

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee Members

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: May 14, 2025

TITLE: DISCUSS INTALLING A MEMORIAL PLAQUE ON 41ST STREET AND PINE TREE DRIVE TO HONOR RABBI STERN

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration suggests the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee ("PSNQLC" or the "Committee") discuss the item and transmit its recommendation to the City Commission regarding the establishment of a memorial plaque on 41st Street and Pine Tree Drive, in honor of Rabbi Stern, in accordance with Section 82-504 of the City Code.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

On March 19, 2025, the Mayor and City Commission approved the referral of item C4 T, sponsored by Mayor Steven Meiner, to discuss at the PSNQLC installing a memorial plaque on 41st Street and Pine Tree Drive in honor of Rabbi Tibor Stern.

ANALYSIS

Rabbi Tibor H. Stern was a distinguished Torah scholar, spiritual leader, and prolific author whose influence extended across communities in the United States and beyond. His rabbinic career began with leadership roles at Congregation Kerem Israel in Kansas City, Missouri, and Beth Israel in Oakland, California.

In 1955, Rabbi Stern arrived in Miami Beach, where he served as the spiritual leader of Beth Jacob Congregation until 1964. He then became the Rabbi of the Jacob C. Cohen Community Synagogue, a position he held from 1964 to 1990. Later, he continued his leadership as the Rabbi of Congregation Chevra Shas of Tower 41.

A visionary in strengthening Jewish life in Miami Beach, Rabbi Stern played a pivotal role in establishing the Miami Beach eruv in 1982 and served as chairman of the Miami Beach Eruv Council. Additionally, he chaired the Rabbinic Building Commission during the reconstruction of the Daughters of Israel mikvah.

Beyond his local impact, Rabbi Stern was a respected leader in the broader Orthodox Jewish community. He served as vice president of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the U.S. and Canada and was a member of the Executive of the Rabbinical Council of America. A dedicated philanthropist, Rabbi Stern was actively involved with numerous charitable organizations, particularly the Bikur Cholim hospital in Israel. His intellectual contributions were vast, authoring over 35 volumes of scholarly works and Torah publications that continue to be revered worldwide.

Upon review of Mayor Meiner's request, the Administration recommends honoring the life of Rabbi Tibor Stern with a memorial plaque to be installed on 41st Street and Pine Tree Drive (the "Project") in accordance with Section 82-504 of the City Code. The Project will consist of installation of the commemorative plaque, including design, fabrication, installation, and

necessary improvements to the area. The total cost for this Project is approximately \$1,500.00.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The fiscal impact for the Project is approximately \$1,500.00.

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-notices/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is presented for the Committee's review and consideration. Should the PSNQLC move forward with a favorable recommendation of installing a commemorative plaque, this Project would be transmitted to the City Commission for approval pursuant to Section 82-504 of the City Code.

Applicable Area

Middle 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

Facilities and Fleet Management

Sponsor(s)

Mayor Steven Meiner

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Install Memorial Plaque in Honor of Rabbi Stern