From: PB

To: <u>Herrera, Miriam</u>
Cc: <u>Freitas, Gabriela</u>

Subject: Fwd: PB@miamibeachfl.gov;
Date: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 8:49:59 AM

Please process

From: Armando Olmedo <aolmedoarias@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 7:56:20 PM

To: PB <PB@miamibeachfl.gov> **Subject:** PB@miamibeachfl.gov;

[THIS MESSAGE COMES FROM AN EXTERNAL EMAIL - USE CAUTION WHEN REPLYING AND OPENING LINKS OR ATTACHMENTS]

Hello,

In light of the meeting tomorrow, where you will discuss the re-designation of the Altos del Mar park for the development of additional multimillion-dollar single homes, I want to express my concern and disappointment in the recommendation to be considered.

As a resident of the area, it is deeply disappointing to see that the city is considering the elimination of a newly-created park that is used by thousands of North Beach Residents, instead choosing to close prime beach access in order to grant a select few non-North Beach resident millionaires with valuable beachfront property. Clearly, well-funded interests not interested in the less glamorous, less wealthy part of our city are pushing for this re-designation of the land. I doubt that if the land were not beachfront there would be an interest in changing the character of the land.

Parks provide intrinsic environmental, aesthetic, and recreational benefits to the city. The recently completed Altos del Mar Park is a popular park that has been one of the city's most successful and well-received completed projects in North Beach. As residents, we are proud to have such a nice park, particularly after the decades of neglect our neighborhood has faced when competing against South Beach for City Hall's attention. If you have not visited the park, I encourage you to pass by any afternoon where you will see people frolicking in the open grass areas (the only such areas in North Beach (North Shore Open Space does not have open grass areas)), children playing in the new park, individuals using the volley-ball courts, and people out for a walk. This is a proper use of public space and to lose it for individual home development would be an atrocity for future generations of North Beach Residents.

As the city continues to permit more construction in our part of town, making its population denser, we must strive to protect whatever public beachfront land remains. Please do not push forward this initiative. Please do not give in to monied interests and consider North Beach residents first.

Sincerely,

Armando A. Olmedo 7600 Collins Avenue Miami Beach, FL

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"I never submitted the whole system of my opinions to the creed of any party of men whatever in religion, in philosophy, in politics, or in anything else where I was capable of thinking for myself. Such an addiction is the last degradation of a free and moral agent."

- Letter of Thomas Jefferson to Francis Hopkinson, March 13, 1789.