

# MIAMI BEACH

## COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission  
FROM: Mayor Dan Gelber  
DATE: November 16, 2022

SUBJECT: REFERRAL TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE - DISCUSS CO-NAMING THE BONITA DRIVE CORRIDOR FROM 71ST STREET TO INDIAN CREEK DRIVE AS "RABBI PINCHAS WEBERMAN DRIVE."

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

I would like to refer this item to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee to consider the co-naming of the Bonita Drive Corridor from 71<sup>st</sup> Street to Indian Creek Drive in honor of the late Rabbi Pinchas Weberman, along with any amendment to Section 82-503 of the City Code that may be required to accomplish the naming.

In order to facilitate the co-naming of the Bonita Drive Corridor from 71<sup>st</sup> Street to Indian Creek Drive, I would propose that the PSNQLC further recommend an amendment to the City's naming ordinance, codified in Article VI of Chapter 82 of the City Code, which would expand the provided criteria for the co-naming of City streets in honor of deceased persons, such as Rabbi Pinchas Weberman, 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.

### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY**

Rabbi Pinchas Weberman moved to Miami Beach in 1960 with his family. The synagogue was built in 1964 and is active to this day at the exact location of 7055 Bonita Drive. His founding of Ohev Shalom Congregation was the beginning of Rabbi Weberman's leadership and devotion to the residents and tourists of Miami Beach.

He was a Rabbi to those of the Jewish faith and an iconic leader to people of all religions. Rabbi Weberman served the community for more than a half-century. It is well deserved and appropriate to name the street where his synagogue stands as "Rabbi Pinchas Weberman Drive".

Some of Rabbi Weberman's accomplishments include: Spiritual leader of Ohev Shalom Congregation, Miami Beach since 1960; President of the Orthodox Rabbinical Council of South Florida and Chief of Rabbinical Court since 1979; Founder, Daughters of Israel Mikvah; Co-Founder of the Miami Beach Eruv; Professor of Jewish Law, the Talmudic University of Florida since 1982; Doctor of Jewish Law, Talmudic University of Florida 1985; Founder and Professor

of Jewish Law, Beth Jacob of Miami since 1990; Founder and Professor of Jewish Law Yeshivah of Miami; Member International Conference of Police Chaplains since 1986; Certified Police Chaplain by ICPC; Chaplain Miami Beach Police Department since 1982; Chief Chaplain and coordinator of chaplains, Miami-Dade County Police Department; Chaplain U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives; Chaplain South Florida HIDTA; Author of "The Rabbi's Message – Modern Thoughts on Ancient Philosophy." Volumes 1 and 2; Contributor of legal works in "Hamaor" and Hapardes" (Rabbinical Legal Journals); Expert witness on Jewish Law in Florida Circuit Courts and US District Courts; International Conference of Police Chaplains

**SUPPORTING SURVEY DATA**

N/A

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

N/A

**Applicable Area**

North Beach

**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

**Strategic Connection**

Non-Applicable

**Legislative Tracking**

Mayor Dan Gelber