

Reshaping Doral: The impact of 10 proposed charter amendments on the 2024 ballot

BY VERÓNICA EGUI BRITO
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In the politically charged atmosphere of Doral, voters are being asked not just to elect three out of five council members in the Nov. 5 election, but also to decide on several key amendments to the city's charter.

One of the most significant proposals, Amendment 8, could drastically change how council members are elected by eliminating runoff elections.

Currently, Doral's charter mandates a runoff election if no candidate secures more than 50% of the total votes. The amendment seeks to eliminate runoff elections, except in the case of a tie, and instead elect the candidates that receive the most votes, regardless of whether they achieve an outright majority. If passed, critics worry about the prospect of reduced representation, as candidates could win with less than half of the voters' support.

Jose Smith, a former city attorney for Miami Beach and North Miami Beach, and currently a special magistrate for North Miami, says eliminating runoff elections could increase the risk of electoral corruption. He said the change may lead to the rise of "ghost" candidates — those whose names appear on the ballot but aren't actively campaigning, with the goal of diverting votes away from a

legitimate candidate to influence the outcome of the election.

"Democracy is fundamentally based on majority rule. While it may not be illegal to eliminate runoff elections, elected officials should govern with a majority vote from their constituents," Smith said. "The recent Frank Artilles case illustrates this concern, where ghost candidates can fragment the vote and mislead voters".

Recently, former Florida Sen. Frank Artilles was found guilty of campaign finance violations. The case involved political

operatives and a "ghost candidate" who likely influenced a close election, part of a plan to help state Senate Republicans win District 37 seat in 2020.

Ivette Gonzalez Petkovich, one of the five members of the city's Charter Review Committee who voted in favor of putting the amendment on the ballot, said her focus was on voter representation — specifically, how many people actually participate in these elections.

She shared her experi-

SEE DORAL, 6N7

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC HEARING

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMUNITY ZONING APPEALS BOARD 10 will hold a Public Hearing on the following zoning applications on **October 28, 2024, at 6:30p.m.** at **Kendall Village Center, Civic Pavilion, 8625 SW 124 Avenue, Miami, FL.**

THIS IS AN IN-PERSON MEETING

I. Sunset Review

APPLICANT: FREIRE'S GROUP APD CARE, LLC. / KERLY BASULTO Z2024000006

The applicant seeks to permit a group home to be spaced less than required by code from another existing group home.

SPECIAL EXCEPTION to permit a proposed group home to be spaced 950' (1,000' required) from an existing group home.

A spacing survey is on file and may be examined in the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, entitled "Radial Sketch" as prepared by Landmark Surveying & Associates, dated stamped received January 22, 2024, and consisting of 1 (one) sheet.

LOCATION: 2425 SW 115 Avenue, Miami-Dade County, Florida

SIZE OF PROPERTY: 0.42 Acre

This is an in-person meeting. Interested parties may appear in person to participate. For inquiries regarding virtual access, please call (786) 414-2600, e-mail ZONINGmeetings@miamidade.gov, or visit our website at <https://www.miamidade.gov/zoning/community-council-10.asp>

For legal ads online, go to <http://legalads.miamidade.gov>

CITY OF MIAMI BEACH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CANOPY PARK - COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FLUM AMENDMENT ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BY CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE CATEGORY AND DESIGNATION FOR A PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED AT 701 WEST AVENUE, WHICH IS COMPRISED OF LESS THAN 10 ACRES, FROM THE CURRENT DESIGNATION OF CD-2, "COMMERCIAL, MEDIUM INTENSITY", TO THE FUTURE LAND USE CATEGORY OF ROS, "RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE"

NOVEMBER 20, 2024 CITY COMMISSION MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **November 20, 2024, at 10:10 a.m.**, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, the Mayor and City Commissioners of the City of Miami Beach will hold a **First Reading/Public Hearing** on the following proposed Ordinance:

CANOPY PARK - COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FLUM AMENDMENT

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BY CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE CATEGORY PURSUANT TO SECTION 2.4.1 OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, AND PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES, SECTIONS 163.3181 AND SECTION 163.3187, BY CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION FOR A PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED AT 701 WEST AVENUE, AND WHICH IS COMPRISED OF LESS THAN 10 ACRES, FROM THE CURRENT DESIGNATION OF CD-2, "COMMERCIAL, MEDIUM INTENSITY", TO THE FUTURE LAND USE CATEGORY OF ROS, "RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE;" PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; TRANSMITTAL; REPEALER; SEVERABILITY; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE. *This Ordinance is being heard pursuant to Chapter 2, Article IV of the Resiliency Code. Inquiries may be directed to the Planning Department at 305.673.7550.*

During the **November 20, 2024, Commission Meeting**, the City of Miami Beach will host a Hybrid Commission Meeting. During the Hybrid Commission Meeting, the City Commission will be physically present in the **Commission Chamber, located at 1700 Convention Center Drive, 3rd Floor, Miami Beach, Florida 33139.**

Members of the public who wish to attend this Commission Meeting or provide public comment in person may appear at the Commission Chamber. Applicants and members of the public who wish to participate or provide comment virtually during the Commission Meeting may join the webinar at: <https://miamibeachfl.gov/zoom.us/j/81392857671> or via telephone at: 1.305.224.1968 (U.S.) or 888.475.4499 (Toll-Free). Webinar ID: 81392857671#. Members of the public wanting to speak virtually on an item during the meeting must click the "raise hand" icon if using the Zoom app or press *9 on the telephone to raise their hand.

INTERESTED PARTIES are invited to take part in this meeting or be represented by an agent. The public may submit written comments on Commission Meeting Items by either submitting an eComment through the agenda page at <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/agenda> and clicking the comment bubble icon in the "Current and Upcoming Meetings" section or by emailing CityClerk@miamibeachfl.gov with the Agenda Item Number in the subject line. Comments received, in either format, will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. the day before the meeting. All submissions will be forwarded to the Mayor and Commissioners and included in the meeting record.

Copies of Agenda Items are available for public inspection at: <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/agenda>. This meeting, or any item therein, may be continued, and under such circumstances, additional legal notice need not be provided.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Fla. Stat., the City hereby advises the public that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Commission concerning any matter considered at its meeting or its hearing, such person must ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. This notice does not constitute consent by the City for the introduction or admission of otherwise inadmissible or irrelevant evidence, nor does it authorize challenges or appeals not otherwise allowed by law.

To request this material in an alternate format, a sign language interpreter (five-day notice required), information on access for persons with disabilities, and/or any accommodation to review any document or participate in any City-sponsored proceedings, call 305.604.2ADA (2232) and select 1 for English or 2 for Spanish; TTY users may call via 711 (Florida Relay Service).

The City Commission Meeting will be broadcast live on Miami Beach TV (MBTV), viewable on the City's website at <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/government/mbtv/>, as well as on Breezeline Cable channel 660 or 2004 (HD), AT&T U-verse channel 99, Hotwire Communications channel 395, and Roku device on PEG-TV channel, and on social media at <https://www.facebook.com/cityofmiamibeach>.

To review the *Business Impact Estimates* for the above proposed Ordinance, please visit <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/meeting-notices/>.

Parking

Meeting attendees can park at the City Hall Garage, 1755 Meridian Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33139.

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk
City of Miami Beach
CityClerk@miamibeachfl.gov
305.673.7411

MIAMIBEACH

AD: 11202024-01