

# MIAMI BEACH

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

### Staff Report & Recommendation

### Historic Preservation Board

TO: Chairperson and Members  
Historic Preservation Board

DATE: November 8, 2016

FROM: Thomas R. Mooney, AICP  
Planning Director



SUBJECT: HPB16-0060, **5225 Collins Avenue – The Alexander**.

The applicant, The Alexander Condominium, is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for the replacement of the existing masonry railing with glass railings.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Approval of Certificate of Appropriateness with conditions

#### **BACKGROUND**

On August 9, 2016, the Board reviewed a preliminary evaluation for the replacement of the concrete railings with glass railings and continued the subject application to a date certain of September 13, 2016 (**HPB0616-0045**).

On September 13, 2016, the Board reviewed a preliminary evaluation for the replacement of the concrete railings with glass railings and provided direction to the applicant.

#### **EXISTING STRUCTURE**

Local Historic District:	Morris Lapidus / Mid-20 <sup>th</sup> Century
Status:	Contributing
Original Construction Date:	1962
Original Architect:	Charles McKirahan & Associates

#### **ZONING / SITE DATA**

Legal Description:	Lots 19 and 20 of Amended First Ocean Front Subdivision and out lots opposite same facing Indian Creek, According to the Plat Thereof, as Recorded in Plat Book 9, Page 78, of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida.
--------------------	--

Zoning:	RM-3, Residential Multi-Family, High Intensity
Future Land Use Designation:	RM-3, Residential Multi-Family, High Intensity

#### **THE PROJECT**

The applicant has submitted plans entitled "Alexander Hotel Resort – Proposed Balcony Railing Renovation" as prepared by Modis Architects, dated 09/09/16.

**The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for a new railing design, including the removal of existing masonry railings to be replaced with glass railings.**

**COMPLIANCE WITH ZONING CODE**

A preliminary review of the request indicates that the application, as proposed, appears to be consistent with the City Code. The above noted comments shall not be considered final zoning review or approval. These and all zoning matters shall require final review and verification by the Zoning Administrator prior to the issuance of a Building Permit.

**CONSISTENCY WITH 2025 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

A preliminary review of the project indicates that the hotel/residential use appears to be **consistent** with the Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan.

**COMPLIANCE WITH CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS CRITERIA:**

A decision on an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness shall be based upon the following:

- I. Evaluation of the compatibility of the physical alteration or improvement with surrounding properties and where applicable, compliance with the following criteria pursuant to Section 118-564(a)(1) of the Miami Beach Code (it is recommended that the listed criteria be found Satisfied, Not Satisfied or Not Applicable, as so noted):
  - a. The Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings as revised from time to time.  
**Satisfied**
  - b. Other guidelines/policies/plans adopted or approved by Resolution or Ordinance by the City Commission.  
**Satisfied**
- II. In determining whether a particular application is compatible with surrounding properties, the Board shall consider the following criteria pursuant to Section 118-564(a)(2) of the Miami Beach Code (it is recommended that the listed criteria be found Satisfied, Not Satisfied or Not Applicable, as so noted):
  - a. Exterior architectural features.  
**Satisfied**
  - b. General design, scale, massing and arrangement.  
**Satisfied**
  - c. Texture and material and color.  
**Not Satisfied;**  
**Material samples have not been submitted.**
  - d. The relationship of a, b, c, above, to other structures and features of the district.  
**Satisfied**
  - e. The purpose for which the district was created.

**Satisfied**

- f. The relationship of the size, design and siting of any new or reconstructed structure to the landscape of the district.

**Not Applicable**

- g. An historic resources report, containing all available data and historic documentation regarding the building, site or feature.

**Not Applicable**

- h. The original architectural design or any subsequent modifications that have acquired significance.

**Not Applicable**

- III. The examination of architectural drawings for consistency with the criteria pursuant to Section 118-564(a)(3) of the Miami Beach Code and stated below, with regard to the aesthetics, appearances, safety, and function of any new or existing structure, public interior space and physical attributes of the project in relation to the site, adjacent structures and properties, and surrounding community. The criteria referenced above are as follows (it is recommended that the listed criteria be found Satisfied, Not Satisfied or Not Applicable, as so noted):

- a. The location of all existing and proposed buildings, drives, parking spaces, walkways, means of ingress and egress, drainage facilities, utility services, landscaping structures, signs, and lighting and screening devices.

**Not Applicable**

- b. The dimensions of all buildings, structures, setbacks, parking spaces, floor area ratio, height, lot coverage and any other information that may be reasonably necessary to determine compliance with the requirements of the underlying zoning district, and any applicable overlays, for a particular application or project.

**Not Applicable**

- c. The color, design, surface finishes and selection of landscape materials and architectural elements of the exterior of all buildings and structures and primary public interior areas for developments requiring a building permit in areas of the city identified in section 118-503.

**Satisfied**

- d. The proposed structure, and/or additions to an existing structure is appropriate to and compatible with the environment and adjacent structures, and enhances the appearance of the surrounding properties, or the purposes for which the district was created.

**Satisfied**

- e. The design and layout of the proposed site plan, as well as all new and existing buildings and public interior spaces shall be reviewed so as to provide an efficient arrangement of land uses. Particular attention shall be given to safety, crime prevention and fire protection, relationship to the surrounding

neighborhood, impact on preserving historic character of the neighborhood and district, contiguous and adjacent buildings and lands, pedestrian sight lines and view corridors.

**Not Applicable**

- f. Pedestrian and vehicular traffic movement within and adjacent to the site shall be reviewed to ensure that clearly defined, segregated pedestrian access to the site and all buildings is provided for and that any driveways and parking spaces are usable, safely and conveniently arranged and have a minimal impact on pedestrian circulation throughout the site. Access to the site from adjacent roads shall be designed so as to interfere as little as possible with vehicular traffic flow on these roads and pedestrian movement onto and within the site, as well as permit both pedestrians and vehicles a safe ingress and egress to the site.

**Not Applicable**

- g. Lighting shall be reviewed to ensure safe movement of persons and vehicles and reflection on public property for security purposes and to minimize glare and reflection on adjacent properties and consistent with a City master plan, where applicable.

**Not Applicable**

- h. Landscape and paving materials shall be reviewed to ensure an adequate relationship with and enhancement of the overall site plan design.

**Not Applicable**

- i. Buffering materials shall be reviewed to ensure that headlights of vehicles, noise, and light from Structures are adequately shielded from public view, adjacent properties and pedestrian areas.

**Not Applicable**

- j. Any proposed new structure shall have an orientation and massing which is sensitive to and compatible with the building site and surrounding area and which creates or maintains important view corridor(s).

**Not Applicable**

- k. All buildings shall have, to the greatest extent possible, space in that part of the ground floor fronting a sidewalk, street or streets which is to be occupied for residential or commercial uses; likewise, the upper floors of the pedestal portion of the proposed building fronting a sidewalk street, or streets shall have residential or commercial spaces, or shall have the appearance of being a residential or commercial space or shall have an architectural treatment which shall buffer the appearance of a parking structure from the surrounding area and is integrated with the overall appearance of the project.

**Not Applicable**

- l. All buildings shall have an appropriate and fully integrated rooftop architectural treatment which substantially screens all mechanical equipment, stairs and elevator towers.

**Not Applicable**

- m. Any addition on a building site shall be designed, sited and massed in a manner which is sensitive to and compatible with the existing improvement(s).  
**Not Applicable**
- n. All portions of a project fronting a street or sidewalk shall incorporate an amount of transparency at the first level necessary to achieve pedestrian compatibility.  
**Not Applicable**
- o. The location, design, screening and buffering of all required service bays, delivery bays, trash and refuse receptacles, as well as trash rooms shall be arranged so as to have a minimal impact on adjacent properties.  
**Not Applicable**

**CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR DEMOLITION EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Section 118-564 (f)(4) of the Land Development Regulations of the Miami Beach Code provides criteria by which the Historic Preservation Board evaluates requests for a Certificate of Appropriateness for Demolition. The following is an analysis of the request based upon these criteria:

- a. The Building, Structure, Improvement, or Site is designated on either a national or state level as a part of an Historic Preservation District or as a Historic Architectural Landmark or Site, or is designated pursuant to Division 4, Article X, Chapter 118 of the Miami Beach Code as a Historic Building, Historic Structure or Historic Site, Historic Improvement, Historic Landscape Feature, historic interior or the Structure is of such historic/architectural interest or quality that it would reasonably meet national, state or local criteria for such designation.  
**Satisfied**  
**The existing structure is designated as part of the Morris Lapidus / Mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century Historic District; and is designated as a 'Contributing' structure in the historic district.**
- b. The Building, Structure, Improvement, or Site is of such design, craftsmanship, or material that it could be reproduced only with great difficulty and/or expense.  
**Satisfied**  
**The existing structure would be difficult and inordinately expensive to reproduce.**
- c. The Building, Structure, Improvement, or Site is one of the last remaining examples of its kind in the neighborhood, the country, or the region, or is a distinctive example of an architectural or design style which contributes to the character of the district.  
**Satisfied**  
**The existing structure is one of the last remaining examples of its kind, and contributes to the character of the district.**
- d. The building, structure, improvement, or site is a contributing building, structure, improvement, site or landscape feature rather than a noncontributing building, structure, improvement, site or landscape feature in a historic district as defined in section 114-1, or is an architecturally significant feature of a public area of the interior of a historic or contributing building.

**Satisfied**

**The subject structure is designated as 'Contributing' in the Miami Beach Historic Properties Database.**

- e. Retention of the Building, Structure, Improvement, Landscape Feature or Site promotes the general welfare of the City by providing an opportunity for study of local history, architecture, and design or by developing an understanding of the importance and value of a particular culture and heritage.

**Satisfied**

**The retention of the subject structure is critical to developing an understanding of important Miami Beach architectural styles.**

- f. If the proposed demolition is for the purpose of constructing a parking garage, the Board shall consider it if the parking garage is designed in a manner that is consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings, U.S. Department of the Interior (1983), as amended, and/or the design review guidelines for that particular district.

**Not Applicable**

**The partial demolition proposed in the subject application is not for the purpose of constructing a parking garage.**

- g. In the event an applicant or property owner proposes the total demolition of a contributing structure, historic structure or architecturally significant feature, there shall be definite plans presented to the board for the reuse of the property if the proposed demolition is approved and carried out.

**Not Applicable**

**The applicant is not proposing total demolition of the structure.**

- h. The Dade County Unsafe Structures Board has ordered the demolition of a Structure without option.

**Not Applicable**

**The Miami-Dade County Unsafe Structures Board has not ordered the demolition of any part of the subject buildings.**

**STAFF ANALYSIS:**

As noted in the 'Background' section of this report, the Board previously reviewed a preliminary evaluation for the replacement of the existing masonry railings with glass railings. The applicant presented two options on August 9, 2016 and one additional option on September 13, 2016. Since the September meeting, the applicant has submitted an application requesting approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the replacement of the existing railings consistent with the design presented at the September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Staff believes that the currently proposed balcony design maintains the powerful horizontal design emphasis created by continuous and uniform horizontal rows of kneewalls and solid masonry balconies on each floor above the pedestal level and is compatible with the original design of the building.

**RECOMMENDATION**

In view of the foregoing analysis, staff recommends the application be **approved** subject to the conditions enumerated in the attached draft Order, which address the inconsistencies with the aforementioned Certificate of Appropriateness.



**HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD**  
**City of Miami Beach, Florida**

MEETING DATE: November 8, 2016

FILE NO: HPB16-0060

PROPERTY: 5225 Collins Avenue

APPLICANT: The Alexander Condominium LLC

LEGAL: Lots 19 and 20 of Amended First Ocean Front Subdivision and out lots opposite same facing Indian Creek, According to the Plat Thereof, as Recorded in Plat Book 9, Page 78, of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida.

IN RE: The application for a Certificate of Appropriateness Certificate of Appropriateness for the replacement of the existing masonry railing with glass railings.

**ORDER**

The City of Miami Beach Historic Preservation Board makes the following FINDINGS OF FACT, based upon the evidence, information, testimony and materials presented at the public hearing and which are part of the record for this matter:

**I. Certificate of Appropriateness**

- A. The subject site is located within the Morris Lapidus / Mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century Local Historic District.
- B. Based on the plans and documents submitted with the application, testimony and information provided by the applicant, and the reasons set forth in the Planning Department Staff Report, the project as submitted:
  1. Is consistent with the Certificate of Appropriateness Criteria in Section 118-564(a)(1) of the Miami Beach Code.
  2. Is not consistent with Certificate of Appropriateness Criteria 'c' in Section 118-564(a)(2) of the Miami Beach Code.
  3. Is consistent with Certificate of Appropriateness Criteria in Section 118-564(a)(3) of the Miami Beach Code.
  4. Is consistent with Certificate of Appropriateness Criteria for Demolition in Section 118-564(f)(4) of the Miami Beach Code.
- C. The project would remain consistent with the criteria and requirements of section 118-564 if the following conditions are met:



1. Revised elevation, site plan and floor plan drawings shall be submitted and, at a minimum, such drawings shall incorporate the following:
  - a. The final design and details of the glass balcony railing system including the tint of the glass and the finish of the aluminum framing shall be provided, in a manner to be reviewed and approved by staff consistent with the Certificate of Appropriateness Criteria and/or the directions from the Board.

## **II. Variance(s)**

- A. No Variances were requested as a part of this application.

## **III. General Terms and Conditions applying to both 'I. Certificate of Appropriateness' and 'II. Variances' noted above.**

- A. Where one or more parcels are unified for a single development, the property owner shall execute and record an unity of title or a covenant in lieu of unity of title, as may be applicable, in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.
- B. Applicant agrees that in the event Code Compliance receives complaints of unreasonably loud noise from mechanical and/or electrical equipment, and determines the complaints to be valid, even if the equipment is operating pursuant to manufacturer specifications, the applicant shall take such steps to mitigate the noise with noise attenuating materials as reviewed and verified by an acoustic engineer, in a manner to be reviewed and approved by staff consistent with the Certificate of Appropriateness Criteria and/or the directions from the Board.
- C. A copy of all pages of the recorded Final Order shall be scanned into the plans submitted for building permit, and shall be located immediately after the front cover page of the permit plans.
- D. The Final Order shall be recorded in the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, prior to the issuance of a Building Permit.
- E. Satisfaction of all conditions is required for the Planning Department to give its approval on a Certificate of Occupancy; a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy or Partial Certificate of Occupancy may also be conditionally granted Planning Departmental approval.
- F. The Final Order is not severable, and if any provision or condition hereof is held void or unconstitutional in a final decision by a court of competent jurisdiction, the order shall be returned to the Board for reconsideration as to whether the order meets the criteria for approval absent the stricken provision or condition, and/or it is appropriate to modify the remaining conditions or impose new conditions.
- G. The conditions of approval herein are binding on the applicant, the property's owners, operators, and all successors in interest and assigns.

- H. Nothing in this order authorizes a violation of the City Code or other applicable law, nor allows a relaxation of any requirement or standard set forth in the City Code.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, based upon the foregoing findings of fact, the evidence, information, testimony and materials presented at the public hearing, which are part of the record for this matter, and the staff report and analysis, which are adopted herein, including the staff recommendations, which were amended and adopted by the Board, that the application is GRANTED for the above-referenced project subject to those certain conditions specified in Paragraph I, II, III of the Findings of Fact, to which the applicant has agreed.

PROVIDED, the applicant shall build substantially in accordance with the plans entitled "Alexander Hotel Resort – Proposed Balcony Railing Renovation" as prepared by Modis Architects, dated 09/09/16, and as approved by the Historic Preservation Board, as determined by staff.

When requesting a building permit, the plans submitted to the Building Department for permit shall be consistent with the plans approved by the Board, modified in accordance with the conditions set forth in this Order. No building permit may be issued unless and until all conditions of approval that must be satisfied prior to permit issuance, as set forth in this Order, have been met.

The issuance of the approval does not relieve the applicant from obtaining all other required Municipal, County and/or State reviews and permits, including final zoning approval. If adequate handicapped access is not provided on the Board-approved plans, this approval does not mean that such handicapped access is not required. When requesting a building permit, the plans submitted to the Building Department for permit shall be consistent with the plans approved by the Board, modified in accordance with the conditions set forth in this Order.

If the Full Building Permit for the project is not issued within eighteen (18) months of the meeting date at which the original approval was granted, the application will expire and become null and void, unless the applicant makes an application to the Board for an extension of time, in accordance with the requirements and procedures of Chapter 118 of the City Code; the granting of any such extension of time shall be at the discretion of the Board. If the Full Building Permit for the project should expire for any reason (including but not limited to construction not commencing and continuing, with required inspections, in accordance with the applicable Building Code), the application will expire and become null and void.

In accordance with Chapter 118 of the City Code, the violation of any conditions and safeguards that are a part of this Order shall be deemed a violation of the land development regulations of the City Code. Failure to comply with this **Order** shall subject the application to Chapter 118 of the City Code, for revocation or modification of the application.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD  
THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

DEBORAH TACKETT  
PRESERVATION AND DESIGN MANAGER  
FOR THE CHAIR

STATE OF FLORIDA            )  
  )SS  
COUNTY OF MIAMI-DADE    )

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_ by Deborah Tackett, Preservation and Design Manager, Planning Department, City of Miami Beach, Florida, a Florida Municipal Corporation, on behalf of the corporation. He is personally known to me.

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
Miami-Dade County, Florida  
My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved As To Form:  
City Attorney's Office: \_\_\_\_\_ (                    )

Filed with the Clerk of the Historic Preservation Board on \_\_\_\_\_ (                    )