

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee Members

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: April 9, 2025

TITLE: DISCUSS UTILIZING 7605 COLLINS AVENUE AS A POTENTIAL BASE OF OPERATIONS FOR OCEAN RESCUE.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends designating the property at 7605 Collins Avenue as the North Building Department Location. Ocean Rescue has expressed interest in utilizing the building, they however have expressed that they would require full occupancy for their intended use. Utilizing this property as the North Building Department location would eliminate the need to rent the current North Beach office, eliminating ongoing rental expenses. With a larger space than the existing North Office, 7605 Collins Avenue can accommodate additional services and enhancing efficiency for both staff and the community.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

On March 13, 2024, the City Commission approved Resolution 2024-32945 for the purchase of the property located at 7605 Collins Avenue in an amount not to exceed \$6,530,000 utilizing reserves from the Building Department Fund for the use of the Building Department's North Beach satellite office / North Beach Permitting Center with possible associated City services such as cashiering for parking and utility bills and Code Compliance and/or Parking Department staffing. Since the purchase the maintenance of the property has been paid by the Building Department and the department has allocated \$1,000,000 in a capital project to renovate / retrofit the building into office use.

On April 17, 2024, the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee ("PSNQLC") discussed referred item C4M, sponsored by Commissioner Suarez, to address best use for the property located at 7605 Collins Avenue. The PSNQLC discussed possible secondary use options.

On September 17, 2024, at the request of Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez, a publicly advertised sunshine meeting and tour took place at the facility location to discuss what could be done with the property. The minutes of that meeting are attached as Exhibit A.

On October 30, 2024, a referral to the Public Safety & Neighborhoods Quality of Life Committee to discuss utilizing 7605 Collins Avenue as a potential base of operations for Ocean Rescue was sponsored by Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez and co-sponsored by Commissioner David Suarez. Refer to Exhibit B referral.

On November 20, 2024, the City Commission, sponsored by Commissioner Rosen-Gonzalez and co-sponsored by Commissioners Tanya Bhatt and Laura Dominguez, approved Resolution 2024-33390 appropriating funds in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 and designating space for the Surfrider Foundation's water testing facility at the 7605 Collins Avenue location.

On December 11, 2024 the City Commission, sponsored by Commissioner Tanya Bhatt, approved Resolution 2024-33425 directing the administration to host an open house event at 7605 Collins Avenue to facilitate community discussion regarding potential uses of the property and report back via letter to commission (LTC) with the results and feedback gathered during the

open house, along with any recommendations for next steps regarding the future utilization of the property. The open house took place on February 6, 2025.

On January 29, 2025, the October 30, 2024 referral item was heard at the Public Safety & Neighborhoods Quality of Life Committee and it was concluded that the location and space configuration was not optimum for Ocean Rescue as they would prefer to wait for their permanent North Beach Sub-Station location currently being designed at the south end of North Beach Oceanside Park and funded with \$5,000,000 of G.O. Bond funds.

On February 26, 2025, the City Commission, sponsored by Commissioner David Suarez, approved a referral to the Land Use and Sustainability Committee to discuss possible conversion of 7605 Collins Avenue into a Marine Science Education Center and Museum.

ANALYSIS

At the January 29, 2025, Public Safety and Quality of Life Committee requested that the Administration return to Committee with the results of the open house held on February 6, 2025, for further discussion including next steps.

Attached Exhibit C - LTC #118-2025 dated March 17, 2025 provides the detail of the results of the open house and the summary bullets below highlight the majority of the suggestions made by the Community that either attended and/or provided follow up emails to the Administration:

- Community Cultural Center: A space for local artists, musicians and organizations to host exhibitions, performances, and educational workshops.
- City Facility: Use for Building Department North Beach Expansion and other City Services in North Beach.
- Beach Club for Residents: A membership-based venue with reasonable fees, providing a gathering space for local residents.
- Events Venue: A rental space for weddings, retreats, and workshops to generate revenue while fostering local engagement.
- Environmental & Marine Science Center: A facility dedicated to sea turtle conservation and marine education, integrating with Altos Del Mar Park.
- Public Safety: An Ocean Rescue and/or Police Substation.
- Library Integration: Enhancing or expanding North Shore Branch Library by incorporating 7605 Collins Avenue.
- Art & Cultural Programs: Dedicated space for art classes, ceramics, poetry readings, and cultural programs for seniors and adults.
- Tourist & Community Welcome Center: A hub offering visitor information, cultural programming, and shared office space for local nonprofits.
- Public Space Improvements: Suggestions to remove the security wall, re-purpose the pool area, and create an outdoor event space.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

TBD

Does this Ordinance require a Business Impact Estimate?
(FOR ORDINANCES ONLY)

The Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on .
See BIE at: <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/meeting-notices/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

CONCLUSION

The Administration continues to recommend establishing 7605 Collins Avenue as the new North Building Department Location as it supports the operational and long-term sustainability needs of the department. Moving forward with the transitions will allow for the city to increase services to the community in a cost-effective manner.

Applicable Area

North Beach

<u>Is this a “Residents Right to Know” item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?</u>	<u>Is this item related to a G.O. Bond Project?</u>
No	No

Was this Agenda Item initially requested by a lobbyist which, as defined in Code Sec. 2-481, includes a principal engaged in lobbying? No

If so, specify the name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s):

Department

Building

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez

Co-sponsor(s)

Click or tap here to enter text.

Condensed Title

Discuss utilizing 7605 Collins Avenue as a potential base of operations for Ocean Rescue.