
Subject: FW: Marian Cartoon Signature for Memorial Plaque at Beach Entrance from Ocean Beach Park
Attachments: IMG-0851.JPG

From: Frank DelVecchio [fdelvecchio@atlanticbb.net]
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 1:41 PM
To: Gelber, Dan; Morales, Jimmy
Cc: Bob Goodman; Patricia Posner; Gerald Posner; Clare McCord
Subject: Marian Cartoon Signature for Memorial Plaque at Beach Entrance from Ocean Beach Park

Dear Mayor Gelber:

I very much appreciate your willingness to consider the installation of a memorial plaque in recognition of the civic contributions by my recently deceased wife, Marian Del Vecchio, specifically her successful role, with me, in initiating a homeless assistance program at Ocean Beach Park and the dune crossover there.

These were the first matters she discussed in her April 15 FIU/MDPL video. The first day we arrived at our 301 Ocean Drive apartment, adjacent to the park, Marian looked out over the balcony and remarked: "Frank, look at the homeless encampment. You've got to do something about it." I had directed HUD homeless programs in New England, among others, and went right to work on it.

The Pottinger settlement agreement had paralyzed and demoralized the City of Miami Beach police, who felt that if they arrested homeless the NAACP would get the Federal Court to assert its jurisdiction over the City of Miami Beach, which would lose control. I talked to the attorneys in the case, and formulated a homeless assistance program proposal that would enable the City of Miami Beach to make the offer of housing and assistance which would satisfy the underlying premises of the Pottinger Settlement agreement. Captain Casey Conwell of the CMB police, chief Barreto, and city manager Sergio Rodriguez recognized this as the avenue out, and the city commission agreed to an initial budget. [I even wrote the first contract with the Salvation Army Shelter in Miami.]

Marian was with me all the way, drawing cartoons that told the story in a nutshell. This was just the beginning. We advocated repair of the boarded-up playground in Ocean Beach Park, and eventually the construction of a wonderful fenced-in playground. Marian's cartoons were instrumental in all of the successful legislative initiatives which fostered a viable South of Fifth neighborhood, now home to hundreds of families with children. It is stable and sound.

Even the most recent controversy over the path for the Beachwalk extension from 3rd to 5th Street has been brilliantly solved. Instead of a low-lying path adjacent to the walls of the oceanfront buildings, from which no part of the beach could be seen, there is now a higher path in the dunes that is embraced by residents and tourists, dozens of whom photograph every day the life guard stands and the beach from the serpentine

path. The dunes have been strengthened in the process. We advocated for this, and Marian supported this with her cartoons of the beach. Always a partner.

I think a legitimate case can be made for city recognition of this remarkable woman's contribution to the civic good.

I ask that you consider a location (I will forward photographs) at the Beachwalk opposite the shower as one enters the beach area of Ocean Beach Park. There is a palm tree set in a few feet from the path, fronting on a sandy spot that should prove ideal for a plaque on a stand. I assume it would be a bronze, engraved plaque tilted so as to be best seen. This e-mail contains one of Marian's universally recognized cartoon signatures: a cartoon of Marian on the left and me on the right. I would use Marian's signature cartoon on the left, just her, and on the left of the plaque, which I think the engraver could copy in bronze, and to the right, the simple words:

In Memory of
Marian Del Vecchio
(1935 - 2019)

With heavy heart but with appreciation that the mayor is willing to move forward with an initiative I believe the community and the city commission will recognize as legitimate.

Many thanks,

Frank Del Vecchio
301 Ocean Drive, Apt. 604
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