

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
FROM: Commissioner Michael Gongora
DATE: September 17, 2021

SUBJECT: DISCUSS/TAKE ACTION ON THE DEMOLITION OF PHIL COLLINS' FORMER HOME AND AL CAPONE'S FORMER HOME.

ANALYSIS

Please place on the September 17 Commission agenda a discuss/take action item regarding the demolition of Phil Collins' former home and Al Capone's former home. Please find two Miami Herald articles attached regarding this issue. Please feel free to contact Diana Fontani should you need any additional information.

SUPPORTING SURVEY DATA

N/A

Applicable Area

Citywide

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

Yes

Does this item utilize G.O. Bond Funds?

No

Legislative Tracking

Commissioner Michael Gongora

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

- ▣ Miami Herald Article on Collins and Capone Former Homes



HOMEPAGE

No more 'concrete boxes': Effort to stop demolition of Phil Collins' former home

BY REBECCA SAN JUAN

UPDATED SEPTEMBER 06, 2021 03:22 PM



Billionaire Thoma Bravo and his wife, Katy Bravo, submitted plans to redevelop Phil Collins' former Miami Beach residence, pictured above. [JILLSZEDERGROUP.COM](https://www.jillszedergroup.com)



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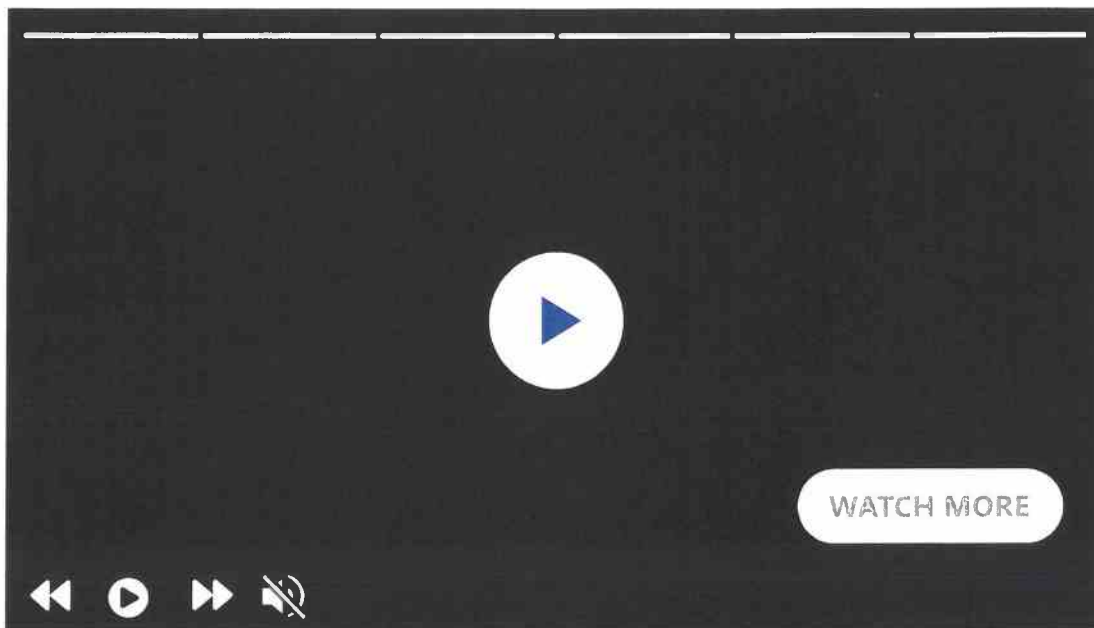
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Say goodbye to Phil Collins' former Miami Beach residence? One leading preservationist says absolutely not.

Efforts are ongoing to preserve the Mediterranean-style waterfront residence at 5800 North Bay Road, said Jack Finglass, the chair of the Miami Beach historic preservation board.

 This story is a subscriber exclusive

TOP VIDEOS



“It’s just a surreal experience to play against a great team like that,” said Oluwaseun

Finglass, who spoke to the Miami Herald as a North Bay Road resident who lives within walking distance from the home and who was expressing his personal opinion, said preserving Collins' former house and others like it is critical to Miami Beach. Finglass said he often sees buses drive down North Bay Road full of tourists eager to learn the history of former celebrity and historic dwellings.

“What developers are building now are huge concrete boxes,” Finglass said. “It’s going to kill the goose that laid the golden eggs. People don’t come here to see

concrete boxes. They come to see beautiful architecture, palms and gardens. That's what they've come to see for hundreds of years."

The new owners of Collins' former home, billionaire Orlando Bravo, co-founder and managing partner of the Chicago-based private equity firm Thoma Bravo, and his wife, Katy, have submitted plans to replace the existing residence with a modern home, according to an application submitted to the City of Miami Beach Design Review Board.

A spokesperson for Bravo said in a statement Monday, "The family's team has followed the Miami Beach design review process, evaluated the existing home and alternatives to demolition, and has submitted plans that comply with the city's design review criteria. As a result, the family has earned a favorable staff recommendation from the city's professional design review staff, as well as support within the neighborhood."

Plans will be presented this month to the Design Review Board.

The Bravo family bought the house in January for \$40 million after Collins removed his ex-wife from the residence with a court injunction and listed it in late 2020.

The new planned residence would include five bedrooms, five bathrooms, a dining room, family room, living room, playroom, cinema and bar in a two-story main house. It would replace the existing two-story house — dating back to 1929 — which has six bedrooms, eight bathrooms, one half bathroom, a pool, koi pond and dock.

Sources close to the Bravo family told the Miami Herald in August that the couple intended to build the new residence because the existing home suffered from serious flooding. But Finglass said that's no excuse.

"Seawalls are built that keep water out. Buildings can be raised. The city can have better pumps to redirect water elsewhere," said Finglass, who hopes to connect with other nearby residents who also want to save the home. "If they are so concerned about water issues, why are they building a house in the same spot?"

Finglass said he would tell the Bravos that they should collaborate on a new design guided by the Miami Beach historic preservation board that can help safeguard the existing structure.

“The postcard view,” Finglass said, “that’s what we’re trying to save from the development community. We need to have our voice heard. We want to save what we’ve got.”

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NEWS

Al Capone's former South Florida home slated for demolition

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEPTEMBER 03, 2021 11:20 AM



The gate house entrance of the waterfront mansion once owned by gangster Al Capone in Miami Beach, Fla., Wednesday, March 18, 2015. The South Florida house that Capone owned for nearly two decades, and died in, is facing demolition plans. The Miami Herald reported Thursday, Sept. 2, 2021 that the new owners of the nine-bedroom, Miami Beach house plan to demolish it after buying it for \$10.75 million this summer. (AP Photo/Alan Diaz) ALAN DIAZ AP



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MIAMI BEACH, FLA.

The South Florida house that gangster Al Capone owned for nearly two decades, and died in, is facing demolition plans.

The Miami Herald reported Thursday that the new owners of the nine-bedroom, Miami Beach house plan to demolish it after buying it for \$10.75 million this summer.

One of the owners, developer Todd Glaser, told the Herald the home, which is about 3 feet (1 meter) below sea level, has flood damage and standing water underneath it. The new owners plan to build a two-story modern spec home with 8 bedrooms, 8 bathrooms, a Jacuzzi, spa and sauna.

TOP VIDEOS



"It's just a surreal experience to play against a great team like that," said Oluwaseun

"The house is a piece of crap," Glaser said. "It's a disgrace to Miami Beach."

The other owner is Glaser's business partner, Nelson Gonzalez, an investor and senior vice president of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices EWM.

The house has been placed on the September agenda for possible historic designation by the city of Miami Beach, but Glaser said that is not going to stop the new owners' plans.

Capone bought the house for \$40,000 in 1928 and returned to it often. The gangster nicknamed "Scarface" died at the home in 1947 from a heart attack. The home is believed to be where Capone and his associates plotted the notorious St. Valentine's Day massacre in which seven members of an opposing gang were gunned down in a Chicago parking garage in 1929.

The Miami Beach house isn't the only one of Capone's possessions changing hands. In California, his three granddaughters are planning an auction of some of his personal items, including diamond-encrusted jewelry with his initials, family photographs and his favorite handgun.

Diane Capone and her two surviving sisters will sell 174 items at the Oct. 8 auction titled "A Century of Notoriety: The Estate of Al Capone" hosted by Witherell's Auction House in Sacramento.

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BY MIKE STUNSON

SEPTEMBER 08, 2021 09:31 AM



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