

# MIAMI BEACH

## **Hybrid Commission Meeting/Presentations and Awards Meeting**

**Miami Beach City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Commission Chamber**

**1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33139**

**Webinar:** <https://miamibeachfl-gov.zoom.us/j/81392857671>

**Telephones:** 1.305.224.1968 (U.S.) or 1.888.475.4499 (Toll-Free)

**Webinar ID:** 81392857671#

**May 22, 2024**

**5:00 p.m.**

Mayor Steven Meiner

Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt

Vice-Mayor Laura Dominguez

Commissioner Alex Fernandez

Commissioner Joseph Magazine

Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez

Commissioner David Suarez

Interim City Manager Rickelle Williams

City Attorney Ricardo J. Dopico

City Clerk Rafael E. Granado

## **AFTER ACTION**

The Meeting was called to order at 5:12:43 p.m.

### **City Clerk's Note:**

On May 22, 2024, commencing at 8:30 a.m., the City of Miami Beach hosted a Hybrid Commission Meeting. During the Hybrid Commission Meeting, the City Commission was physically present in the Miami Beach City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Commission Chamber, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33139.

### **Observing the Commission Meeting:**

The Commission Meeting was broadcast live on Miami Beach TV (MBTV), viewable on the City's website at, <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/government/mbtv/> as well as on Breezeline Cable channel 660, AT&T U-verse channel 99, Hotwire Communications channel 395, and ROKU device on PEG.TV channel. Closed captioning displays of the audio portion of the Commission Meeting were available in English and Spanish on MBTV. The Commission Meeting was also broadcast live on social media at <http://facebook.com/Cityofmiamibeach>. Closed captioning displays of the audio portion of the Commission Meeting were available in English on Facebook.

### **Submitting written public comment before the Commission Meeting:**

The public could submit written comments by sending an email to [CityClerk@miamibeachfl.gov](mailto:CityClerk@miamibeachfl.gov) by 5:00 p.m. the day before the Commission Meeting. Any such emails were included as a part of the meeting record.

**5:15:31 a.m.**

Pledge of Allegiance led by the Police Department and Hatzalah.

**REGULAR AGENDA PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS**

**5:13:47 p.m.**

PA 1 CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION PRESENTED TO SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CITY ADMINISTRATION STAFF THAT ASSISTED DURING FUJISAWA'S VISIT IN MARCH.

Vice-Mayor Laura Dominguez

**ACTION:** Vice-Mayor Dominguez presented the Certificates of Recognition.

Vice-Mayor Dominguez thanked the members of the Sister Cities Committee and City Staff for their role in the visit from delegates from Fujisawa, Japan.

**Certificates read**

Tom Pupo, Moonlighter FabLab - Thank you for donating the wood-carved lifeguard stands to our delegates from Fujisawa.

Janet Suarez, Call Me Cuban - We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Call Me Cuban for the warm hospitality extended to our Sister City Fujisawa during their visit in March. Your generosity and kindness were truly appreciated. Thank you.  
May 22, 2024

David Wallack, Mango's Tropical Café - We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mango's Tropical Café for your warm hospitality extended to our Sister City Fujisawa during their visit in March. Your generosity and kindness were truly appreciated.  
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Tom Glassie, Avalon Hotel – We are grateful to the Avalon Hotel for your hospitality to our delegates from Fujisawa.  
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Sophie Ringel - Thank you for graciously embracing our Sister City Fujisawa and guiding the group through the beach clean-up procedures. We also value your generosity in enabling them to actively engage in a clean-up effort.  
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Alina T. Hudak - Your active participation in preparing for the city's transition to resume Sister Cities programming has been invaluable. We deeply appreciate your assistance with all the logistics during Fujisawa's visit in March. Thank you for your dedication and support.  
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Rickelle Williams - Your active participation in preparing for the city's transition to resume Sister Cities programming has been invaluable. We deeply appreciate your assistance with all the logistics during Fujisawa's visit in March. Thank you for your dedication and support.  
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Mayor Matti Bower – Your commitment to the Sister Cities committee during the transition period has been invaluable. We extend our gratitude for your expectational service during Fujisawa's visit in March. Your hard work is truly appreciated.  
March 22, 2024

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George Neary – Your commitment to the Sister Cities committee during the transition period has been invaluable. We extend our gratitude for your expectational service during Fujisawa's visit in March. Your hard work is truly appreciated.  
March 22, 2024

Janinha Piazzetta Your commitment to the Sister Cities committee during the transition period has been invaluable. We extend our gratitude for your exceptional service during Fujisawa's visit in March. Your hard work is truly appreciated!  
May 22, 2024

Moni Cohen - Your commitment to the Sister Cities committee during the transition period has been invaluable. We extend our gratitude for your exceptional service during Fujisawa's visit in March. Your hard work is truly appreciated!  
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Harvey Bernstein – Your commitment to the Sister Cities committee during the transition period has been invaluable. We extend our gratitude for your expectational service during Fujisawa's visit in March. Your hard work is truly appreciated.  
March 22, 2024

Harvey Bernstein – Your commitment to the Sister Cities committee during the transition period has been invaluable. We extend our gratitude for your expectational service during Fujisawa's visit in March. Your hard work is truly appreciated.  
March 22, 2024

Alvaro Barbosa – Thank you for coordinating the transportation arrangements for our Sister City Fujisawa's visit in March. Your efforts ensured smooth and efficient logistics throughout their stay. Much appreciated.  
May 22, 2024

José R. González - Thank you for coordinating the transportation arrangements for our Sister City Fujisawa's visit in March. Your efforts ensured smooth and efficient logistics throughout their stay. Much appreciated.  
May 22, 2024

Franklin Bartley Jr - Thank you for coordinating the transportation arrangements for our Sister City Fujisawa's visit in March. Your efforts ensured smooth and efficient logistics throughout their stay. Much appreciated.  
May 22, 2024

Mikhail Ryabov - Thank you for coordinating the transportation arrangements for our Sister City Fujisawa's visit in March. Your efforts ensured smooth and efficient logistics throughout their stay. Much appreciated.  
May 22, 2024

Otniel Rodriguez - Thank you for coordinating the transportation arrangements for our Sister City Fujisawa's visit in March. Your efforts ensured smooth and efficient logistics throughout their stay. Much appreciated!  
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Heather Shaw - Your active participation in preparing for the city's transition to resume Sister Cities programming has been invaluable. We deeply appreciate your assistance with all the logistics during Fujisawa's visit in March.

Thank you for your dedication and support.

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Veronica Coley - Thank you for your invaluable support with our Sister City Fujisawa's visit in March. You helped add a special touch to our event. Much appreciated.

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Djordje Milekic - Thank you for your invaluable support with graphic design during our Sister City, Fujisawa visit in March. Your creativity and expertise added a special touch to our event. Much appreciated!

May 22, 2024

Luis Atencio - Thank you for your invaluable support with our Sister City Fujisawa's visit in March. You helped add a special touch to our event. Much appreciated.

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**5:31:12 p.m.**

PA 2 CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION PRESENTED TO THE MIAMI BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR MANAGING SISTER CITIES.

Vice-Mayor Laura Dominguez

**ACTION:** Vice-Mayor Dominguez presented the Certificate of Recognition.

Vice-Mayor Dominguez recognized the efforts of the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce with regard to the Sister Cities program.

**Certificates read:**

Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce - Your steadfast dedication and leadership in managing the Sister Cities program are truly appreciated. Thank you for your tireless efforts and commitment.

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**5:53:43 p.m.**

PA 3 CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION PRESENTED TO POLICE CITIZENS SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN RECOGNITION FOR THEIR SPRING BREAK EFFORTS.

Vice-Mayor Laura Dominguez

**ACTION:** Vice-Mayor Dominguez presented the Certificates of Recognition.

Vice-Mayor Dominguez recognized the efforts of the Police Citizens Sub Committee members during the 2024 Spring Break.

**Certificates read:**

Alexander Fryd - Your dedication to the Spring Break Subcommittee and the valuable input provided to the city and MBPD for March is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your hard work!

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Christine Klingspor - Your dedication to the Spring Break Subcommittee and the valuable input provided to the city and MBPD for March is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your hard work!  
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Jill Shocket - Your dedication to the Spring Break Subcommittee and the valuable input provided to the city and MBPD for March is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your hard work!  
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Lisa Cole - Your dedication to the Spring Break Subcommittee and the valuable input provided to the city and MBPD for March is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your hard work!  
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Seth Feuer - Your dedication to the Spring Break Subcommittee and the valuable input provided to the city and MBPD for March is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your hard work!  
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Troy E. Wright - Your dedication to the Spring Break Subcommittee and the valuable input provided to the city and MBPD for March is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your hard work!  
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**5:56:30 p.m.**

PA 4 CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION TO BLACK AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEMBERS, FOR SPRING BREAK ADVISORY EFFORTS.

Vice-Mayor Laura Dominguez

**ACTION:** Vice-Mayor Dominguez presented the Certificates of Recognition.

Vice-Mayor Dominguez thanked the members of the Black Affairs Committee for their help during the 2024 Spring Break.

**Certificates read:**

Glendon Hall - Your dedication to the Spring Break Subcommittee and the valuable input provided to the city and MBPD for March is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your hard work!  
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Bibi Andrade - Your commitment to the Sister Cities committee during the transition period has been invaluable. We extend our gratitude for your exceptional service during Fujisawa's visit in March. Your hard work is truly appreciated.

Dorrie Foster - Your dedication to the Spring Break Subcommittee and the valuable input provided to the city and MBPD for March is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your hard work!  
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Melba Pearson - Your dedication to the Spring Break Subcommittee and the valuable input provided to the city and MBPD for March is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your hard work!  
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**5:13:16 p.m.**

PA 5 CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION PRESENTED TO GOODWILL AMBASSADORS FOR THEIR EFFORTS DURING SPRING BREAK 2024.

Mayor Steven Meiner

**ACTION:** Mayor Meiner presented the Certificates of Recognition.

Mayor Meiner gave a special acknowledgment to all of the Goodwill Ambassadors and the role they had in a successful 2024 Spring Break.

**SPRING BREAK  
GOODWILL AMBASSADORS**

For your essential service, which was instrumental to the success of Spring Break 2024. Thank you for ensuring a positive and safe environment for the influx of visitors to Miami Beach.  
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**6:01:04 p.m.**

PA 6 CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION PRESENTED TO EVERYONE THAT WORKED ON THE "BREAKING UP WITH SPRING BREAK" CAMPAIGN.

Mayor Steven Meiner

**ACTION:** Mayor Meiner presented the Certificate of Recognition.

Mayor Meiner thanked everyone who worked in the "Breaking Up With Spring Break" campaign. It was very successful.

**Certificate reads:**

The dedicated team behind the "**Miami Beach is Breaking up with Spring Break**" campaign.

Thank you for taking a bold new approach that resonated globally. Your collective efforts, creativity, and hard work led to unprecedented media reach and engagement, setting a new standard for impactful city campaigns.

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**5:38:18 p.m.**

PA 7 PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY 25, 2024, FAMILY ABDUCTION AWARENESS DAY IN THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH.

Vice-Mayor Laura Dominguez

**ACTION:** Proclamation presented by Vice-Mayor Dominguez

Vice-Mayor Dominguez stated that this proclamation is to raise awareness in regard to family abduction.

**Proclamation Reads:**

WHEREAS The City of Miami Beach recognizes that family abduction is a devastating and traumatic experience that affects countless families across the nation often resulting in emotional distress and long-term consequences for both the abducted children and their loved ones; and,

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WHEREAS A family abduction occurs when a child is taken, wrongfully retained, or concealed by a parent or other family member depriving another individual of their right to custody or visitation, even in cases with vague or absent court orders; and a family abduction is often an act of frustration by the perpetrator with the left-behind parent, the legal system, or his or her own situation in life; and,

WHEREAS As the City of Miami Beach strives to remain vigilant and informed about the dangers that face children within our communities, it is critical to recognize that family abduction is a serious crime in all 50 states – not only a civil matter; and law enforcement officers should recognize these events not as harmless offenses, but instead as an insidious form of child abuse; and,

WHEREAS It is incumbent on law enforcement agencies to maintain written plans which specify actions and procedures for promptly meeting situations of alleged family abduction; and courts have held that law enforcement is responsible for making certain that the child is with the person who has lawful custody and must verify the validity of any court orders, and when an agency fails to identify a need for training and to set policy for matters which are foreseeable, it creates a threat to public health; and,

WHEREAS We urge all residents, visitors, and boaters to take this opportunity to review safety guidelines, ensure proper equipment is on board, and always wear a life jacket while enjoying our beautiful waterways; and,

NOW THEREFORE, DO WE, as Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Miami Beach, hereby proclaim May 17th, 2024, as Family Abduction Awareness Day in the City of Miami Beach.

**5:40:42 p.m.**

PA 8 PROCLAMATION DECLARING JUNE 2024 AS PRIDE MONTH IN THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH.

Commissioner Alex Fernandez

**ACTION:** Proclamation presented by Commissioner Fernandez.

Commissioner Fernandez stated that June is Pride Month. He thanked the members of Miami Beach's LGBTQIA+ Advisory Committee.

Michael Bath thanked Commissioner Fernandez for all that he does for the LGBTQIA+ community.

**Proclamation reads:**

WHEREAS June is recognized internationally as LGBTQIA+ Pride Month, commemorating the Stonewall Riots of June 1969, which were a pivotal moment in the LGBTQIA+ rights movement; and

WHEREAS LGBTQIA+ Pride Month provides an opportunity to reflect on the progress made toward equality and to recognize the continued efforts necessary to achieve full acceptance and inclusion of LGBTQIA+ individuals; and

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WHEREAS The City of Miami Beach is committed to promoting equality, justice, and inclusivity, and stands in solidarity with our LGBTQIA+ residents, employees, and visitors in their fight for equal rights and against discrimination; and

WHEREAS The City of Miami Beach encourages all residents to celebrate and embrace their identities with pride, and to participate in activities and events that promote understanding, acceptance, and inclusion; and

WHEREAS This month serves as a reminder of the challenges faced by the LGBTQIA+ community and the ongoing struggle for human rights, dignity, and respect for all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity; and

WHEREAS The City of Miami Beach recognizes that the diversity of our community is one of our greatest strengths and that the LGBTQIA+ community has contributed significantly to the cultural, social, and economic fabric of our society.

NOW THEREFORE, DO WE, as Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Miami Beach, hereby proclaim June 2024 as PRIDE MONTH in the City of Miami Beach.

**6:07:33 p.m.**

PA 9 PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE WEEK OF MAY 19 - 25, 2024 AS NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK.

Public Works Mayor Steven Meiner

**ACTION:** Proclamation presented by Mayor Meiner.

Mayor Meiner recognized Joe Gomez and the entire Public Works Department for their incredible effort year after year.

Joe Gomez, Public Works Department Director, thanked the Mayor and City Commission.

**Proclamation reads:**

WHEREAS The City of Miami Beach is proud to recognize the essential impact of our Public Works Department, which manages infrastructure, facilities, and services that are of vital importance for resilience and to the public health, high quality of life, and well-being of our residents; and,

WHEREAS These infrastructure, facilities, and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals, who are engineers, licensed certified and skilled landscapers, water treatment, wastewater collection, stormwater, and solid waste employees responsible for facilitating the functionality, delivery, and cleanliness of the City's services and other structures and facilities essential for our citizens; and,

WHEREAS The Public Works Department values its employees and ensures every team member is trained to be as reliable, knowledgeable, environmentally conscientious, and as solutions-oriented as possible to efficiently address the needs of all who live, work, and play in Miami Beach; and,

WHEREAS It is in the public interest for the City of Miami Beach community to gain knowledge of and to maintain a progressive interest and understanding of the importance of public works



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and public works programs in their respective communities, and the year 2024 marks the 64th annual National Public Works Week sponsored by the American Public Works Association.

NOW THEREFORE, DO WE, as Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Miami Beach, hereby proclaim the week of May 19-25, 2024 as NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK in the City of Miami Beach.

**5:46:16 p.m.**

PA 10 PROCLAMATION DECLARING May 22, 2024, DUANE THWAITES DAY IN THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH.

Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez

**ACTION:** Proclamation presented by Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez introduced Duane Thwaites and his efforts to get voting rights restored to people who have served their time in prison.

**Proclamation reads:**

WHEREAS Duane Thwaites has dedicated the past decade advocating tirelessly for higher wages, better work conditions, and the dignified treatment of workers across Miami-Dade and Broward County; and,

WHEREAS Since 2020, Duane Thwaites has demonstrated unwavering commitment and diligence in championing the restoration of voting rights for formerly incarcerated citizens; and,

WHEREAS Duane Thwaites established the first NAACP chapter at Coleman Medium FCI, where he led initiatives raising approximately \$3,000 to aid families affected by the 2004 hurricanes in Florida; and,

WHEREAS Duane Thwaites, through his efforts with Miami's Empowerment Zone initiative, and the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, has played a pivotal role in reinstating voting rights and driver's licenses for countless individuals, while also providing invaluable assistance to those seeking to expunge criminal records, pursue civil rights clemency, or address outstanding legal obligations; and,

WHEREAS Duane Thwaites has significantly contributed to the betterment of the lives of many disenfranchised members of our communities and fostered increased involvement, productivity, and inspiration within society, through passionately advocating for the implementation of legislation offering second chances and restorative policies; and,

WHEREAS Duane Thwaites, a devoted father of five has exemplified resilience, compassion, and unwavering dedication to his family and community.

NOW THEREFORE, DO WE, as Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Miami Beach, hereby proclaim May 22, 2024, as DUANE THWAITES DAY in the City of Miami Beach.

**5:27:19 p.m.**

PA 11 CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION TO SERGEANT JEROME BERRIAN, AND OFFICERS BORINQUEN HALL, MELISSA ROSA, ALAN PEREZ, YOE MERIDA, AND GUSTAVO VILLAMIL OF THE MIAMI BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT HOMELESS RESOURCE.

Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez

**ACTION:** Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez presented the Certificates of Recognition.

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez recognized Sgt. Jerome Berrian and Officers Borinquen Hall, Melissa Rosa, Alan Perez, Yoe Merida, and Gustavo Villamil for their efforts with the homeless.

**Certificates read:**

For an unwavering dedication and compassion towards serving our residents and the tireless commitment and professionalism demonstrated in addressing the complex challenges faced by those in need.

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**6:16:52 p.m.**

PA 12 PROCLAMATION: ALAN STANG DAY - MAY 22 PRESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER AWARD.

Vice-Mayor Laura Dominguez

**ACTION:** Proclamation presented by Vice-Mayor Dominguez.

Vice-Mayor Dominguez introduced Alan Stang and his volunteer work.

**Proclamation reads:**

WHEREAS Alan Stang, a dedicated resident of Miami Beach, has generously contributed over 300 volunteer hours to our city in the past year alone and has been an active member of the CERT team since completing training in 2004; and,

WHEREAS Mr. Stang has been a resident of Miami Beach since 1955, graduated from Miami Beach Senior High in 1963, and raised four children with his wife, Alba Ceden; and,

WHEREAS His commitment to volunteerism is exemplary, always stepping forward to assist in times of need, including deployment for two hurricanes with the Florida State Emergency Response Team; and,

WHEREAS In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Mr. Stang will receive the prestigious Silver Award, which includes a crafted silver medallion and certificate signed by President Joe Biden.

NOW THEREFORE, DO WE, as Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Miami Beach, hereby proclaim May 22, 2024, as Alan Stang Day in the City of Miami Beach.

6:11:46 p.m.

PA 13 PROCLAMATION PRESENTED TO ALEX KRUGER-DOBROTA FOR FLEET WEEK.

Vice-Mayor Laura Dominguez

**ACTION:** Proclamation presented by Vice-Mayor Dominguez

Vice-Mayor Dominguez introduced Alex Kruger-Dobrota and his role in Fleet Week.

Alex Kruger-Dobrota thanked Commissioner Fernandez and the entire City Commission for their vision and stated that Fleet Week will return in 2026.

**Proclamation reads:**

WHEREAS The City of Miami Beach would like to recognize Alex Kruger-Dobrota a military veteran, community leader, and seasoned entrepreneur with a rich background in business and real estate; and,

WHEREAS Alex is engaged in various entrepreneurial pursuits and holds a significant role in supporting the military and veteran community as he serves as the Senior Vice Commander of the Miami Beach Veterans of Foreign Wars; and,

WHEREAS Recently Mi-. Kruger-Dobrota played a pivotal role in organizing the highly anticipated Fleet Week Top Gun Beach Olympics, along with seven other exciting Fleet Week events. Alex's exceptional leadership skills and military background were instrumental in creating impactful experiences that merged military traditions with community engagement; and,

WHEREAS With an impressive track record of exemplary leadership, innovative thinking, and a profound impact on the community, Alex consistently inspires and spearheads positive change across diverse sectors. His unwavering passion, combined with his dedication to serving others, truly defines his remarkable journey of success and influence.

NOW, THEREFORE, DO WE, as Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Miami Beach, hereby proclaim May 22, 2024, as Alex Kruger-Dobrota Day in the City of Miami Beach.

5:34:46 p.m.

PA 14 PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING ISRAEL'S 76TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE.

Mayor Steven Meiner

**ACTION:** Proclamation presented by Mayor Meiner.

Mayor Meiner stated that he does not do many proclamations, but this one is important to him. We are still dealing with the ramifications of October 7, 2023, which was Israel's darkest day. We have done much to help Israel in our efforts by providing volunteer firefighters, donating a firetruck, and the purchase of Israeli bonds, but we must never forget the tragedy of that day. This proclamation is celebrating the anniversary of the modern State of Israel, but there have been Jewish people in Israel for about 3,000 years. Israel has the same right to exist and defend itself as much as any nation.

Kennedy Starnes on behalf of Maor Elbaz-Starinsky, Consul General of Israel, thanked everyone for the great friendship Israel has with the City of Miami Beach.

**Proclamation reads:**

WHEREAS On May 14, 1948, Israel's first Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion publicly read the Declaration of Independence of Israel, and every year this event is commemorated on Israel's Independence Day, also known as Yom Ha'atzmaut; and,

WHEREAS Yom Ha'atzmaut is also celebrated in the United States with large festivals, events, and parties organized in the community; and,

WHEREAS During this celebration, the speaker of the Israeli Parliament, or Knesset, makes remarks on Mount Herzl with a dramatic televised presentation for all citizens of Israel; and,

WHEREAS The day before Yom Ha'atzmaut is Yom Hazikaron, which is a ceremonious occasion and day of remembrance officially known as "Israel's Day of Remembrance for Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terrorism," commemorating the Israelis who perished fighting for the State of Israel.

NOW THEREFORE, DO WE, as Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Miami Beach, hereby proclaim May 14, 2024, as ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE DAY in the City of Miami Beach.

**5:21:48 p.m.**

**PA 15** PROCLAMATION FOR HATZALAH SOUTH FLORIDA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

Mayor Steven Weiner

**ACTION:** Proclamation presented by Mayor Weiner.

Mayor Weiner expressed his gratitude for the Hatzalah South Florida Emergency Medical Services and remarked on their great efforts in providing medical services.

Mendel Sossonko recently joined Hatzalah, which started in 2008. They provide full-fledged emergency services. This is all volunteer work which they provide whenever needed including the Sabbath and Jewish High Holidays. He thanked the Mayor and Commission.

**Proclamation reads:**

WHEREAS The City of Miami Beach is proud to acknowledge the exceptional contributions and dedication of Hatzalah South Florida Emergency Medical Services to the safety and welfare of our community; and,

WHEREAS Hatzalah South Florida, a volunteer-driven, not-for-profit organization, stands as a symbol of hope and resilience and remains steadfast in its mission to enhance medical outcomes, provide critical emergency medical services, and ultimately save lives; and,

WHEREAS The dedicated team of over 250 community-based, state-certified EMT and paramedic volunteer responders and dispatchers at Hatzalah South Florida exemplify the highest standards of professionalism, compassion, and selflessness, ensuring that rapid and effective emergency response is available to neighborhoods throughout South Florida; and,

WHEREAS The tireless efforts and sacrifice of these remarkable individuals at Hatzalah South Florida serve as an inspiration to us all, embodying the spirit of unity, service, and solidarity within

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our community.

NOW THEREFORE, DO WE, as Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Miami Beach, hereby proclaim May 22, 2024, as HATZALAH SOUTH FLORIDA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DAY in the City of Miami Beach.

**6:21:46 p.m.**

PA 16 CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION PRESENTED TO CITY STAFF WHO ASSISTED IN THE RENOVATION OF THE COMMISSION CHAMBERS.

Mayor Steven Meiner

**ACTION:** Mayor Meiner presented Certificates of Recognition.

Mayor Meiner took a moment to appreciate the new City Commission Chambers and thanked all the staffers who were involved in the process.

**Certificate reads:**

COMMISSION CHAMBERS RENOVATION TEAM

For your outstanding contribution and integral role in the successful renovation of the Commission Chambers. Your dedication, meticulous attention to detail, and tireless efforts were instrumental in every aspect of this project.

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**6:24:29 p.m.**

PA 17 CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION PRESENTED TO STAFF DEDICATED TO PREPARING TAXES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BRANCHES, INC. AND THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE VIA THE VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA) PROGRAM.

Mayor Steven Meiner

**ACTION:** Mayor Meiner presented the Certificate of Appreciation. Certificate of Appreciation presented to: Alexander Reyes, Julian Bernal, Paola Arboleda, Ukrania Maso, and Vanessa Lopez.

Mayor Meiner thanked the staffers who took the time to volunteer and help residents file their taxes.

Rickelle Williams, Interim City Manager, gave a special acknowledgment to Dr. Alba Tarre and Marcela Rubio.

**Certificate reads:**

For being part of an exceptional team that contributed their time, expertise, and energy to prepare over 300 income tax returns for residents and city employees earning \$60,000 or less, from February 1 to April 10. Their dedication ensured financial stability and assistance for those in need.

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6:27:39 p.m.

PA 18 PROCLAMATION HONORING THE MIAMI DESIGN PRESERVATION LEAGUE FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS DURING NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH.

Office of Mayor and Commissioners  
New item added on 5/20/2024

**ACTION:** Proclamation presented by Commissioner Bhatt

Commissioner Bhatt read the proclamation honoring the Miami Design Preservation League.

Daniel Ciraldo, MDPL, thanked the City Commission.

**Proclamation reads:**

WHEREAS May is recognized as National Historic Preservation Month, celebrating the diverse and vibrant heritage of our nation; and,

WHEREAS The City of Miami Beach is renowned globally for its unique and iconic Art Deco, Mediterranean, and Miami Modern (MiMo) architecture, which stands as a testament to the city's rich history and cultural legacy; and,

WHEREAS The Miami Design Preservation League, a dedicated nonprofit organization, has been at the forefront of preserving, protecting, and promoting the architectural, cultural, and environmental integrity of the Miami Beach Architectural Historic District and other relevant areas throughout the city,

WHEREAS Historic preservation plays a vital role in maintaining the economic vibrancy and resilience of Miami Beach, attracting tourists and residents from around the world, and contributing significantly to the city's and state's economy; and,

WHEREAS The preservation of historic structures and the promotion of our built heritage contribute to the city's character of place and identity, fostering community pride and encouraging sustainable developmental practices; and,

WHEREAS The City of Miami Beach recognizes the importance of the Miami Design Preservation League's efforts in safeguarding our shared heritage for future generations to enjoy; and,

WHEREAS These activities include operating the Art Deco Welcome Center at 10th and Ocean Drive, daily guided walking tours, Art Deco Weekend, educational lectures, and promoting events and activities at historic cultural institutions around the city; and,

WHEREAS The Mayor and Commission of the City of Miami Beach wish to commend the Miami Design Preservation League for its invaluable contributions during National Historic Preservation Month and throughout the year;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Mayor and Commission of the City of Miami Beach do hereby honor the Miami Preservation League for its dedication to historic preservation, economic development, and the resilience of our city.

6:34:19 p.m.

PA 19 PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY 20, 2024 AS CUBAN INDEPENDENCE DAY IN THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH.

Commissioner Alex Fernandez  
New item added 5/21/2024

**ACTION:** Proclamation presented by Commissioner Fernandez

Commissioner Fernandez introduced the item and noted that Cuban Independence Day was on May 20, 2024. He recalled his family's history of leaving Cuba after the Cuban Revolution for a better life in the United States.

**Proclamation read:**

WHEREAS May 20th marks the celebration of Cuban Independence Day, commemorating the island nation's declaration of independence and establishment as a free republic; and

WHEREAS The City of Miami Beach recognizes the deep cultural and historical ties between the Cuban community and our city, honoring the significant contributions of Cuban Americans to our society; and

WHEREAS Despite the joyous nature of this day, it is overshadowed by the persistent issues of repression and human rights violations inflicted by the communist regime in Cuba, mirroring the darkest periods of history experienced by various other minority groups; and

WHEREAS This day reminds us of the collective struggle against injustice faced not only by Cubans but also mirrored in the antisemitic attacks against Jews, the systemic violence and discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community, the enduring racism against Black individuals, and the broader aggression against all minorities seeking freedom and equality; and

WHEREAS The City of Miami Beach stands as a beacon of diversity, inclusion, and respect for human rights, staunchly opposing any form of discrimination and repression, and hereby calls for the freedom and liberation of Cuba from tyranny and oppression.

NOW THEREFORE, DO WE, as Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Miami Beach, hereby proclaim May 20 2024 as CUBAN INDEPENDENCE DAY in the City of Miami Beach.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:47:42 p.m.

**Notices**

1. USE OF AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT FOR PRESENTATIONS DURING PUBLIC MEETINGS.
2. HOW A PERSON MAY PARTICIPATE DURING THE HYBRID CITY COMMISSION MEETING / COMMISSION MEETING PROCEDURES. **AD 05222024 AVM**
3. ADVERTISEMENTS. **AD 05222024 AVM**