From:	Heidi Tandy
To:	Steinberg, Micky
Subject:	Gene Howard and Miami Beach Sports
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Gene Howard was devoted to Miami Beach Racquetball and to Flamingo Park. He believed wholeheartedly in public access to sports. He began playing handball and racquetball at Flamingo Park in 1966 and played continually at the public courts until 2011 when he was 70. Prior to play - and because the courts were not always well maintained, he and his friends cleaned the courts with old newspapers. He worked collaboratively with MBPD to relocate anyone who tried to sleep in those very hot four-walled courts. With no place to change from business attire to shorts and tees, Gene changed at his car!

Gene recruited many young players to the game and always played them to win- no matter the discrepancy in ages -- including his daughters, and son-in-law, Aaron Tandy, now the rising chair of the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce. (He once closed a real estate deal with a player 40 years his junior with a killer serve). Gene won the over-50 Statewide singles championship in 1992. During that competition he sustained a cut over his eye that he tried to stitch himself!

 Gene Howard also **sponsored** a baseball team at Flamingo Park in the 1980s—the Gene Howard Properties team—with star players Tony and Kent Kay.   Gene chaired the Miami Beach Golf Committee and was the founder of the successful Billy Shockett Golf Tournament which raises funds supporting junior golf at Miami Beach public courses. Gene loved Flamingo Park and Miami Beach with all his heart.

Our family can think of no greater honor for his memory, and no better memento of those years surrounded by the chirp of blue racquetballs on the Flamingo Park courts, than a commemoration of "Racquet Gene" Howard on his beloved mint-green courts, open to the Miami Beach sky.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Best,

Heidi Howard Tandy