

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO:	Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
FROM:	Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt
DATE:	June 26, 2024
TITLE:	REFERRAL TO THE LAND USE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO EXPLORE AND RECOMMEND NEW, MORE FORWARD-LEANING RESILIENCY CODE UPDATES FOR OUR BUILT ENVIRONMENT.

RECOMMENDATION

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

Per FEMA, flooding is the most common natural hazard—90% of natural disasters are flood events, and flood risk exists in every county in the nation. A 2019 study by the National Institute of Building Sciences found that adopting the latest building codes saves \$11 per \$1 invested (NIBS, 2019). It is no longer enough to ask our built environment to stay intact long enough to ensure that people can be removed from structures, we need to think about how those structures impact our community.

During the week of June 10, we received 22.5 inches of rainfall over a three-day period, an event that flooded major areas of our city. In November and April of 2023, there were similar rain events. While billed as anomalies, they seem to be increasingly part of our new normal, therefore there is no better time than now to evaluate how to make our built environment more resilient.

One way to help mitigate the effects of flooding (whether from rain or waves) is to re-think what is currently allowed in our code (for instance, underground garages), and what "stretch goals" would be for what we want to see in the future. I would like to have the Administration be prepared to present and discuss forward-leaning best-practices from around the world that we could potentially adopt to minimize the impact of our built environment. This should be a "pie in the sky, if you could start from scratch" discussion so that we can plan for the city that we want - and need - to be, rather than just adapt the city that we are.

ANALYSIS

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

n/a

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

CONCLUSION

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

Office of Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt

Co-sponsor(s)