

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
FROM: Commissioner Steven Meiner
DATE: September 14, 2022

SUBJECT: REFERRAL TO THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2022 PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS CONCERNS RAISED BY MIAMI BEACH PARENTS WHOSE CHILDREN ATTEND NORTH BEACH ELEMENTARY REGARDING THE CONDITION OF THE BUILDING AND ITS STRUCTURAL SOUNDNESS, VARIOUS SAFETY AND/OR ENGINEERING REPORTS REQUESTED BY PARENTS THAT REMAIN OUTSTANDING, AND WHETHER THE CITY CAN TAKE ANY ACTION TO FACILITATE OBTAINING THE REQUESTED INFORMATION REGARDING THE CONDITION AND STRUCTURAL SOUNDNESS OF NORTH BEACH ELEMENTARY.

ANALYSIS

Please place on the City Commission agenda a referral to the September 21, 2022 Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee for a discussion of the condition and structural soundness of the North Beach Elementary building.

Several Miami Beach residents – parents whose children attend North Beach Elementary -- have expressed concerns regarding the building's condition, and have requested that Miami-Dade County Public Schools (the "School Board") provide information and any engineering reports or other documents relating to the condition of the building. Unfortunately, I have been advised that our residents have not received these reports.

After I learned of the residents' concerns, I personally contacted School Board officials, and I have not received a response. In an effort to obtain information, I am also sending a public records request to the School Board, a copy of which is attached hereto.

I am hopeful that the School Board could respond to my public records request, and the residents' prior requests for information, prior to the September 21, 2022 PSNQLC meeting. In the meantime, however, I would like to place this item on the agenda for the September 21, 2022 Committee meeting, to permit residents to share their concerns, and to discuss whether the City can take any action to facilitate the requests for information (recognizing that the City and its building department does not have jurisdiction over the School Board).

If you have any questions about this item, please contact my legislative aide Robert Novo III at RobertNovo@miamibeachfl.gov.

SUPPORTING SURVEY DATA

N/A

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

N/A

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 Steven Meiner

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

- [School Board member Lucia Baez Geller public records request](#)

Public Records Request Email Text:

Via Email Only to

Dr. Jose L. Dotres,
Superintendent, Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Jdotres@dadeschools.net

Ms. Melanie Fishman,
Principal, North Beach Elementary School
Mfishman@dadeschools.net

Dear Dr. Dotres and Principal Fishman:

I am a City Commissioner of the City of Miami Beach, and I am writing to you in response to concerns raised by Miami Beach residents whose children attend North Beach Elementary School, located at 4100 Prairie Avenue ("North Beach Elementary"). The residents have previously requested information concerning the condition and structural soundness of North Beach Elementary, and I have been advised that the School Board has not responded to their requests for information.

Pursuant to the Florida Public Records Act, as set forth in Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes and Article I, Section 24(a) of the Florida Constitution, I am requesting that all of the following records, from June 1, 2021 through the present, relating to North Beach Elementary, be e-mailed to me:

All records, reports, and inspections, including but not limited to, engineering reports/assessments and structural reports/assessments, relating to the condition of any portion(s) of any structure(s) located at North Beach Elementary.

If you refuse to provide these records (or any portion thereof), Florida law requires that you advise me in writing and specifically identify the applicable confidentiality and/or exemption upon which you are relying. Also, please state with particularity the reason(s) for such determination, as required by law. If the exemption or confidentiality provision you are claiming only applies to a portion of any responsive record(s), please delete that portion and provide the remainder of the record(s).

If you anticipate that in order to satisfy this request extensive use of information technology resources or extensive clerical or supervisory assistance will be required, please provide me with a written cost estimate and the justification for such anticipated cost.

Please promptly advise if you require any clarification pertaining to my request for public records as set forth herein. My telephone number is (305) 673-7000, ext. 26473.

Finally, please note that the actions and statements in this correspondence are my own and do not represent any official action or position of the City Commission of the City of Miami Beach as to any matters set forth herein.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Steven Meiner
Miami Beach Commissioner