

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee Members

FROM: Rickelle Williams, Interim City Manager

DATE: July 10, 2024

TITLE: DISCUSSION REGARDING CO-NAMING 9TH STREET BETWEEN OCEAN DRIVE AND WEST AVENUE IN HONOR OF FORMER CITY COMMISSIONER AND PRESERVATIONIST NANCY LIEBMAN.

RECOMMENDATION

The City Administration (“Administration”) recommends that the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee (“PSNQLC” or “Committee”) discuss this item and provide a recommendation.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

At the May 15, 2024 City Commission meeting, at the request of Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt, the Mayor and City Commission (“City Commission”) referred an item (C4 R) to the PSNQLC to discuss co-naming 9 Street between Ocean Drive and West Avenue in honor of former City of Miami Beach (“City”) Commissioner Nancy Liebman.

Commissioner Liebman has been a force of nature in her roles as City Commissioner, preservationist, and activist. While Commissioner Liebman may be best known in the City for the eight (8) years she served on the City Commission and for her tireless work with historic preservation, she also co-founded the only citywide residents’ advocacy group, Miami Beach United, in 2012, where she served as president for several years.

Commissioner Liebman’s first brush with historic preservation came in 1978, when, as a Miami Beach Parent-Teacher Association president, Commissioner Liebman became involved in a fight to protect the Leroy D. Feinberg Elementary School in South Beach from demolition. Saving the architecturally notable old school put Commissioner Liebman in contact with Barbara Baer Capitman, founder of the Miami Design Preservation League (“MDPL” or “League”). Commissioner Liebman joined MDPL and became fascinated by the pioneering movement to preserve South Beach’s unique Art Deco architecture. It was as a result of the MDPL’s efforts that the South Beach Art Deco district was designated as a National Register District in 1979; and, in 1992, while Commissioner Liebman was MDPL’s Executive Director, the League was able to convince the City Commission to designate the entire one-square mile area of South Beach as a local historic district, giving the area additional protection under local preservation laws.

In 1986, Commissioner Liebman also successfully advocated for and secured the approval from the City’s Planning Board and City Commission, despite a previous 6-1 vote against, to add a Historic Planning seat on the Planning Board.

Commissioner Liebman was first elected to the City Commission in 1993, where she served until 2001 as she continued to support historic preservation efforts.

In 2006, when the City of Miami designated the Miami Modern (“MiMo”) Biscayne Boulevard Historic District, Commissioner Liebman and a few other preservationists assisted the City of

Miami's Upper East Side community with their historic preservation efforts. As a result, the MiMo Biscayne Association was formed in 2007, and Commissioner Liebman served as President for several years until she stepped down to serve on the City's Historic Preservation Board from 2016 through 2022, leading in a number of enhancements which continue to be implemented to this day.

ANALYSIS

Under the existing criteria in Section 82-503 of the City Code, city streets may only be co-named in honor of (1) Miami Beach police officers who died or were killed in the line of duty; (2) a public facility located on the street to be co-named; (3) private not-for-profit organizations with significant historic value to the City and associated with structures which have a significant historical value or architectural significance to the City; (4) geographic areas within the City; (5) a commercial establishment that has been in business in the City of Miami Beach for 100 or more years and which is located on the street to be co-named; (6) deceased person who served as the spiritual leader of a prominent religious institution in the City of Miami Beach for 35 or more years and resided in the City of Miami Beach; (7) deceased person who is known for their role as a gay-rights pioneer and as one of the first openly LGBTQ people ever elected to public office in the U.S.; (8) a deceased historical figure who was instrumental in helping Latin American countries achieve independence from the Spanish Empire; (9) a prominent Jewish figure who made significant civic contributions to Jewish history and/or Jewish-related initiatives; (10) a deceased Cuban-American artist who made vast contributions to Latin music history and culture; (11) a deceased photographer who documented the life and residents of Miami Beach; and (12) a deceased spiritual leader of a prominent religious institution in the City of Miami Beach who also made significant civic contributions to the City.

Whenever a request is made to co-name streets, or portions thereof, in the City, Section 82-503(c)(2) of the City Code requires the sponsor to submit the proposal in writing to an appropriate committee (in this case, PSNQLC), which shall include the following: (1) the street, or portion thereof, to be co-named; (2) the proposed co-name of the street, or portion thereof; (3) the reason for the request; and (4) a factual summary confirming that the proposed person falls under the specific criteria outlined in Section 82-503(c)(1)(a) of the City Code.

On April 17, 2024, the PSNQLC discussed an item entitled "Discussion Regarding Co-Naming of a Miami Beach Street In Honor Of Women Who Have Significantly Impacted The City's History and Culture." The Committee unanimously recommended to move the item with a favorable recommendation to the City Commission.

At the June 26, 2024 City Commission meeting, the City Commission approved on First Reading an amendment to Section 82-503(c) of the City Code to provide additional criteria for the co-naming of streets in honor of 1) a Grammy-award winning singer, actress, songwriter, author, philanthropist, and businesswoman who made extraordinary contributions to music and culture in the United States and internationally; 2) a deceased internationally renowned art collector who significantly contributed to the City's arts and culture; and 3) notable women who made significant contributions to the civic and/or political fabric of Miami Beach.

In anticipation of the adoption of the proposed amendment to Section 82-503 of the City Code on Second Reading at the July 24, 2024 City Commission meeting, the PSNQLC may consider and recommend to the City Commission the co-naming of 9th Street between Ocean Drive and West Avenue in honor of former Commissioner Nancy Liebman. Adoption of the PSNQLC recommendation would be considered by the City Commission at its July 24, 2024, meeting.

Following City Commission approval, the proposed co-naming would need to be sponsored by a Miami-Dade County Commissioner and approved by the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners ("BCC") via a resolution. Subsequent to BCC approval, the City's Transportation and Mobility Department staff would coordinate with Miami-Dade County Department of

Transportation and Public Works staff on the fabrication and installation of the new street co-name signs.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Should the PSNQLC recommend and City Commission wish to move forward with co-naming 9 Street between Ocean Drive and West Avenue in honor of former Commissioner Nancy Liebman, the fabrication and installation of the new co-naming signs would be performed by the Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works (“DTPW”); and the City would reimburse DTPW for the costs incurred for this work, which can be absorbed within the Transportation and Mobility Department budget.

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-notice/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Amount TBD / 106-9615-000349-30-403-529-00-00-00-

CONCLUSION

This item is being presented to the PSNQLC for discussion and a recommendation.

Applicable Area

South Beach

Is this a “Residents Right to Know” item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?

No

Is this item related to a G.O. Bond Project?

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): N/A

Department

Transportation and Mobility

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt

Co-sponsor(s)

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Condensed Title

Discuss Co-Naming of 9 St in Honor of Former City Commissioner Nancy Liebman.