

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee Members

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: May 14, 2025

TITLE: DISCUSSION REGARDING THE INSTALLATION OF A BUST OF GENERAL DON JOSE DE SAN MARTIN AT THE NORMANDY FOUNTAIN PLAZA

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that while the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee evaluates the installation of a bust of General Don Jose De San Martin at the Normandy Fountain, it also carefully considers several critical factors that will significantly impact the General Fund budget, beginning in FY 2026:

1. The City's increasing unfunded capital improvement program.
2. Long-term General Fund financial projections indicating a potential shortfall in upcoming fiscal years.
3. The passage of Amendment 5 in November 2024, which increases the homestead exemption and further constrains the growth of taxable property values.

These considerations are essential to ensure that decisions regarding the installation of a bust of General Don Jose De San Martin at the Normandy Fountain align with the City's broader long-term financial stability and strategic priorities. If the Committee recommends funding the installation of a bust of General Don Jose De San Martin at the Normandy Fountain, the Administration recommends it be considered as part of the FY 2026 budget process.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

At the January 16, 2024 Hispanic Affairs Committee meeting, a motion was made recommending that in order to honor City residents representing the communities of Argentina, Chile, and Peru, the City should install a bust of General Don José de San Martin, at Collins Park. (Exhibit A).

At the August 8, 2024 Hispanic Affairs Committee meeting, another motion was made supporting the acceptance and donation of a bust of General Don José de San Martin, the liberator of Argentina, Chile, and Peru, to be placed at Collins Park among the other busts at that location, and to be placed on a pedestal similar to the one from Benito Juarez, or in the alternative, to be placed at a strategic location in North Beach such as the plaza of the Normandy Fountain or other location in North Beach where the City Administration and City Commission agree to. (Exhibit B)

During the February 3, 2025 City Commission meeting, at the request of Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez, the Mayor and City Commission referred a discussion item to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee ("PSNQLC"), to discuss an installation of a bust of General Don José de San Martin at the Normandy Fountain Plaza. (Exhibit C)

Whenever there is a proposal to establish a monument or memorial on public property in the City, Section 82-504 of the City Code requires the sponsor to place the proposal as a referral to an appropriate committee.

ANALYSIS

General Don José de San Martín is a revered figure in the history of Argentina, Chile, and Peru, recognized for his pivotal role in the independence movements of these nations, and his legacy continues to inspire generations. The Normandy Fountain Plaza serves as a central location within our City and provides an ideal setting for the installation of a bust that reflects the diversity and heritage of our community, particularly given the concentration of residents of South American descent who live, work, and play in the North Beach area.

The installation of a bust of General Don José de San Martín at the Normandy Fountain Plaza would not only pay tribute to his significant contributions to the cause of freedom and independence, but also serves as a symbol of unity, diversity, and inclusivity within our City.

The bust is currently in Peru, and as of the time of this memo, its estimated arrival in Miami Beach remains unknown. The estimated cost to produce and install the bust, accompanying plaque, and supporting pedestal is between \$30,000 and \$35,000.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Not to exceed \$35,000.

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

N/A

CONCLUSION

The Administration supports the installation of a memorial bust of General Don José De San Martín at the Normandy Fountain Plaza.

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? No

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

Department

Parks and Recreation

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Installation of a Bust General Don José De San Martin Normandy Fountain Plaza (Rosen Gonzalez)