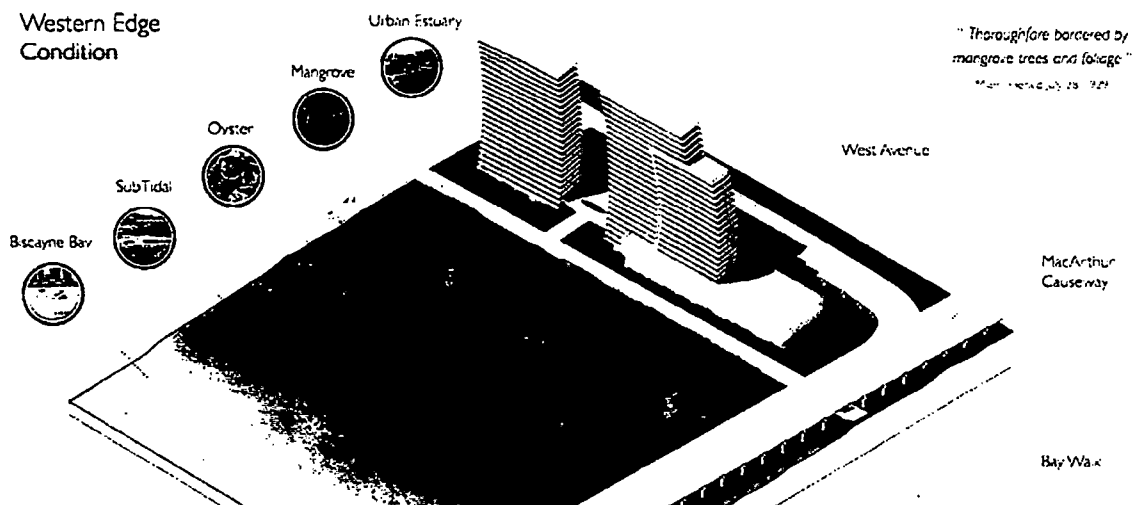
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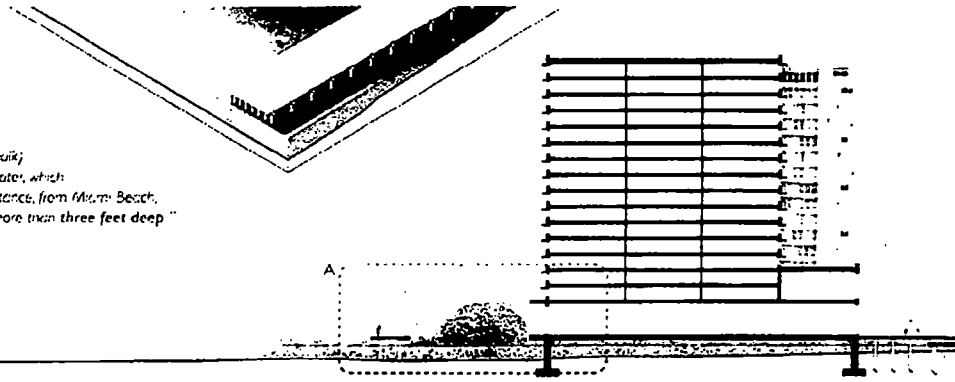
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"I focused on the city from 5th to 15th Streets, which is proper South Beach. This is an overhead view. You can see here that the proposal brings back a layer of the natural landscape to protect the city from the rising sea. More than 50 percent of the buildings in this district are on the historic register, so that's a challenge."



"On the dry site (the boardwalk) extended 500 feet into the water, which was very shallow until that distance, from Miami Beach. At that point it was slightly more than three feet deep."

Map 1992
1958-1929

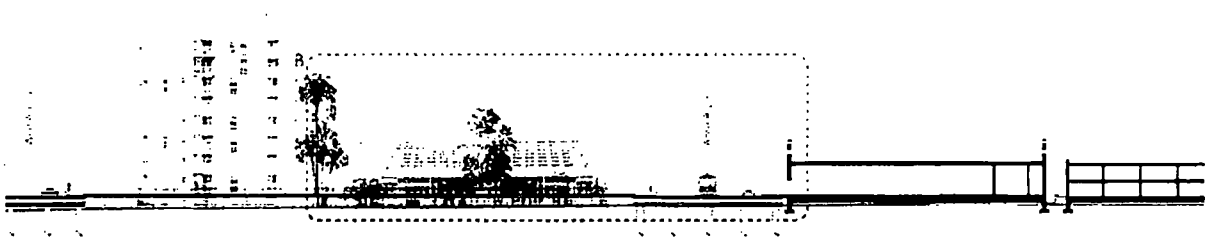


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"This is the western edge of the island, the Biscayne Bay side. As the sea rises, you're just going to have to start planting mangroves everywhere on the western side. Mangroves historically existed on the whole western coast of Miami Beach, and bringing back these natural storm-surge-reduction plants is vital to managing the rising tides."



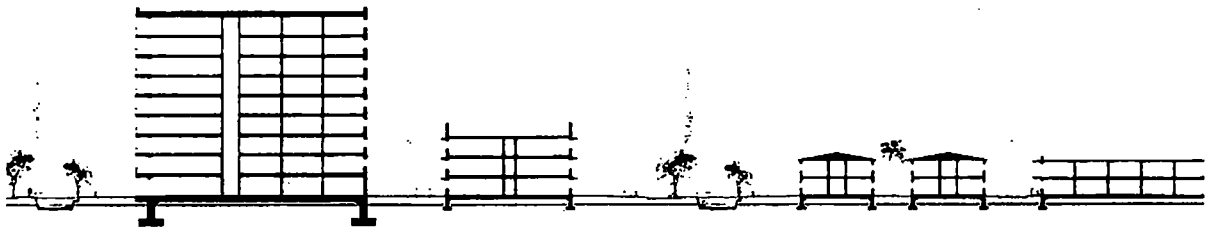
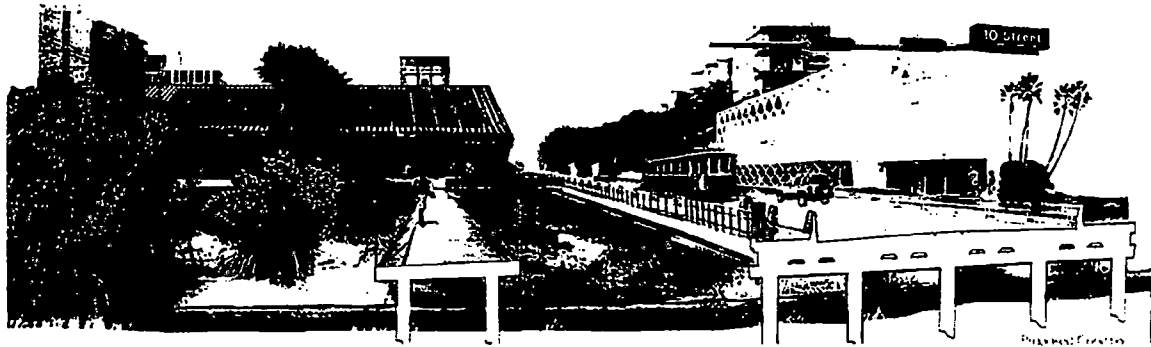
Proposed Construction



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"Once the mangroves get established, you can have raised walkways going through them, and recreational waterways. Some of those existing high-rise towers would sacrifice the

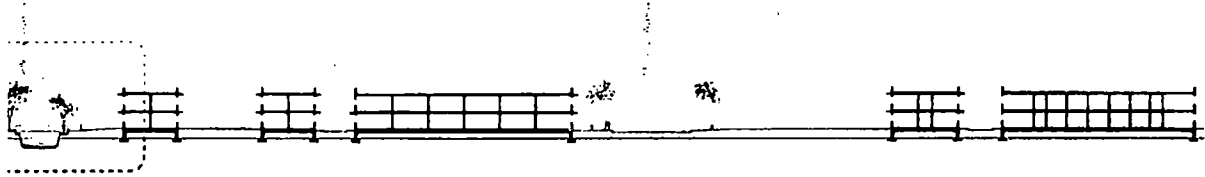
bottom one or two floors before nature reclaims them. And then the new 'first' floor is five or six feet above the new sea level."



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"And then you can raise Alton Road [the city's main north-south thoroughfare]. There used to be trams in Miami Beach, and bringing them back is the first step in my whole project. The key to mitigation is to reduce reliance on cars, and have smaller-footprint modes of transit, leaving more room for water."





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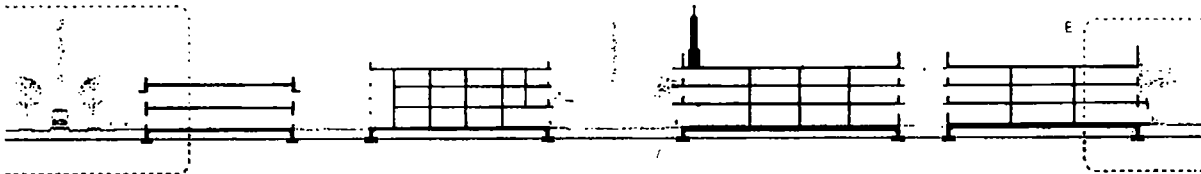
"Now we're near the center of the island. Six feet of fill would be cut to form an ecological canal and raise the grade of Lenox, Michigan, and Jefferson Avenues. The grade surrounding these residences would go up 1.5 feet. Long term, the cut-and-fill strategy only protects residences for up to six feet of sea-level rise. At the moment, it's not legal to build higher in historic buildings, but eventually, as the ground floors of residences are inundated, it might be best to build atop the existing historic envelope of these buildings. Like a contemporary addition, set back enough, so, when you're on the street, you still only see the main façade."



"Here's Jefferson Avenue. So you see how the canals divert water and are pleasant to walk along. The canal area would be like an American Amsterdam. It would run from, like, 10th to 5th. And Flamingo Park [which runs from 11th to 15th Streets] becomes a sort of urban delta, a watershed. It would lose its park capabilities on flood days."

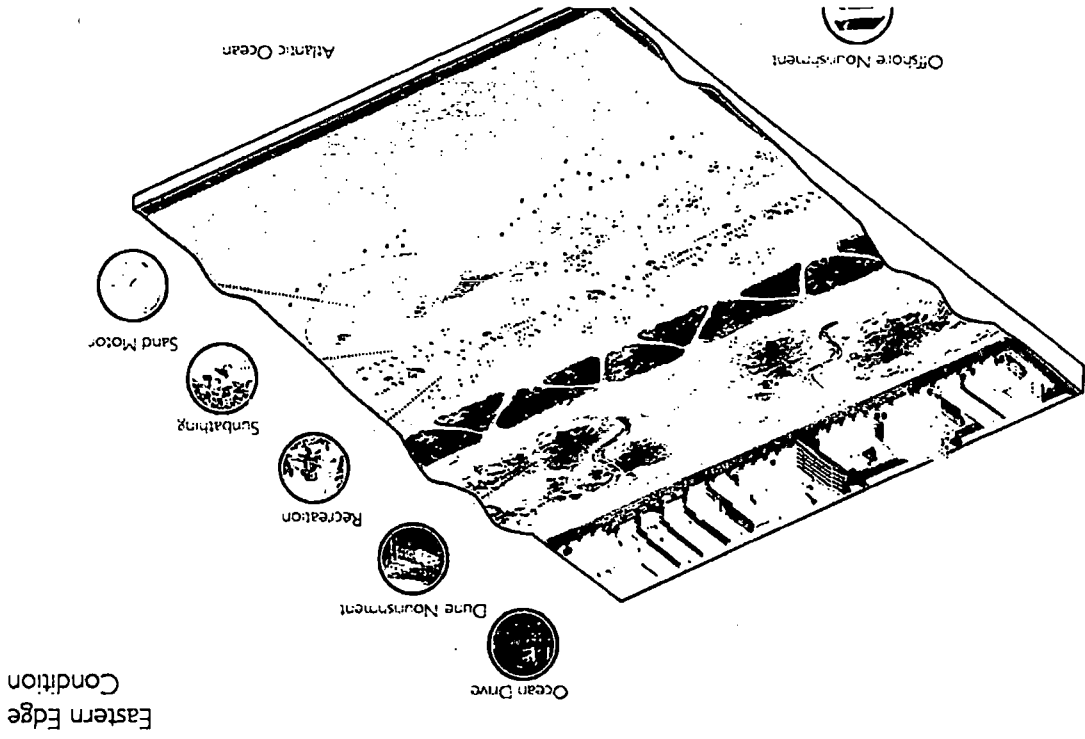


Proposed Condition



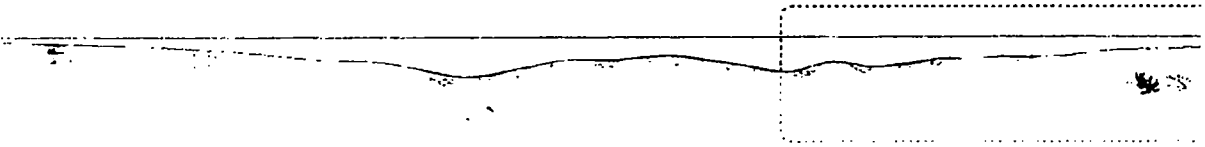
"This is Washington Avenue, with a trolley and a wide bike lane. You have these old roads that were built 70 feet wide. By reducing the cars, not only are you making Miami Beach a nicer place to live and visit, but you're also creating space for the city to adapt in the future."





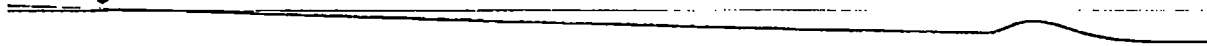
"This is by Lummus Park, the ocean side. Basically, it's 'Let's build sand dunes that are even higher and wider than the ones that naturally existed,' from Ocean Drive all the way to the ocean. You lose some recreational space, but you're better protected against hurricanes and devastation."

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Typographic Section



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"Here you can see how these sand dunes may look once established, and how pathways can be integrated into these natural barriers. The 'sand motor' is a man-made peninsula built of sand that will be brought in from off-site. As the waves hit it, the sand will be spread across the shoreline by the ocean's currents. This reduces the amount of time that the beach needs to be closed off to the public for sand-replenishment purposes, and also allows the sand to be distributed more naturally and evenly."