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## FRLA SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Lynne Hernandez



**FLORIDA  
RESTAURANT &  
LODGING  
ASSOCIATION**

MIAMI / DADE CHAPTER

Honorable Mayor and City of Miami Beach Commission  
City of Miami Beach  
1700 Convention Center Drive  
Miami Beach, FL 33139  
Via Email

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Commissioners:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association Miami-Dade Chapter, we are writing to express our comments and concerns with the proposed "panic device" ordinance to be heard in committee on May 22, 2018.

We commend the Commissioners and Mayor for considering our members' concerns and requests. The amended ordinance is less cumbersome for our member hotels and the minimum one-year period to comply is agreeable.

However, we are concerned about the section addressing violations and penalties. It does not provide our members sufficient clarity regarding what would qualify as a violation and how penalties would be levied. We respectfully request a more clear and concise explanation of what would constitute a violation. It needs to be very clear to both the city and the hotelier how this will be enforced.

Additionally, while we are willing to comply with the City's wishes, we do want to stress to you that our member hotels take the safety of their employees very seriously and have extensive training and policies in place for their protection. Reported incidents of sexual harassment at our hotels have been extremely rare, and we have not seen any recent increase in incidents.

We also have a concern about the signage on the back of guest room doors. While we assume this is intended to be a deterrent, it may cause our guests to question the safety of their chosen establishment and the safety of the city itself. This has the potential to negatively impact our tourism. We respectfully request that this be omitted from the ordinance.

Thank you for your time, review and consideration. We look forward to our continued partnership for the betterment of the City of Miami Beach.

Sincerely,

Lynne M. Hernandez  
Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association  
South Florida Regional Director

The Board of Directors  
Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association  
Miami-Dade Chapter