

MIAMI BEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

LTC # 027-2021

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Dan Gelber and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Raul J. Aguila, Interim City Manager

DATE: January 20, 2021 

SUBJECT: Motions by the LGBTQ Advisory Committee

The purpose of this Letter to Commission (LTC) is to inform the Mayor and the Commission of motions made by the LGBTQ Advisory Committee at their meeting on January 12, 2021.

MOTION 1:

The LGBTQ Advisory Committee recommends supporting three independent proposals as reflected below to promote the City of Miami Beach and our support of Marriage Equality and marketing our city as a destination for marriage as well as the resources available to all residents.

Motion Made By: Sunny Weber

Motion Seconded By: Herb Sosa

Motion Passed: 10-0

Members in favor: Craig Garmendia, Danny Diaz, Eddie Kring, Herb Sosa, Mark Wylie, Michael Bath, Paul Thomas, Riki Wilchins, Robin Schwartz, Sunny Weber

ANALYSIS

In recognition of the City of Miami Beach's steadfast support of marriage equality; the Committee would like to facilitate the process of filing a marriage application in the City of Miami Beach and making resources and information accessible to all.

I. Using the existing city website, develop links providing information and services required for marriage which would assist anyone unfamiliar with the marriage process. Requests to include:

- One-page printable graphic of the steps required to get married in Miami Beach including locations, costs and, timeline (outlined below)
- Currently, step 1 of the process requires applicants to go in person to the office on Washington Avenue during business hours. Request to make this information and application is accessible online. This would also expedite the process for couples choosing Miami Beach as a wedding destination so that the application can be completed before their arrival.

II. Designate Marriage Equality Month in Miami Beach. Suggestions include the month of April in which we host PRIDE. June, an internationally recognized month of Gay Pride parades often designated Christopher Street Day.

- January and August are benchmark months in Florida's courts as the

dates the ban was ruled unconstitutional (Aug 14, 2014) and the state legally recognized same-sex marriage (Jan 6, 2015).

III. Capitalizing on our resources

- A structure to function as the backdrop for outdoor ceremonies and photo ops. Suggested structure idea is 2 interlocked circles which symbolize both the couple's rings and eternity. Foliage could be grown to bring the structure to life, similar to the structure in Soundscape Park.

Current Marriage Process is as follows:

1. Go to the office on Washington Avenue and apply for a marriage license.
 - a. Cost \$93.50 (3 day wait)
 - b. Cost \$61 if the applicants are residents of the state of Florida and have proof of attending marriage preparatory classes conducted by a certified provider* (same day)
2. Participate in a city ceremony or a person certified to conduct the ceremony such as a Justice of the Peace or Clergyman (price, location, and scheduling vary)

*If a couple chooses to attend marriage preparatory classes, it is 4 hours generally 4 one-hour sessions scheduled with their chosen provider.

MOTION 2:

The LGBTQ Advisory Committee recommend that the Commission creates a protocol that any issues related to the LGBTQ Community be referred to the Committee for discussion prior to making any decisions that affect the LGBTQ Community. In addition, the Committee requests they be notified of all LGBTQ related events in a timely manner.

Motion Made By: Robin Schwartz

Motion Seconded By: Herb Sosa

Motion Passed: 10-0

Members in favor: Craig Garmendia, Danny Diaz, Eddie Kring, Gayle Durham, Herb Sosa, Michael Bath, Paul Thomas, Riki Wilchins, Robin Schwartz, Sunny Weber

RJA/MM/mg