

MIAMIBEACH

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

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Dan Gelber and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Rafael Paz, City Attorney 

DATE: December 8, 2021

SUBJECT: **A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING, BY 5/7TH VOTE, FOLLOWING A DULY NOTICED PUBLIC HEARING, THE CO-NAMING OF 19TH STREET, LOCATED BETWEEN MERIDIAN AVENUE AND MUHAMMAD ALI WAY, AS "ELIE WIESEL STREET," SUBJECT TO FINAL APPROVAL OF THE CO-NAMING BY THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2-1, RULE 9.02 OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CODE.**

In accordance with the City Code, the above-referenced item is to consider Commissioner Richardson's specific proposal to co-name of 19th Street, located between Meridian Avenue and Muhammad Ali Way, and proximate to Pride Park and the City's Holocaust Memorial, in honor of the late Elie Wiesel.

On September 17, 2021, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Ordinance No. 2021-4439, amending Section 82-503(c) of the City Code to provide for additional criteria for the co-naming of streets in honor of prominent Jewish figure who made significant civic contributions to Jewish history and/or Jewish-related initiatives, such as Elie Wiesel.

Pursuant to the request of Commissioner David Richardson, the co-naming of 19th Street, located between Meridian Avenue and Muhammad Ali Way, as "Elie Wiesel Street" was referred to the Neighborhood and Quality of Life Committee ("NQLC") for the Committee's consideration and review.

At its October 29, 2021 meeting, the NQLC considered the request for the co-naming of 19th Street as "Elie Wiesel Street" and without making a recommendation on the merits, directed for this proposal to be fully considered by the City Commission.

Elie Wiesel was a Romanian-born Jewish writer, professor, political activist, Nobel laureate, and Holocaust survivor. Mr. Wiesel authored 57 books, including *Night*, a work based on his experiences as a Jewish prisoner in the Auschwitz and

Buchenwald concentration camps, which provided the world with an invaluable firsthand account of the horrors that the Jewish people had endured and remains an integral part of Holocaust literature. Elie Wiesel was the Founding Chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, and helped establish the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., which provides for the documentation, study, and interpretation of Holocaust history.

In 1986, Elie Wiesel was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for being a “messenger to mankind,” and “one of the most important spiritual leaders and guides in an age when violence, repression and racism continue to characterize the world,” and dedicated his Nobel Peace Prize to those who survived the Holocaust. In 1992, Elie Wiesel was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for being a ‘keeper of the flame of freedom’ and challenging people of all religions to remember the Holocaust.

Co-naming 19th Street after a prominent Jewish figure and a Holocaust survivor would be appropriate and fitting due to its proximity to the City’s Holocaust Memorial, a striking, beautiful memorial built for remembrance of lives taken not only during the Holocaust, but for the promotion of tolerance and human rights.

As 19th Street, located between Meridian Avenue, and Muhammad Ali Way, is a platted, public road, the proposed co-naming must also be approved by the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners pursuant to Rule 9.02 of Section 2-1 of the Miami-Dade County Code

Should you have any questions or concerns about any of the foregoing, please don’t hesitate to contact me or Assistant City Attorney Farosha Andasheva.

RAP/FA/ag