

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE, AT ITS JULY 10, 2024 MEETING, AND APPROVING, BY 5/7TH VOTE, FOLLOWING A DULY NOTICED PUBLIC HEARING, THE CO-NAMING OF 15TH STREET BETWEEN OCEAN DRIVE AND BAY ROAD AS "MAYOR MATTI HERRERA BOWER WAY," 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.

WHEREAS, at the May 15, 2024 City Commission meeting, an item sponsored by Commissioner Alex Fernandez and co-sponsored by Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez was referred to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee ("PSNQLC") to discuss the co-naming of 15th Street between Ocean Drive and Bay Road in honor of Mayor Matti Herrera Bower ("Mayor Bower"); and

WHEREAS, on July 24, 2024, the Mayor and City Commission adopted an ordinance amending Section 82-503(c) of the City Code to provide for additional criteria for the co-naming of street in honor of notable women who made significant contributions to the civic and/ or political fabric of Miami Beach; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Bower is the first woman, as well as the first Hispanic, to serve with distinction from 2007 through 2013 as Mayor of Miami Beach, as well as served as a City Commissioner for eight (8) years prior to her period of service as Mayor; and

WHEREAS, on July 26, 2024 the Mayor and City Commission adopted an ordinance amending Section 82-503(c) of the City Code to provide for additional criteria for the co-naming of a street in honor of notable women who made significant contributions to the civic and/ or political fabric of Miami Beach; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Bower's road to community activism began as a Parent-Teacher Association mom, working to save an elementary school from closing; and

WHEREAS, her enthusiasm, innate leadership and charisma led Mayor Bower to become president of the Parent-Teacher Association ("PTA") at three (3) Miami Beach public schools, a decade-long record of service. In the process, she became a leading advocate for quality education in Miami Beach and began a long trajectory of service to Miami Beach's public schools; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Bower served on the Miami-Dade County School Board Attendance to Boundary and Bi-Lingual Education Committees, the Miami Beach Ad Hoc Committee for Quality Education, the Miami Beach Feeder Pattern and Citizen's Advisory Committee, the State of Florida Transition Team task force on Reading and Literacy and championed the expansion of the International Baccalaureate Program to all of Miami Beach's public schools; and

WHEREAS, through her persistent leadership to ensure quality education for every child in Miami Beach, Mayor Bower achieved the citywide implementation of the International Baccalaureate program, thereby allowing for all students to significantly expand their learning opportunities within our City; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Bower was also an instrumental part of the campaign to save the historic Art Deco District in South Beach; and

WHEREAS, inspired by the leadership of her friend Barbara Baer Capitman, Mayor Bower became an early volunteer with the Miami Design Preservation League and served on the Board of Directors for over a decade; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Bower advocated for responsible growth management and the creation of historic districts around Miami Beach, including the first and most famous, the Miami Beach Architecture District; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure as City Commissioner and Mayor, Mayor Bower helped introduce innumerable ordinances and city code amendments that ushered in the modern era of historic preservation in the City, including championing the amendment to the City's Charter to require voter referendum approval prior to increasing floor area ratios in the City, possibly the single most important piece of growth management legislation in the City; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Bower also helped create affordable housing for low-income elderly and others; and

WHEREAS, to this day, Mayor Bower serves on the Board of Directors of the Miami Beach Housing Authority, which provides quality affordable housing for seniors and others; and

WHEREAS, for many years, she worked closely with Unidad of Miami Beach, Inc., the non-profit community-based organization that operates the North Beach Oceanfront Center and engages in advocacy for seniors, particularly those in the Hispanic community, and provides social services and cultural programming, among other important work performed for the benefit of our entire community; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Bower has supported many social equality initiatives over the years including the adoption of the City's Human Rights Ordinance and the first City-supported gay pride festival and development of the arts, among other causes; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Bower has left an indelible mark on the City, not only in her support of many worthy causes over the years, but in terms of her personal touch and her belief in the importance of community engagement and transparency in government decision-making; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Bower is a force of nature and a living example of a public servant that has always stayed true to herself, with values that place people above politics; and

WHEREAS, as 15th Street is a platted, public road, the proposed co-naming must 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby accept the recommendation of the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee, and approve, by 5/7th vote, following a duly noticed public hearing, the co-naming of 15th Street between Ocean Drive and Bay Road as " Mayor Matti Herrera Bower Way," 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.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____ 2024.

Steven Meiner, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Vice-Mayor Alex J. Fernandez
co-Sponsored by Kristen Rosen Gonzalez)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney 

9/5/2024

Date