

MIAMI BEACH

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

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales

DATE: February 8, 2017

SUBJECT: **A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVE DESIGN MIAMI: DESIGN AND POLICY STRATEGIES FOR HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES AS DEVELOPED BY THE MIAMI CENTER FOR ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN (MCAD); AND DIRECTING STAFF TO INCORPORATE STRATEGIES INTO PLANNING FUNCTIONS AS FEASIBLE**

BACKGROUND

On December 13, 2016, the Sustainability Committee passed a motion recommending the Sustainability and Resiliency Committee (SRC) to support a resolution adopting Active Design Miami (ADM) strategies for the City of Miami Beach.

At the January 18, 2017 SRC, the ADM team presented the item to the Committee and explained the importance of having a series of strategies to design healthier and more active buildings and public spaces in Miami Beach. SRC supported this resolution to implement active design guidelines.

ANALYSIS

The Center for Active Design is a non-profit organization that is working on national scale to promote design that fosters healthy and engaged communities. It takes a multi-disciplinary approach to translate research into practical design solutions. Their mission is to transform design and development practice, ensuring equitable access to vibrant public and private spaces that support healthy communities.

Inspired by the precedent of design impacting public health in the 19th century, as recognized by the massive reduction in the spread of infectious diseases, Active Design builds on health research demonstrating that design can impact today's biggest challenges around the physical, mental, and social well-being of communities around the world.

Active Design aims to transform the built environment through key concepts:

- **Active Transportation:** supporting a safe and vibrant environment for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit riders, considering wide sidewalks and safe crosswalks and traffic calming elements that slow driving speeds.
- **Active Buildings:** encouraging greater physical movement of users and visitors within

the building site, including design considerations such as stairs that are accessible, visible, attractive, and well-lit and on-site gardening opportunities.

- **Active Recreation:** providing access to recreation and play spaces that accommodate different ages, interests, and abilities; considering parks, plazas, and playgrounds that are easily accessed by pedestrians and cyclists and spaces and activities that respond to unique local and cultural preferences.
- **Food Access:** offering opportunities for growing or purchasing fresh fruits and vegetables, considering space for a full-service grocery store, rooftop gardens and greenhouses.

Miami-Dade County faces a number of challenges that can benefit from use of Active Design strategies. The region is experiencing many common health concerns, including rising obesity and chronic disease rates, and high rates of depression and other mental health issues. In addition, Miami-Dade is experiencing significant demographic shifts and a reorientation toward urban living. ADM capitalizes on this surge of attention and collaborative interest around identifying design solutions to support healthy living.

Over the last two years, Miami Center for Architecture & Design (MCAD) has been working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Florida Department of Health (FDOH) to develop contexts to provide a toolkit for both short- and long-term action to improve community health and wellbeing. The Active Design Miami Advisory Council was formed to inform the press and create the ADM. ADM provides a series of strategies to design healthier and more active buildings and public spaces. MCAD is working now with local municipalities to incorporate into their planning process the priorities of the ADM report.

CONCLUSION

The following is presented to the members of the Mayor and City Commission for discussion. Staff recommends adoption of the proposed resolution.

Attachment A: Miami Active Design Resolution

For more information on Miami Active Design, please access:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_11_OW_ZUOATmJLVU9qemlIRm8/view

SMT/ESW/FCT