

21. DISCUSS CO-NAMING THE PORTION OF 28TH STREET FROM SHERIDAN AVENUE TO PRAIRIE AVENUE IN HONOR OF LATE RABBI YISROEL GROSZ.
Applicable Area:

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 CO-NAMING THE PORTION OF 28TH STREET FROM SHERIDAN AVENUE TO PRAIRIE AVENUE IN HONOR OF LATE RABBI YISROEL GROSZ.

RECOMMENDATION

The City Administration ("Administration") recommends that the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee ("PSNQLC" or "Committee") endorse co-naming the portion of 28 Street from Sheridan Avenue to Prairie Avenue in honor of late Rabbi Yisroel Yaakov (Yoikel) Grosz ("Rabbi Grosz").

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

At the April 23, 2025 City Commission meeting, at the request of Commissioner Alex Fernandez, the Mayor and City Commission ("City Commission") referred an agenda item (C4 K) to the PSNQLC to discuss co-naming the portion of 28 Street from Sheridan Avenue to Prairie Avenue in honor of late Rabbi Grosz. Please see below an excerpt from the referral memo, the complete memo is attached.

Rabbi Grosz was a revered spiritual leader, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather; a Holocaust survivor whose unwavering faith and resilience shaped a life of extraordinary purpose.

Born into a very strong, religious family deeply rooted in Torah, love, and tradition, his early years were filled with the warmth of learning in cheder and the strength of faith. However, the world around him soon crumbled, and at just nine (9) years old, he was thrust into the horrors of the Holocaust. Taken from his home and stripped of his freedom, Rabbi Grosz endured the unimaginable suffering of Bergen-Belsen and Terezín (Theresienstadt). After liberation, young Rabbi Grosz crossed war-torn Europe to reunite with his family, an act of sheer determination and yet another miracle in his remarkable journey.

Immigrating to America, Rabbi Grosz rebuilt his life with love and faith, marrying his beloved wife, Bella, and raising a beautiful family—Suzy, Rafael, and Dina, instilling in them the values of Torah and chesed (loving-kindness). Rabbi Grosz built a successful business that provided for many Holocaust survivors, embodying his lifelong mission to uplift others.

Settling in the City of Miami Beach ("City"), Rabbi Grosz became a pillar of his community, known for his profound Torah scholarship, boundless compassion, and steadfast commitment to his shul. Rabbi Grosz's faith was not merely a belief, it was a way of life. Rabbi Grosz found solace in davening and in the pages of the Gemara, always eager to share wisdom and inspiration. Rabbi Grosz lived by example, teaching that holiness is not the absence of struggle, but the ability to find Hashem within it. Despite witnessing the worst of humanity, Rabbi Grosz's words were never filled with hate, but with a solemn determination to build a better, more compassionate world.

ANALYSIS

Under the existing criteria in Section 82-503 of the City of Miami Beach Code of Ordinances (“City Code”), City streets may only be co-named in honor of (1) Miami Beach police officers who died or were killed in the line of duty; (2) a public facility located on the street to be co-named; (3) private not-for-profit organizations 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) 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) 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 on January 31, 2023); (11) a deceased photographer who documented the life and residents of Miami Beach (expired on 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 (set to automatically expire in May 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 (set to automatically expire on July 31, 2025); (14) a deceased internationally renowned art collector who significantly contributed to the City's arts and culture (set to automatically expire on July 31, 2025); (15) a notable woman who made significant contributions to the civic and/or political fabric of Miami Beach (set to automatically expire on July 31, 2025); (16) a dedicated athlete, world-renowned streak runner, and community icon who made significant contributions to the wellness culture of Miami Beach (set to automatically expire on July 31, 2025); and (17) an individual who made lasting and significant contributions to the Miami Beach community through healthcare philanthropy, and arts and culture (set to automatically expire on March 31, 2028).

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

The proposal to co-name the portion of 28 Street from Sheridan Avenue to Prairie Avenue in honor of the late Rabbi Yisroel Grosz falls under the specific criteria outlined in subsection 82-503(c)(1)(a)(12) of the City Code, a “deceased spiritual leader of a prominent religious institution in the City of Miami Beach who also made significant civic contributions to the City.”

The PSNQLC may consider and recommend to the City Commission the co-naming of the portion of 28 Street from Sheridan Avenue to Prairie Avenue in honor of the late Rabbi Yisroel Grosz. Should the Committee recommend this co-naming, the PSNQLC recommendation would be considered by the City Commission at its May 21, 2025 meeting.

Pursuant to the Miami-Dade County (“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. Therefore, following City Commission approval, the proposed co-naming would need to be sponsored by a 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 would 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 would be approximately \$500. Should the PSNQLC recommend, and the City Commission wish to move forward with co-naming 28 Street from Sheridan Avenue to Prairie Avenue in honor of the late Rabbi Yisroel Grosz, 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 can be absorbed within the Transportation and Mobility Department's Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget.

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

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

CONCLUSION

The Administration recommends that the Committee discuss the item and endorse co-naming the portion of 28 Street from Sheridan Avenue to Prairie Avenue in honor of the late Rabbi Yisroel Grosz.

Applicable Area

Middle Beach

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

No

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): N/A

Department

Transportation and Mobility

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Alex Fernandez

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Co-naming 28 St from Sheridan Ave to Prairie Ave in Honor of Late Rabbi Yisroel Grosz.



COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Commissioner Alex Fernandez

DATE: April 23, 2025

TITLE: REFERRAL TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE A DISCUSSION REGARDING CO-NAMING THE PORTION OF 28TH STREET FROM SHERIDAN AVENUE TO PRAIRIE AVENUE IN HONOR OF LATE RABBI YISROEL GROSZ.

RECOMMENDATION

I would like to refer the above referenced item to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee (the "Committee") to consider the co-naming of the portion of 28th Street from Sheridan Avenue to Prairie Avenue, in honor of late Rabbi Yisroel Grosz, pursuant to Section 82-503 of the City Code.

Whenever a request is made to co-name streets or portions thereof, Section 82-503 of the City Code requires the sponsor to submit the proposal in writing to an appropriate committee (in this case, the 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 a relevant subsection of 82-503 of the City Code.

On April 28, 2023, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Ordinance No. 2023-4548, amending Section 82-503 of the City Code to provide additional criteria and procedures for the co-naming of streets in honor of a deceased person who served as the spiritual leader of a prominent religious institution in the City who also made significant civic contributions to the City.

Rabbi Yisroel Yaakov (Yoikel) Grosz was a revered spiritual leader, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather; a survivor whose unwavering faith and resilience shaped a life of extraordinary purpose.

Born into a very strong, religious family deeply rooted in Torah, love, and tradition, his early years were filled with the warmth of learning in cheder and the strength of faith. However, the world around him soon crumbled, and at just nine years old, he was thrust into the horrors of the Holocaust. Taken from his home and stripped of his freedom, he endured the unimaginable suffering of Bergen-Belsen and Terezín (Theresienstadt). After liberation, young Yoikel Grosz crossed war-torn Europe to reunite with his family—an act of sheer determination and yet another miracle in his remarkable journey.

Immigrating to America, Reb Yaakov rebuilt his life with love and faith, marrying his beloved wife, Bella, and raising a beautiful family—Suzy, Rafael, and Dina—instilling in them the values of Torah and chesed (loving-kindness). He built a successful business that provided for many Holocaust survivors, embodying his lifelong mission to uplift others.

Settling in Miami Beach, he became a pillar of his community, known for his profound Torah scholarship, boundless compassion, and steadfast commitment to his shul. His faith was not merely a belief—it was a way of life. He found solace in davening and in the pages of the Gemara, always eager to share wisdom and inspiration. He lived by example, teaching that holiness is not

the absence of struggle, but the ability to find Hashem within it. Despite witnessing the worst of humanity, his words were never filled with hate, but with a solemn determination to build a better, more compassionate world.

With the naming of the portion of 28th Street from Sheridan Avenue to Prairie Avenue, in honor of late Rabbi Yisroel Grosz, we will forever enshrine his legacy, ensuring that his name and his values will continue to inspire generations to come. His memory is a blessing, and his impact will never be forgotten.

I respectfully submit that Rabbi Grosz is worthy of our consideration for a naming opportunity to mark his many contributions to as a spiritual leader in Miami Beach, and I urge my colleagues to support this item. Should you have any questions or concerns about any of the foregoing, please do not hesitate to contact me.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

ANALYSIS

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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

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

Office of Commissioner Alex Fernandez

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Alex Fernandez

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Ref: PSNQLC - Co-name Portion of 28th Street in Honor of Late Rabbi Yisroel Grosz.
(Fernandez)

Previous Action (For City Clerk Use Only)