

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: September 11, 2024 1:35 p.m. Public Hearing

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE, AT ITS JULY 10, 2024 MEETING, AND APPROVING, BY 5/7TH VOTE, FOLLOWING A DULY NOTICED PUBLIC HEARING, THE CO-NAMING OF 9TH STREET BETWEEN OCEAN DRIVE AND WEST AVENUE AS "COMMISSIONER NANCY LIEBMAN WAY," SUBJECT TO FINAL APPROVAL OF THE CO-NAMING BY THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2-1, RULE 9.02 OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CODE.

RECOMMENDATION

The City Administration ("Administration") recommends that the Mayor and City Commission ("City Commission") adopt the Resolution (Attachment A) pursuant to the recommendation of the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee ("PSNQLC" or "Committee").

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

At the May 15, 2024 City Commission meeting, at the request of Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt, the City Commission referred an item (C4 R) to the PSNQLC to discuss the co-naming of 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 existing criteria in Section 82-503 of the City of Miami Beach Code of Ordinances ("City Code"), City streets or portions thereof, located in the City may be co-named in honor of: 1) a Miami Beach police officer who died or was killed in the line of duty; 2) a public facility located on the street to be co-named; 3) a private not-for-profit organization 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) a 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 (expired on July 1, 2019); 7) a 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. (expired on May 1, 2022); 8) a deceased historical figure who was instrumental in helping Latin American countries achieve independence from the Spanish Empire (expired on July 1, 2022); 9) a prominent Jewish figure who made significant civic contributions to Jewish history and/or Jewish-related initiatives (expired on September 30, 2022); 10) a deceased Cuban-American artist who made vast contributions to Latin music history and culture (expired January 31, 2023); 11) a deceased photographer who documented the life and residents of Miami Beach (expired March 1, 2023); 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 (shall automatically expire on May 31, 2025); 13) 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 (shall automatically expire on July 31, 2027); 14) a deceased internationally renowned art collector who significantly contributed to the City's arts and culture (shall automatically expire on July 31, 2027); and 15) notable women who made significant contributions to the civic and/or political fabric of Miami Beach (shall automatically expire on July 31, 2027).

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 subsection 82-503(c)(1)(a) of the City Code.

The proposal to co-name 9 Street between Ocean Drive and West Avenue as “Commissioner Nancy Liebman Way” falls under the specific criteria outlined in subsection 82-503(c)(1)(a)(15) of the City Code, “notable women who made significant contributions to the civic and/or political fabric of Miami Beach.”

At the July 10, 2024 PSNQLC meeting, the Committee passed a motion recommending co-naming 9 Street between Ocean Drive and West Avenue as “Commissioner Nancy Liebman Way.”

Pursuant to the Miami-Dade County Code, the co-naming/re-naming of public streets in Miami-Dade County, including within incorporated municipalities, requires a Resolution from the local governing body (City Commission) where the street is located.

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 will coordinate with Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works (“DTPW”) staff on the fabrication and installation of the new street co-name signs.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The cost of fabricating and installing two (2) standard street co-designation signs at the west and east ends of the proposed “Commissioner Nancy Liebman Way” (9 Street between Ocean Drive and West Avenue) would be approximately \$500. The sign fabrication and installation work would be performed by DTPW; and the City would reimburse DTPW for the costs incurred. The funding for fabrication and installation of standard street co-designation signage is included within the Transportation and Mobility Department’s Operating Budget.

Does this Ordinance require a Business Impact Estimate?

(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-notices/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

\$500 / 106-9615-000349-30-403-529-00-00-00-

CONCLUSION

Should the City Commission accept the recommendation of the PSNQLC and approve by 5/7th vote, following a duly noticed public hearing, a Resolution approving the co-naming of 9 Street between Ocean Drive and West Avenue as “Commissioner Nancy Liebman Way”, and subject to final approval of the street co-naming by the BCC, the Administration will coordinate with DTPW on the manufacturing and installation of the new street co-designation signs.

Applicable Area

South Beach

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

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

Yes

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

Transportation and Mobility

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt

Co-sponsor(s)

Commissioner David Suarez

Condensed Title

1:35 p.m. PH, Co-Name 9th Street in Honor of Commissioner Nancy Liebman. (Bhatt/Suarez)
TR 5/7