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COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the City Commission

FROM: Commissioner Alex J. Fernandez

DATE: March 13, 2024

SUBJECT: **Referral to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee - Discussion regarding the creation of elected Neighborhood Advisory Councils in the City of Miami Beach**

Please place on the March 13, 2024 agenda a referral to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee ("PSNQLC") to discuss whether the City should explore establishing elected Neighborhood Advisory Councils for the City of Miami Beach based on the framework used by Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C., has established advisory neighborhood commissions (ANCs) to provide guidance to the District government on matters of public policy, including decisions related to planning, streets, recreation, social services programs, health, safety, and sanitation within specific neighborhood commission areas. These ANCs are established by the D.C. Council, and are typically initiated through a petition signed by at least 5% of registered electors within the designated geographic area. Members are elected by **residents** in each neighborhood to terms of 2 years.

Community engagement and resident representation is critical to the City's decision-making process. I ask that the PSNQLC consider whether Advisory Neighborhood Councils should be created in Miami Beach, to provide additional opportunities for public input by residents and other stakeholders at the neighborhood level. These councils could serve as a vital link between the City and its residents.

Given that the creation of Neighborhood Advisory Councils will require thoughtful study and analysis and will ultimately require City Charter and/or Code amendments, I would like the PSNQLC to discuss and provide its initial recommendations to the City Commission.