

# MIAMI BEACH

## COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission  
FROM: Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt  
DATE: May 15, 2024

SUBJECT: REFERRAL TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE  
TO DISCUSS THE PLACEMENT OF A PLAQUE IN HONOR OF CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST AND  
PRESERVATIONIST JOE TOM EASLEY AT PRIDE PARK.

### **ANALYSIS**

Please place on the agenda a referral to the PSNQLC a discussion about installing a memorial park in Pride Park for late Miami Beach resident Joe Tom Easley. Joe Tom was a leading national civil and gay rights activist, was a noted attorney instrumental in getting "don't ask/don't tell" repealed, and was a fierce advocate for historic preservation, serving on the board of Miami Design Preservation League for many years.

His husband Peter Freiberg and the Palm View Neighborhood Association would like to have a plaque honoring Joe Tom, and while they initially thought someplace in their neighborhood might work, the feeling is that a location in the northwest corner of Pride Park, which Joe Tom fought hard to make happen, would be a more suitable location.

Please see the links below to learn more about Joe Tom's remarkable life and legacy.

<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/obituaries/article258677928.html>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/obituaries/2022/02/22/joe-tom-easley-gay-rights-dead/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/23/us/joe-tom-easley-dead.html>

<https://www.washingtonblade.com/2022/02/23/law-professor-lgbt-rights-advocate-joe-tom-easley-dies-at-81/>

### **SUPPORTING SURVEY DATA**

n/a

### **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

n/a

### **Applicable Area**

South Beach

**Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-14?**

No

**Does this item utilize G.O. Bond Funds?**

No

### **Strategic Connection**

Non-Applicable

### **Legislative Tracking**

Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt