

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee Members

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: June 11, 2025

TITLE: DISCUSS A SUITABLE LOCATION FOR A KAYAK LAUNCH IN NORTH BEACH.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that water quality and parking capabilities be important considerations in evaluating a future kayak launch location in North Beach.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

The City opened a Kayak/NMV (Non-Motorized Vessel) Launch at Parkview Island Annex in May 2017. Due to water quality concerns in the canal serving the launch, the launch has been closed since March 2020.

There is a desire to find an alternative location for a Kayak/NMV Launch in North Beach while water quality concerns at Parkview are addressed.

ANALYSIS

To fully understand the water quality, the administration staff conducted a review of the City's available monthly water quality sampling sites located in North Beach (above 63rd street), specifically for the two fecal indicator bacteria parameters applicable to marine waters: Enterococcus and Fecal coliform. While the City's program was developed for the purpose of long term water quality analysis related to the stormwater program as opposed to recreational use, these two parameters were reviewed in accordance with the State regulatory standards for beach recreational water quality intended for bathing (70 MPN/100mL and 800 CFU/100mL respectively).

Considering this and parking availability, the street end or waterfront adjacent to the P100 lot located at 81st Street and Hawthorne Avenue could be considered for an alternative kayak launch in North Beach. This location has both an acceptable level of water quality, two nearby monthly water quality testing sites, and an appropriate availability of parking.

The administration staff were also asked by Commissioner Dominguez to consider the southern portion of Tatum Waterway, adjacent to Crab Alley. However, because no monthly water quality testing site currently exists in this location to evaluate multi-year water trends and because Park view Canal is currently adjacent to this waterway, the Administration currently does not recommend the use of this location. In addition, significant upgrades are planned in this vicinity, including a potential dredging project, living shoreline improvements utilizing federal appropriations, and stormwater retrofits. If a kayak launch were permitted and installed in this location, it would have to be removed for these future projects, which would then require additional permits. The water quality sampling location within Tatum Waterway is located centrally at the pedestrian bridge, with limited public parking available. It is also important to note Tatum

Waterway has over a dozen stormwater outfalls which means during rain events, there could be a significant influx of stormwater which has the potential to pick-up street level contaminants such as fecal waste.

From a community standpoint, it is also important to note that in the past, the Office of Capital Improvements attempted to permit a kayak launch at 81st Street and Crespi Boulevard. However, after completing the design phase and submitting permit applications, the Miami-Dade County Division of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) required a Letter of Consent from the adjacent property owner for exceeding the boundaries of the D-5 triangle regulated by County zoning codes. The adjacent property owner declined to sign, so the permit (CLI-2018-0006) was not issued and the application deactivated.

Additional regulatory considerations from the environmental permitting agencies would be needed to develop a new kayak launch. The installation would require review and approval from the DERM, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at a minimum. Many of the regulatory considerations from these agencies would include the presence of benthic resources, water depth, endangered species habitat as well as the letters of consent from the adjacent property owners, water ward extension of the structures, and navigational concerns.

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

The Administration recommends that water quality and parking capabilities be important considerations in evaluating a future kayak launch location in North Beach.

Applicable Area

North Beach

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?

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

Department

Parks and Recreation & Environmental & Sustainability Department

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Laura Dominguez

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Suitable Location for kayak launch in North Beach (Dominguez)