

# MIAMI BEACH

## COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: City Attorney Ricardo J. Dopico

DATE: December 11, 2024

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2021-31955 TO REQUIRE A DR. STANLEY SUTNICK CITIZENS' FORUM TO BE HELD DURING SPECIAL CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS (EXCEPT FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS CALLED TO ADDRESS A PUBLIC EMERGENCY) FOR A MINIMUM PERIOD OF FIFTEEN (15) MINUTES AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING.

### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY**

Pursuant to the request of Vice-Mayor Tanya K. Bhatt, the attached Resolution has been placed on the December 11, 2024 City Commission meeting agenda.

On January 12, 1991, a Citizens' Forum was formally created by motion of the City Commission to provide an established time during Commission meetings for residents to address the City Commission. On July 28, 1993, pursuant to City Commission motion, the Citizens' Forum was renamed the "Dr. Stanley Sutnick Citizens' Forum" (the "Sutnick Forum") in recognition of the civic activist who contributed to the creation of the formal forum.

Over the years, the schedule for the Sutnick Forum has been changed, with current schedule being from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., and from 1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. during regular City Commission meetings.

On December 8, 2021, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2021-31955, clarifying, pursuant to Section 2-11 of the City Code, that a Sutnick Forum shall also be held during City Commission Presentation and Award meetings for a minimum period of fifteen (15) minutes, but only at Presentation and Award meetings at which there are substantive agenda items for consideration by the Mayor and City Commission, in addition to proclamations and awards.

### **ANALYSIS**

Currently, the Mayor and City Commission only hold Sutnick Forums during regular monthly City Commission meetings and City Commission Presentation and Awards meetings, but only at Presentation and Awards meetings where there are substantive agenda items for consideration by the Mayor and City Commission, in addition to proclamations and awards.

The attached Resolution amends Resolution No. 2021-31955 to additionally require a Sutnick Forum to be held during Special City Commission meetings (except for special meetings called to address a public emergency) for a minimum period of fifteen (15) minutes at the commencement of the meeting.

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**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**

**CONCLUSION**

**Applicable Area**

Citywide

<b><u>Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?</u></b>	<b><u>Is this item related to a G.O. Bond Project?</u></b>
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No

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**

City Attorney

**Sponsor(s)**

Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt

**Co-sponsor(s)**

**Condensed Title**

Amend Reso 2021-31955 - Sutnick Hour for Special Meetings (Bhatt)