

MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

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COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR DAN GELBER
MEMBERS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
ALINA T. HUDAK, CITY MANAGER

SECOND READING

FROM: RAFAEL PAZ, ACTING CITY ATTORNEY 

DATE: JUNE 23, 2021

SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 82 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, ENTITLED "PUBLIC PROPERTY," BY AMENDING ARTICLE VI, ENTITLED "NAMING OF PUBLIC FACILITIES AND ESTABLISHMENT OF MONUMENTS OR MEMORIALS," BY AMENDING SECTION 82-503 THEREOF, ENTITLED "NAMING OF PUBLIC FACILITIES; CO-NAMING AND RE-NAMING OF STREETS," BY AMENDING SUBSECTIONS (C)(1)(A) AND (C)(2)(A) TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES FOR THE CO-NAMING OF STREETS IN HONOR OF A DECEASED HISTORICAL FIGURE WHO WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE FROM THE SPANISH EMPIRE; PROVIDING SUNSET PROVISIONS THEREFOR; PROVIDING FOR REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Pursuant to the request of Vice-Mayor Michael Góngora, the above-referenced Ordinance is submitted on Second Reading for consideration by the Mayor and City Commission at the June 23, 2021 City Commission meeting.

Under existing criteria in Section 82-503 of the City Code, City streets may only be co-named of (1) Miami Beach police officers who died or were killed in the line of duty; (2) a public facility located on the street to be co-named; (3) private not-for-profit organizations with significant historic value to the city and associated with structures which have a significant historical value or architectural significance to the city; (4) geographic areas within the city; (5) a commercial establishment that has been in business in the City of Miami Beach for 100 or more years and which is located on the street to be co-named; or (6) deceased person who served as the spiritual leader of a prominent religious institution in the City of Miami Beach for 35 or more years and resided in the City of Miami Beach.

At the March 17, 2021 City Commission meeting, at the request of Vice-Mayor Michael Góngora, an agenda discussion item was referred to the Neighborhood and Quality of Life Committee ("NQLC") for it to consider the co-naming of a public street in Honor of late Simón Bolívar, a Venezuelan military and political leader who was instrumental in helping Latin American countries achieve independence from the Spanish Empire, along with any amendment to Section 82-503 of the City Code that may be required to accomplish the naming.

Simón Bolívar is viewed as a national icon in much of modern South America, and is considered one of the great heroes of the Hispanic independence movements of the early 19th century. During his lifetime, Bolivar became known as "El Libertador" through helping countries such as Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia all achieve independence.

The City's Hispanic Affairs Committee supported this proposal and recommended to co-name 22nd Street after Simón Bolívar due to its proximity to Simón Bolívar's bust in Collins Park, at the Bass Museum between Collins Avenue and 21st Street in Miami Beach, or alternatively, some undefined location in North Beach.

At its April 28, 2021 meeting, the NQLC reviewed the proposal and without making a recommendation on the merits, directed for this proposal to be fully considered by the City Commission at first reading.

The proposed Ordinance was passed at first reading and was referred back to NQLC to discuss a suitable street to co-name after Simón Bolívar, subject to the adoption of the ordinance at second reading on June 23, 2021.

At its May 19, 2021 meeting, NQLC made a favorable recommendation regarding the co-naming of 22nd Street after Simón Bolívar. Co-naming 22nd Street after Simón Bolívar would be especially fitting considering that the 21st Street between Washington Avenue and Collins Avenue has already been named after José Martí, a Cuban national hero and an important figure in Latin American literature.

RAP/FA/ag