

Freitas, Gabriela

From: Freitas, Gabriela
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 10:05 AM
Cc: Tackett, Deborah; Seiberling, James; Kallergis, Nick; Gonzalez, Jessica; Herrera, Miriam
Subject: FW: Lincoln Road Renewal Project Concerns/Inquiry

Hello good morning bcc'd Board members and Staff,

Please see below public comment. Should you have any questions please contact us.

Thanks so much.

Kind regards,



Gabriela C. Freitas, Office Associate V

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33139

Office: 305-673-7550 or Direct: 305-673-7000 ext.6302

www.miamibeachfl.gov

We are committed to providing excellent public service and safety to all who live, work, and play in our vibrant, tropical, historic community.

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From: HPB <HPB@miamibeachfl.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 1:08 PM
To: Freitas, Gabriela <GabrielaFreitas@miamibeachfl.gov>
Subject: FW: Lincoln Road Renewal Project Concerns/Inquiry

Hi Gaby,

Please process.

Thanks,

MIAMIBEACH

Jessica Gonzalez

Clerk of Boards

Planning Department

1700 Convention Center Drive – 2nd Floor, Miami Beach, FL 33139

Tel: 305-673-7550 / www.miamibeachfl.gov

It's easy being Green! Please consider our environment before printing this email.

From: Stephen Crowe <velscrowe@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 1, 2023 8:43 AM
To: HPB <HPB@miamibeachfl.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Lincoln Road Renewal Project Concerns/Inquiry

[THIS MESSAGE COMES FROM AN EXTERNAL EMAIL - USE CAUTION WHEN REPLYING AND OPENING LINKS OR ATTACHMENTS]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Stephen Crowe <velscrowe@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Sep 1, 2023 at 1:18 PM
Subject: Re: Lincoln Road Renewal Project Concerns/Inquiry
To: Residents for Lincoln Road Renewal <info@lincolnrroadrenewal.com>
CC: <HPB@miamibeachfi.gov>, <sustainability@miamibeachfl.gov>

Dear Recipients,

I am a resident of Miami Beach, a social worker, national public health analyst, researcher, and subject matter expert dedicated to supporting and empowering both urban and rural communities to work closely and collaboratively with one another, regardless of their socioeconomic status, ideologies, or intersectional identities.

I have received several emails re: this Lincoln Road Renewal project that have given me pause to question your real motives behind this due to the language and framing of the issues you have chosen to use, especially when talking about unhoused/unstably housed (aka homeless) people. I firmly believe in supporting, embracing, uplifting and strengthening communities - and that requires people from all walks of life. I believe that Miami Beach, and by extension, Miami-Dade County, has done a terrible job of creating, adapting, and/or implementing evidence-based, common sense solutions to help those living in poverty and/or whom are unhoused/homeless. Sadly, this tends to lean towards an us vs. them mentality (as evidenced by your emails) and an unrealistic assumption that everyone is born into equality, with the same privileges and rights; that people choose to make bad decisions, and your response to this to not take a pragmatic approach and recognize that institutional systems (macro to micro, national to local) usually pander to those with the most privileges, despite generational poverty, stigma, disabilities, lack of educational and employment opportunities, trauma/harms (I.e., ACEs = adverse childhood experiences), racial inequality, or health disparities impacting many of populations residing in or near Miami Beach.

That said, what steps are you taking with the city, Historic Preservation Board, and community stakeholders to create better pathways to care support, and treatment access (healthcare, substance use, mental/behavioral health, housing, etc.), and other basic human needs for those whom you claim are causing the people you are emailing to “suffer”? What is your plan to remove the suffering from those you are blaming for crime, homelessness, and other related issues? I would love to see an evidence-based strategic plan in Miami Beach that clearly elicits the support, input and leadership of local organizations, community programs, and community members, consistent with national standards and research. I have searched the Miami Beach website, but there is nothing remotely similar to this that has been published and made publicly available for review and feedback. If I have somehow missed something, please send me a link or any related documents.

Recent studies (funded by non-partisan federal entities) prove that displacing unhoused/homeless people through sweeps and other forms of “cleaning up the streets” initiatives only leads to rapid, increased rates of trauma, hospitalization, poor health outcomes, incarceration, drug overdose, and death. Article: <https://nhchc.org/media/press-releases/study-shows-involuntary-displacement-of-people-experiencing-homelessness-may-cause-significant-spikes-in-mortality-overdoses-and-hospitalizations/>

This all therefore places a greater burden on residents and taxpayers if you have no common sense solutions in place that are grounded in what the data, research and evidence tells us works best in order to build thriving, sustainable, inclusive, and solutions-focused communities.

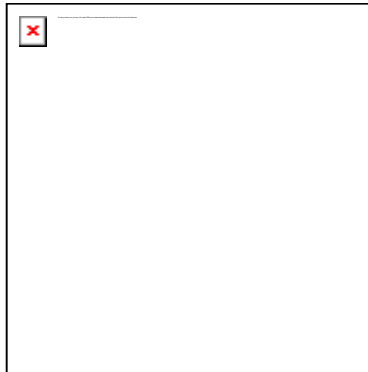
I love living in Miami Beach. I believe there is great opportunity to make it even more beautiful, affordable, and inviting to any and everyone, but your approach and that of the HPB, does not present as well-intended and informed. Political ideologies aside, we have to take pragmatic, realistic and common sense approaches; otherwise, you’re just sustaining the same problems or redirecting them elsewhere for nearby jurisdictions to deal with, and that doesn’t make any sense.

Please feel free to share this email, and let me know how I can provide you with further information or get more involved.

Sincerely,

Stephen Crowe

On Thu, Aug 31, 2023 at 11:00 PM Residents for Lincoln Road Renewal <info@lincolnroadrenewal.com> wrote:



Dear Stephen,

Lincoln Road has suffered a years-long loss of residents and an increase in blight, homelessness, and crime.

That’s why for years, residents have been calling for positive changes to the Lincoln Road area. Lincoln Road Renewal answers these calls and will bring major improvements

to quality of life.

The plan involves revitalizing the 100-300 blocks of Lincoln Road through public-private partnerships. Investments will be made to enhance walkability, functionality, aesthetics, and access to the beach.

This means expanded and beautified beach access, wider sidewalks, green spaces, and landscaping. Underground infrastructure will also be improved to mitigate flooding.

Together, these improvements bring a residents-first vision to Lincoln Road and improve our quality of life. That's why we hope you'll join us in urging the Historic Preservation Board to support Lincoln Road Renewal.



The unanimous support from the Mayor and City Commission demonstrates how this plan meets the community's call for positive change along Lincoln Road.

We hope you'll join our elected leaders and 60+ local businesses in supporting this critical proposal.

Best,

Residents for Lincoln Road Renewal

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