

From: WAvNA - West Avenue Neighborhood Association <wavna305@gmail.com>

Date: March 22, 2018 at 06:27:18 EDT

To: Commissioner Steinberg <MickySteinberg@miamibeachfl.gov>, Ricky Arriola <RickyArriola@miamibeachfl.gov>, Commissioner Mark Sameulian <MarkSamuelian@miamibeachfl.gov>, John Elizabeth Aleman <JohnAleman@miamibeachfl.gov>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: WAvNA Comments at March 14 SRC Meeting

Dear Commissioner,

The purpose of this letter is to document the comments made by representatives of the West Avenue Neighborhood Association (WAvNA) at the Sustainability & Resiliency Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 14th, 2018, about how the City is addressing Climate Change issues and the West Avenue Phase II Project. Comments are as follows:

- **Proposed Increase to Street Elevation:** The current plan, which is under review, will put the elevation of private property below the level of the street for many of the businesses and residences in the West Avenue Neighborhood. While this might protect the streets, it will increase the probability of private property flooding, especially during storm events that exceed the design capacity of the new stormwater system or failure of the stormwater pumps. The Neighborhood is concerned that this increased risk decreases the likelihood of obtaining property insurance, resulting in diminished property values.
- **Improved Stormwater system:** Since the West Avenue Phase I project installed new stormwater pumps at 10th and 14th Streets, residents have no longer witnessed flooding or standing water on streets of stormwater drains connected to the City's stormwater system. This questions the need for increasing the street's elevation.
- **Bay Water Pollution:** Some residents have expressed concerns with the visual quality of the water being discharged into Biscayne Bay, and feel the City should do more to improve the quality of the discharged water.
- **Seawalls along Biscayne Bay:** The seawalls along Biscayne Bay have significantly reduced flooding during King Tide events in the West Avenue Neighborhood. Residents have expressed concerns about the City's plan to address private seawalls, which have not been raised, and feel the city should develop solutions to address this problem. This would further reinforce the neighborhood's protection from King Tide events.
- **Ground Water:** Some residents feel that potential increases in the groundwater elevation pose the most significant risk to the West Avenue Neighborhood. Although there have not been any reported instances of groundwater rising to the surface, it is a concern.
- **Electrical and Communication Infrastructure:** Residents are concerned about the resiliency of the electrical and communication infrastructure during storm events, from

both wind and flooding. Addressing this concern is critical to the neighborhood's resiliency.

As Miami Beach moves forward we need to think strategically and comprehensively about climate change and how we will live with the anticipated increases in water levels, the frequency of storms and increasing temperatures. It also must develop policies that address greenhouse gas emissions to be part of turning climate change around. Developing well designed sustainable solutions will be key to the future of Miami Beach.

Regards,

West Avenue Neighborhood Association (WAvNA)

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