



COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt

DATE: September 11, 2024

TITLE: REFERRAL TO THE OCTOBER 18, 2024 FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCY COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS FUTURE PROGRAMMING FOR SOUTH SHORE COMMUNITY CENTER.

RECOMMENDATION

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

Please place the above item on the September 11, 2024 City Commission meeting agenda as a referral to the October 18, 2024 Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee ("FERC").

The South Shore Community Center (SSCC) is a large and capacious facility that has been wildly underutilized since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, as it lived with the sword of Damocles over its head awaiting its anticipated demolition to make way for a new fire station. With the fire station now relocated to an alternative site, it is imperative that we prioritize the revitalization of the SSCC, ensuring its return to a vibrant and active community hub.

The necessary chiller upgrade and elevator repair, which were previously deferred due to the impending demolition, will be addressed separately and included in the FY 2025 budget. Additionally, the reactivation of the senior lunchroom is the subject of a separate resolution by my colleague, Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez.

Between the auditorium, the office space upstairs, and the main floor office area, there is a great deal of underutilized space that can be activated in ways that will benefit City residents. This referral seeks to ensure the SSCC is fully utilized in a manner that enhances the community's engagement and well-being.

I request that the City Administration be prepared to discuss at the October FERC meeting the following:

- Determine if roof can be made into a green roof/community garden; and how to significantly incorporate more greenery throughout the building and campus. See <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/gallery/2024/may/11/eco-brutalism-when-angular-concrete-meets-the-wonder-of-nature-in-pictures>.
- It has been documented in sites around the country and the world that combining intergenerational learning (i.e. kids in daycare and seniors using the lunchroom) has marked benefits for all. Similarly, getting kids and seniors involved with animals also has beneficial results. Explore creating/expanding existing programs to create a multi-generational program which builds on these programs for greater community engagement. (See, for example, Seniors Gain Purpose Through Childcare and Dog Rescue Programs (providermagazine.com); [5c891064751e5-Early Years Guide final.pdf](#) (generationsworkingtogether.org); Toddlers and Seniors Together: The Benefits of

Intergenerational Care | Institute for Family Studies (ifstudies.org); Companion Animals for Seniors: Pets for the Elderly).

- Determine a process by which social service organizations and other not-for-profit organizations can make applications for low-cost rental space in the facility. These can include but are not limited to Miami Dade or CMB government resources, Surfrider for water testing, a TNVR facility for the feral cat program, and more.
- The auditorium has been used only as a lunchroom for too long, but it's a large and flexible space that includes an outdoor garden area. Develop community programming and access for auditorium space - local community group meetings and/or events, yoga/exercise for seniors; art/music activities/performances, etc.
- Assess and recommend any functional and cosmetic upgrades as needed (e.g., fresh coat of paint indoors, window coverings, restoring the auditorium to its original (or as best can be determined) vision; restore fountains or convert to planters, replant existing planters and gardens to maximize green space.

ANALYSIS

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

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)

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Ref: FERC (10/18/2024) - South Shore Community Center Programming. (Bhatt)