



COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager
DATE: October 30, 2024
TITLE: REFERRAL TO THE PLANNING BOARD – ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A CITY COMMISSION HOTEL APPROVAL PROCESS.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the Mayor and City Commission (City Commission) refer the attached draft ordinance to the Planning Board.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

On December 13, 2023, at the request of Commissioner Joseph Magazine, the City Commission referred a discussion regarding the hotel approval process, pursuant to item R9 G, to the Land Use and Sustainability Committee (LUSC). Commissioners Tanya K. Bhatt, Alex Fernandez and Kristen Rosen Gonzalez were co-sponsors of the item.

On March 5, 2024, the LUSC combined and discussed the item with other hotel related items referred by the City Commission on December 13, 2023 (C4 O and C4 S) and continued the discussion pertaining to the regulation of future hotels to May 1, 2024 with direction to the Administration to explore different options for City Commission approval of future hotels, where permitted. On May 1, 2024 the LUSC deferred the discussion pertaining to the regulation of future hotels to the June 10, 2024 meeting. On June 10, 2024, the LUSC discussed and continued the item to the July 9, 2024, LUSC meeting with direction to draft an ordinance in accordance with the following:

- a. City Commission review should occur at the beginning of the approval process.
- b. City Commission approval would apply to non-oceanfront and non-waterfront hotel projects, with option 2 in the LUSC memorandum used as a framework.
- c. Commission review criteria should include impacts on residential uses.

On July 9, 2024, the item was deferred to a future date. On September 5, 2024, the LUSC recommended that the attached draft ordinance be referred to the Planning Board.

ANALYSIS

Currently, any new hotel development consisting of ground up construction or additions to existing structures, requires the review and approval of the Design Review Board (DRB) or Historic Preservation Board (HPB). In those instances where a separate conditional use permit (CUP) may be required, Planning Board approval would also be needed.

On September 5, 2024, the LUSC recommended that the attached draft ordinance, which establishes a City Commission Warrant Process for hotel approvals, be referred to the Planning Board. The following is a summary of the proposed ordinance:

- Approval from the City Commission would be required prior to the review of any land use board application or the approval of any building permit for a hotel project. Hotel developments located on oceanfront properties would not require a City Commission Warrant.
- The warrant for hotel use, if applicable, would be granted by resolution of the City Commission, and an affirmative vote of five-sevenths (5/7) of all members of the City Commission would be required. The procedure for granting a warrant shall also require a public hearing by the City Commission prior to the acceptance of an application to the Planning Board, Design Review Board or Historic Preservation Board, as applicable. The warrant hearing must also be noticed in accordance with the notice requirements of the applicable Land Use Board.
- Review criteria for the City Commission to consider in reviewing warrant applications for hotel uses has been developed and established.

At the request of the item sponsor, an applicability provision has also been included in the draft ordinance, which provides an exception for properties fronting Washington Avenue that have an active land use board application with a hearing file number and where a notice to proceed to public hearing has been issued by the City prior to July 1, 2024.

APPLICATION FEE WAIVER

The subject amendment is proposed on a comprehensive basis, and not on behalf of a private applicant or third party. Pursuant to section 2.4.1.c of the Land Development Regulations of the City Code, amendments to the City Code require the payment of the applicable fees in section 2.2.3.5, 2.2.3.6, and appendix A to the City Code. These fees may be waived by a five-sevenths (5/7ths) vote of the City Commission, based upon one or more of the following circumstances:

1. The City Commission determines that the proposed amendment is necessary due to a change in federal or state law, or to implement best practices in urban planning, or based on circumstances unique to the proposed amendment.
2. Upon the written recommendation of the City Manager acknowledging a documented financial hardship of a property owner(s) or developer(s).
3. If requested, in writing, by a non-profit organization, neighborhood association, or homeowner's association for property owned by any such organization or association, so long as the request demonstrates that a public purpose is achieved by enacting the applicable amendment.

Should this proposal be referred to the Planning Board, the Administration recommends that the City Commission determine that the proposed amendment is necessary based on circumstances unique to the proposed amendment and waive the applicable fees.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

Does this Ordinance require a Business Impact Estimate? No
(FOR ORDINANCES ONLY)

If applicable, the Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on:

See BIE at: <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/meeting-notice/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

N/A

CONCLUSION

The Administration recommends that the Mayor and City Commission refer the attached draft ordinance to the Planning Board.

Applicable Area

Citywide

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

Yes

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):

Department

Planning

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Joseph Magazine

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Ref: PB - Ordinance to Establish City Commission Hotel Approval Process. (Magazine) PL