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LETTER TO COMMISSION

LTC NO: 041-2024

TO: Honorable Mayor Meiner and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

*For* REGIS BARBOU

DATE: February 6th, 2024



**SUBJECT: Motion from the Miami Beach Commission for Women**

The purpose of this Letter to Commission is to provide you with the motions made at the Miami Beach Commission for Women meeting held on February 6, 2024. For any questions or comments please contact Monica Matteo-Salinas, committee liaison.

1. Members present: Dr. Louise DePodesta, Janis Good, Charlotte Libov, Dr. Lynette Long, Robyn Malek, Pamela Mayer, Trisha Sindler, Merle Shama, Marjorie York, Yvette Tache, Jo Manning, Sandy Rojas.

Members Absent:, Amani Ayers, Francinelee Hand, Debra Schwartz, Elizabeth Resnick, Liliam Lopez, Pam Rodgers.

Motion Made by Janis Good  
Seconded by Pam Mayer

The Miami Beach Commission for Women made a motion to co-designate Miami Beach city streets in honor of women who have made a significant and valuable impact in Miami Beach history and culture.

There are 22 streets named after historical figures in the City of Mimi Beach and only two of them are named after women. The Commission for Women would like to submit the following seven names of historical female figures to be considered for ceremonial street re-namings. **All of these women are deserving of this honor.**

We recommend the following outstanding noteworthy women:

Josephine Baker  
Judy Drucker  
Naomi Wilzig  
Elizabeth Goodnow Cooper  
Sophie Tucker  
Gwen Margolis  
DeAnne Connolly Graham

Motion Passage: Unanimously.

The Miami Beach Commission for Women urges the Mayor and Commission to support the above request.

## Ceremonial Street Name Candidates

### Josephine Baker

Cabaret singer and dancer and civil rights activist. On January 10, 1951, Josephine Baker became the first known entertainer to perform at a prominent Miami Beach club before an integrated audience. Baker was considered to be a bridge between France and the United States in the struggle against discrimination.

### Judy Drucker

Known as an impresario of concerts, opera, dance, all things art, founded CAF (Concert Association of Florida) in 1967 at Temple Beth Shalom in Miami Beach. In less than a year the Gleason Theater became home. During the next 40 years Drucker developed the organization into the largest classical presenter in the southeastern U.S. to include stars such as: Pinchas Zukerman, Itzhak Perlman, Andr\_ Watts, Luciano Pavarotti, Beverly Sills, Dmitri Hvorostovsky, Cecilia Bartoli, and Mikhail Baryshnikov.

### Naomi Wilzig

An American art collector, who searched for a place to call home for her collection for 6 years overcoming obstacles from cities to landlords. Finally found home on 12<sup>th</sup> and Washington becoming the founder and director of The World Erotic Art Museum in Miami Beach, Florida. On the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Wilzig wrote 3 books about her collection, received an honorary doctorate from The Institute for the Advanced Study of Human Sexuality in the study of erotic art and an honorary doctorate from the U.S. Rabbinical Council for her philanthropy and finances.

### Elizabeth Goodnow Cooper

Also known as Mrs. Clayton Sedgwick Cooper distinguished novelist, founded the Miami Beach Women's Club at 24<sup>th</sup> and Pinetree to foster friendships withing the community. The Club organized the "book shower" at the Pancoast Hotel receiving 899 volumes in donations and resulting in the creation of present-day Miami Beach Library. The Clubs efforts impressed Carl G. Fisher enough to contribute by donating a site to the Club in March of 1927.

### Sophie Tucker

Known by the nickname "the Last of the Red-Hot Mamas," Tucker started singing in her family's restaurant at a young age. Eventually becoming one of the most popular multifaceted entertainers in the US during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, a singer, comedian, actress and radio personality.

She spent time in Miami Beach with her son, a hotel manager. She also performed at the Colonial Inn, the Beachcomber, Jack Dempsey's Bar and the Latin Quarter, paving the way for other women entertainers.

#### Gwen Margolis

Margolis described as a trailblazer, championing women's rights, children's health issues, open and ethical government. During her 6 years as chair of Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs she took elevated the department tripling its budget. She led restoration efforts to fund the grants programs under the Division of Cultural Affairs leading to the cultural hot spot Miami Beach is today.

#### DeAnne Connolly Graham

DeAnne effortlessly wore many hats ranging from a public speaker, actor, model not to mention a successful entrepreneur. Connolly Graham actively to promote social justice and equal minority participation in business, participating in numerous initiatives to help underdeveloped communities; Miami Beach's Black Affairs Advisory Committee, AYUDA, and Miami Beach's Chamber of Commerce Women's Business Council, just to name a few.