

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

DATE: January 31, 2024

SUBJECT: BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – CITY COMMISSION / AT-LARGE APPOINTMENTS

RECOMMENDATION

We request for this Item to be heard during the October 18, 2023 Commission Meeting.

ANALYSIS

The applicants who have filed with the Office of the City Clerk for the below At-Large appointments are included in Item R9 A.

BOARD AND COMMITTEES:

1. AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

VACANCIES (7):

- One citizen actively engaged in the banking or mortgage banking industry in connection with affordable housing. (Category # 2)
- One citizen representing those areas of labor actively engaged in home building in connection with affordable housing. (Category # 3)
- One citizen actively engaged as an advocate for low-income persons in connection with affordable housing. (Category # 4) *To replace term-limited member Matthew Land.*
- One citizen actively engaged as a not-for-profit provider of affordable housing. (Category # 6)
- One citizen actively engaged as a real estate professional in connection with affordable housing. (Category # 7) *To replace term-limited member Darin Feldman.*
- One citizen who actively serves on the local planning agency pursuant to Florida Statute §163.3174 (Planning Board member) (Category # 8)
- One citizen who represents essential services personnel, as defined in the local housing assistance plan. (Category # 11)

POSSIBLE REAPPOINTMENT TO BE MADE (1):

- One citizen who represents employers within the jurisdiction. (Category # 10)
 1. Mohammed Islam

Note: If the City, due to the presence of a conflict of interest by prospective appointees, or other reasonable factors, is unable to appoint a citizen actively engaged in these activities in connection with affordable housing, a citizen engaged in the activity without regard to affordable housing may be appointed.

2. ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE

VACANCY (1):

- An individual who shall be recommended by Sobe Cats Spay & Neuter Inc. and ratified by the City Commission.

POSSIBLE REAPPOINTMENT TO BE MADE (1):

- An individual who shall be recommended by the Miami Beach Animal Advocates Inc. and ratified by the City Commission.
 1. Shari Schwartz

3. ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

VACANCIES (3):

- Three Citizens who shall possess a high degree of competence in the evaluation of art history and architectural history, art, architecture, sculpture, painting, artistic structure design, and other appropriate art media for display or integration in public places. *To replace term-limited members Marcella Novela and Yolanda Sanchez and to replace Gabriel Paez who was removed from the Committee due to absence. Mr. Paez is eligible for reappointment.*

POSSIBLE REAPPOINTMENT TO BE MADE (1):

- One Citizen who shall possess a high degree of competence in the evaluation of art history and architectural history, art, architecture, sculpture, painting, artistic structure design, and other appropriate art media for display or integration in public places.
 1. Nick D'Annuzio

4. BLACK AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

VACANCY (1):

- One At-Large member with personal or professional knowledge or expertise in at least one of the following areas: 1. Education; 2. Economic Development/Business Development; 3. Culture/Entertainment/Events; 4. Hospitality/Tourism; 5. Healthcare/Technology; 6. People Development/Human Relations; 7. Finance/Banking; 8. Media/Communications/Public Relations; or 9. Community Service/Social Justice. *To replace Glendon Hall who has been reappointed by the Mayor as a direct appointment to the Black Affairs Committee.*

5. BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT (5/7 vote required)

VACANCIES (2):

- One citizen at large.
- One citizen engaged in financial consultation, engineering, or certified public accounting. (Category # 5)

POSSIBLE REAPPOINTMENTS TO BE MADE (3):

- One member in the Law Category. (Category # 1)
 1. Geoffrey Aaronson
- One Architect. (Category A)
 1. James Silvers
- One member in the General Business Category. (Category # 6)
 1. Michael Goldberg - Chair

6. BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

POSSIBLE REAPPOINTMENTS TO BE MADE (2):

- One Certified Public Accountant.
 1. David Grieser
- One Financial Advisor.
 1. Mojdeh Khaghan - Chair

7. COMMITTEE FOR QUALITY EDUCATION IN MIAMI BEACH

VACANCIES (2):

- Two City Commission members to serve as City Commission liaisons, who shall report to the City Commission actions of the Committee for Quality Education.

8. CONVENTION CENTER ADVISORY BOARD

POSSIBLE REAPPOINTMENT TO BE MADE (1):

- A resident of the Palm View Neighborhood Association shall serve as a nonvoting member.
 1. Christopher Gloede.

9. CULTURAL ARTS COUNCIL (3-year term)

VACANCIES (3):

- Three At-Large members - Best Interests of the Arts Within the City. *One true vacancy and two vacancies to replace term-limited members Bruce Carter and Cheryl Jacobs.*

POSSIBLE REAPPOINTMENTS TO BE MADE (2):

- Two At-Large members - Best Interests of the Arts Within the City.
 1. David Sexton – Vice-Chair
 2. Rachel Unger

10. DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

VACANCIES (2):

- One Landscape Architect registered in the State of Florida. (Category # 3). *To replace Mr. Orlando Comas, whose term was scheduled to expire on December 31, 2023. However, Mr. Comas was not able to attend the December 2023 DRB meeting and was removed from the Board after his third absence for the year. Mr. Comas is eligible to be re-appointed to the DRB.*
- One (i) licensed professional engineer, licensed professional architect, or licensed professional landscape architect with expertise in water resources; (ii) a person licensed by the State of Florida in hydrology, water, or wastewater treatment; (iii) a person with a degree from an accredited college or university in a field of study related to water resources; or (iv) a floodplain manager or a principal community administrator responsible for the daily implementation of flood loss reduction activities including enforcing a community's flood damage prevention ordinance, updating flood maps, plans, and policies of the community, and any of the activities related to administration of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) (a "water management expert"). (Category # 6) *To replace Jason Hagopian, who is not seeking reappointment.*

POSSIBLE REAPPOINTMENTS TO BE MADE (2):

- One architect registered in the State of Florida or a member of the faculty of the school of architecture, urban planning, or urban design in the State, with practical or academic expertise in the field of design, planning, historic preservation, or the history of architecture, or a professional practicing in the fields of architectural design, or urban planning. (Category # 2)

1. Sarah Giller-Nelson – Chair

- One person who is a resident At-Large and who currently resides in the city and has resided in the city for at least (3) three consecutive years at the time of appointment or reappointment. Additionally, strong preference shall be given to individuals who have previously served on a Miami Beach board or committee and/or completed the Miami Beach Leadership Academy course, and to individuals not currently working in the fields of real estate development, real estate brokerage/sales, real estate law, or architecture. (Category # 5)

1. Scott Diffenderfer

Note: Residency and or place of business - All regular members shall reside in or have their primary place of business in the county, except for the water management expert appointed pursuant to subsection (a)(6), who need not reside in or have a principal place of business in the county, and except as otherwise provided in subsection (a)(5). The At-Large member and one of the registered landscape architects, registered architects, or professionals practicing in the fields of architectural or urban design or urban planning shall be residents of the City.

11. GENERAL OBLIGATION (G.O.) BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

VACANCY (1):

- One City resident from any geographic area of the City with experience working with cultural/arts organizations, including with respect to operations, facilities management, or design. *To replace Susan Askew who is not seeking reappointment.*

POSSIBLE REAPPOINTMENTS TO BE MADE (3):

- Two City residents from the Mid-Beach area.

1. Jack Glottmann – Vice-Chair

2. Jason Koslowe

- One City resident from any geographic area of the City with experience working with cultural/arts organizations, including with respect to operations, facilities management, or design.

1. Dennis Scholl

12. HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

VACANCIES (8):

- One (1) member shall be the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or its designated administration from Mount Sinai Medical Center. (Category # 1) *To replace Gino Santorio, who was removed due to absence. Mr. Santorio is eligible for reappointment.*
- One member shall be an administrator from an adult congregate living facility (ACLF); and/or an assisted living facility (ALF). (Category # 3) *To replace Dr. Mark Sinnreich, who was removed due to absence. Dr. Sinnreich is eligible for reappointment.*
- One (1) member shall be a representative of the nursing profession. (Category # 4) *To replace Martha Baker, who was removed due to absence. Ms. Baker is eligible for reappointment.*
- One member shall be a health benefits provider. (Category # 5)
- One member shall be a physician. (Category # 6)
- One individual from the corporate level. (Category # 7a)
- One private individual. (Category # 7b)
- Ex-Officio, Miami-Dade County Health Department.

POSSIBLE REAPPOINTMENTS TO BE MADE (2):

- One member shall be the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) from Miami Beach Community Health Center or their designated administrator. (Category # 2)
 1. Mark Rabinowitz
- One member shall be a physician. (Category # 6)
 1. Baruch Jacobs M.D. – Vice-Chair

13. HEALTH FACILITIES AUTHORITY BOARD:

VACANCY (1):

- One individual in the field of general business who possesses good standing in the community.

14. HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD

VACANCY (1):

- A member of the faculty of a school of architecture in the State of Florida, with academic expertise in the field of design and historic preservation or the history of architecture, with a preference for an individual with practical experience in architecture and the preservation of historic structures. (Category # 6) *To replace term-limited member Ricardo Lopez.*

POSSIBLE REAPPOINTMENTS TO BE MADE (3):

- One at-large member who has resided in one of the City's historic districts for at least one year and has demonstrated interest and knowledge in architectural or urban design and the preservation of historic buildings. (Category # 3)

1. Ray Breslin

- One architect registered in the State of Florida with practical experience in the rehabilitation of historic structures. (Category # 4)

1. John Stuart

- One (i) licensed professional engineer, licensed professional architect, or licensed professional landscape architect with expertise in water resources; (ii) a person licensed by the State of Florida in hydrology, water, or wastewater treatment; (iii) a person with a degree from an accredited college or university in a field of study related to water resources; or (iv) a floodplain manager or a principal community administrator responsible for the daily implementation of flood loss reduction activities including enforcing a community's flood damage prevention ordinance, updating flood maps, plans, and policies of the community, and any of the activities related to administration of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) (a "water management expert"), each of the foregoing with professional experience and demonstrated interest in historic preservation. (Category # 5)

1. Stuart Reed

Note: All members of the Board except the architect, university faculty member, and water management expert shall be residents of the City; provided, however, that the City Commission may waive the residency requirement (if applicable) by a 5/7th vote, in the event a person not meeting the residency requirement is available to serve on the Board and is exceptionally qualified by training and/or experience in historic preservation matters. All appointments shall be made on the basis of civic pride, integrity, experience, and interest in the field of historic preservation.

15. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

VACANCIES (5):

- One member shall possess, in addition to the general qualifications set forth herein for members, a license to practice law in the State of Florida; be an active member of and in good standing with the Florida Bar, and have experience in civil rights law.

(Note, on the January 31, 2024 Commission Agenda, there is a proposed First Reading Ordinance to provide a preference for the attorney member of the Human Rights Committee to be a member of the Florida Bar, but otherwise allow for an attorney licensed to practice law in any other United States jurisdiction to serve on the Committee if the attorney has civil rights-related experience.)

- Four members who shall reflect, as nearly as possible, the diversity of individuals protected under the City's Human Rights Ordinance. *Three true vacancies and one vacancy to replace term-limited member Heidi Tandy.*

POSSIBLE REAPPOINTMENTS TO BE MADE (2):

- Two members who shall reflect, as nearly as possible, the diversity of individuals protected under the City's Human Rights Ordinance.
 1. Ariana Hernandez-Reguant
 2. Wende "Sunny" Weber

16. NEXT GENERATION COUNCIL (1-year term)

Note: Members must be eighteen (18) years through thirty-six (36) years of age at the time of appointment.

VACANCIES (4):

- One member must be a business owner in the City. (Category A)
- One member must be licensed and actively practicing in the field of real estate. (Category B)
- One member must be licensed and actively practicing in the field of architecture or engineering. (Category C)
- One member of the Millennial Action Council of the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce shall be selected by the Chamber's Executive Board of Governors. (Category # 3) *To replace term-limited member Gabriella Kalmanowicz.*

17. NORMANDY SHORES LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT

POSSIBLE REAPPOINTMENT TO BE MADE (1):

- A member of the Executive Committee of the Normandy Shores Homeowners Association.
 1. Josh Goldstein – Vice-Chair

18. NORTH BEACH COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

VACANCY (1):

- One member who must currently reside for a minimum of five (5) years within the geographic boundaries of the North Beach CRA or a 300-foot radius thereof. (Category # 1) *To replace David Sexton who is seeking reappointment to the Cultural Arts Council instead.*

POSSIBLE REAPPOINTMENTS TO BE MADE (5):

- Two members who must currently reside for a minimum of five (5) years within the geographic boundaries of the North Beach CRA or a 300-foot radius thereof. (Category # 1)
 1. Betsy Perez – Vice-Chair
 2. Manning Salazar
- One member who has demonstrated an ownership interest for a minimum of five (5) years in a business established within the geographic boundaries of the North Beach CRA, without regard to that person's residency. (Category # 2)
 1. Romina Orozco Encio
- One member who is a real estate industry professional, residing generally within the City of Miami Beach. (Category # 3)
 1. Ronald Issenberg
- One member who is an attorney with experience in land use, real estate, or other related practice area, residing generally within the City of Miami Beach or maintaining a full-time law practice and physical office located in North Beach. (Category # 4)
 1. Jose Smith - Chair

Note: The five (5) year minimum residency requirement for Category 1 may be waived upon a 5/7ths vote of the City Commission, in the event a resident within the applicable geographic area is available to serve on the committee and is exceptionally qualified by training and/or experience. Each of the members must have demonstrated interest in neighborhood leadership issues, including, without limitation, neighborhood business groups, homeowner or condominium associations and cooperatives, civic groups, and/or other similar qualifications.

19. PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITY

VACANCIES (2):

- One member who has demonstrated a high degree of interest, participation, and/or expertise in soccer.
- One member who has demonstrated a high degree of interest, participation, and/or expertise in baseball.

POSSIBLE REAPPOINTMENT TO BE MADE (1):

- One member who has demonstrated a high degree of Interest, participation, and/or expertise in youth recreational programs.
 1. Sean Smith

20. PERSONNEL BOARD (5/7 vote required)

VACANCIES (2):

- Two citizens of Miami Beach, not employed by the City, and not having the same vocation as any other member of the Personnel Board. (Excluded vocations: Executive Director/Political Party, Translator, International Sales Manager/Consultant, and Concert Producer/Impresario.)

POSSIBLE REAPPOINTMENTS TO BE MADE (2):

- Two citizens of Miami Beach, not employed by the City, and not having the same vocation as any other member of the Personnel Board.
 1. Aaron Bos-Lun – Vice-Chair – Executive Director/Political Party – Vice-Chair
 2. Roger Abramson – Concert Producer/Impresario

21. PLANNING BOARD

VACANCIES (3):

- One architect registered in the State of Florida; or a member of the faculty of a school of architecture in the state, with practical or academic expertise in the field of design, planning, historic preservation, or the history of architecture; or a landscape architect registered in the state of Florida; or a professional practicing in the fields of architectural or urban design, or urban planning. (Category # 1) *Mr. Joe Magazine previously held this position. Mr. Magazine was elected to the City Commission and has resigned from the Board.*
- One person who has education and/or experience in historic preservation issues. For purposes of this section, the term "education and/or experience in historic preservation issues" shall be a person who meets one or more of the following criteria: a. Has earned a college degree in historic preservation; b. Is responsible for the preservation, revitalization, or adaptive reuse of historic buildings; or c. Is recognized by the city commission for contributions to historic

preservation, education, or planning. (Category # 4) *Ms. Tanya Bhatt previously held this position. Ms. Bhatt was elected to the City Commission and has resigned from the Board.*

- One (i) licensed professional engineer, licensed professional architect, or licensed professional landscape architect with expertise in water resources; (ii) a person licensed by the State of Florida in hydrology, water, or wastewater treatment; (iii) a person with a degree from an accredited college or university in a field of study related to water resources; or (iv) a floodplain manager or a principal community administrator responsible for the daily implementation of flood loss reduction activities including enforcing a community's flood damage prevention ordinance, updating flood maps, plans, and policies of the community, and any of the activities related to administration of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) (a "water management expert"). (Category # 6) *To replace Gayle Durham who is not seeking reappointment.*

POSSIBLE REAPPOINTMENTS TO BE MADE (3):

- One developer who has experience in developing real property; or an attorney in good standing licensed to practice law within the United States. (Category # 2)

1. Jonathan Freidin – Attorney

- One attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Florida who has considerable experience in land use and zoning issues. (Category # 3)

1. Brian Elias – Chair

- One person who is a resident at-large and who currently resides in the city and has resided in the city for at least (3) three consecutive years at the time of appointment or reappointment. Additionally, strong preference shall be given to individuals who have previously served on a Miami Beach board or committee and/or completed the Miami Beach Leadership Academy course, and to individuals not currently working in the fields of real estate development, real estate brokerage/sales, real estate law, or architecture. (Category # 5)

1. Yechiel Ciment

Note: Except as provided in subsection 118-53 (b)(5) no person except a resident of the City, who has resided in the City for at least one year, shall be eligible for appointment to the Planning Board. The residency requirement in this subsection shall not apply to the water management expert appointed to the planning board pursuant to subsection 118-53 (b)(6).

22. SENIORS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

VACANCIES (5):

- One resident of the Four Freedoms House who shall be recommended by the residents of the Four Freedoms House and ratified by the city commission. (Category # 3) *To replace term-limited member Enilda Thomas.*
- One resident of the Blackstone Apartments who shall be recommended by the residents of the Blackstone Apartments and ratified by the City Commission. (Category # 4)

- One resident of Rebecca Towers selected by the Board of Commissioners of the Miami Beach Housing Authority. (Category # 6) *To replace Ana Rabelo, who is not seeking reappointment.*
- One resident of Council Towers North who shall be recommended by the residents of Council Towers North and ratified by the City Commission. (Category # 7)
- One resident of Council Towers South who shall be recommended by the residents of Council Towers South and ratified by the city commission. (Category # 8) *To replace term-limited member Natasha Fernandez.*

POSSIBLE REAPPOINTMENTS TO BE MADE (4):

- Two At-Large members 55 years of age or older or who have a demonstrated interest and involvement in senior citizen services, issues, activities, or facilities at the time of appointment.
 1. Carolina Cuadros
 2. Debra (Debie) Quade – At-Large, Chair
- An administrator selected by the board of trustees for Mount Sinai Medical Center who is not the chief executive officer of Mount Sinai Medical Center. (Category # 2)
 1. Oscar Llorente.
- One resident of Federation Towers who shall be recommended by the residents of Federation Towers and ratified by the city commission. (Category # 9)
 1. Magui Benitez

23. TRANSPORTATION, PARKING, AND BICYCLE-PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES COMMITTEE

VACANCIES (2):

- One South Beach business owner or a South Beach business association member. (Category # 3) *To replace term-limited member Al Feola.*
- One North Beach Neighborhood Association. (Category # 6) *To replace Dean Campbell who has resigned.*

POSSIBLE REAPPOINTMENT TO BE MADE (1):

- One South Beach neighborhood association member. (Category # 2)
 1. Marcia Dupart Lepori

24. VISITOR AND CONVENTION AUTHORITY

Note: Members must reside in Miami-Dade County.

VACANCIES (2):

- One At-Large or Hotel Industry member. *Mr. David Suarez previously held this position. Mr. Suarez was elected to the City Commission and has resigned from the VCA.*
- One Hotel Industry member. *To replace term-limited member Christopher Rollins.*

POSSIBLE REAPPOINTMENTS TO BE MADE (4):

- Three At-Large members.
 1. Cori Rice
 2. George Neary
 3. Steven Haas
- One Hotel Industry member.
 1. Margaret (Peggy) Benua – Vice-Chair