

Miami River Commission Annual Report 2017



In 2017 another Miami River Commission (MRC) priority commenced construction, the Wagner Creek and Seybold Canal Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup Project. The MRC thanks the City of Miami, Florida Inland Navigation District, and the State of Florida for funding the project, which is significantly improving the local economy and removing toxic sediments, including dioxin, from the most polluted waterway in the State of Florida.

Additional 2017 successes in the Miami River District include construction commenced along another 3 sections of the public Miami River Greenway at River Landing featuring 420,000 square feet of retail and 506 residential units, and at Aston Martin Residences featuring 384 residential units, renovations are under construction at RMK Merrill-Stevens Boatyard, approval of a renovated 45 slip marina, approval of 1,012 new riverfront residential units featuring public Riverwalks, 2 new riverfront restaurants opened, and another restaurant was approved, all with public riverwalks, and progress on the Brickell Ave tunnel.



**HORACIO
STUART
AGUIRRE**

Chair's Report

KEEPING THE BALANCE of uses along the historic mixed-use Miami River District is amongst the most important and challenging successes of the Miami River Commission. The proof is in the numbers. The Miami River's shorelines feature public riverwalks, 9 major Parks, over 8,010 new residential units (additional 7,456 approved units), major hotels (additional 3 planned hotels with 1,161 new rooms), 23 operating restaurants (additional 23 planned restaurants), 16 historic sites, 25 boatyards and marinas, over a dozen International Shipping Terminals, and other job-generating marine industrial businesses operating along "Port Miami River". International Shipping Terminals provide vital international trade to our neighbors in the Caribbean and Central America. Recreational boatyards, marinas, commercial fishing and tug boat basins are highly active. The river is used daily by international shipping vessels, yachts, manatees, dolphins, marlins, and other marine life. This critical balance of uses makes the beautiful Miami River the ideal place to live, work and play in the heart of the City of Miami.

THE MIAMI RIVER DISTRICT features wonderful multicultural neighborhoods in Downtown, Little Havana, Spring Garden, Overtown, Grove Park, Allapattah, Durham Park, etc. The Miami River District's nine major parks offer every type of recreation including a boat ramp, kayak and paddleboard launch, pools, playgrounds, barbecues, picnic tables, basketball, tennis and racquetball courts, baseball diamonds, football stadium, track, weights, gym, community centers, riverwalks for running, walking, biking and fishing, and historic sites such as the 2,000 year old Miami Circle, 1844 Fort Dallas, and the oldest

standing home in Miami-Dade County, the 1856 Wagner Homestead.

THE MRC THANKS THE FOLLOWING Fiscal Year 2018 funding providers: Miami-Dade County (\$60,000), City of Miami (\$50,000), and private sector advertisers in the MRC's 15th Annual Miami River Map and Guide, 7th Annual Miami River Calendar, and 22nd Annual Miami Riverday. This funding allows the broad based MRC to continue its work partnering with the public and private sectors to bring significant improvements to the Miami River District. The MRC thanks the City of Miami, Florida Inland Navigation District, and State of Florida for providing full funding for the commenced Wagner Creek and Seybold Canal Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup Project, which is significantly improving the natural environment and local economy. In addition, the MRC thanks long standing board members Mayor Tomas Regalado, Dade Delegation Chair Jose Felix Diaz, Rep. David Richardson, Rep. Roy Hardemon, Gary Winston, Frank Carollo, Duber Lizardo, Ed Swakon, and Eric Riel, for their years of volunteer service. The MRC welcomes our newest volunteer board members Dade Delegation Chairman Kionne McGhee, Mayor Francis Suarez, John Michael Cornell, David Maer, Neal Schafers, Roselvic Noguera & Michael Karcher.

I INVITE YOU TO BRING family and friends to the Miami River District and enjoy the experience. The Miami River Commission promises that regardless of your individual interests, age, gender, race, or income level, you will find something special to enjoy.

Horacio Stuart Aguirre
Chairman, Miami River Commission

Awards

- "BEST OF MIAMI 2016" awarded to MRC Managing Director Brett Bibeau –Miami Today
- "BEST OF MIAMI 2015" awarded to MRC Urban Infill Subcommittee Chairman Jim Murley –Miami Today
- "BEST OF MIAMI 2014–UNsung HERO" awarded to MRC Member Ernie Martin –Miami Today
- "PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION" for volunteer Miami River Greenway beautification events– City of Miami, 2013
- "PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION" for volunteer Miami River Greenway beautification events – City of Miami, 2012
- "PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION" for volunteer Miami River Greenway beautification events – City of Miami, 2011
- "BEST OF MIAMI 2011 – TURNING GREEN" awarded to MRC member Sandy Batchelor –Miami Today
- "BEST OF MIAMI 2011–VISIONARY" awarded to MRC Managing Director Brett Bibeau –Miami Today
- "SUSTAINABLE SOUTH FLORIDA AWARDS, GREEN EDUCATION & OUTREACH AWARD" 2011 FINALIST –Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
- "PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION" for volunteer Miami River Greenway beautification events –City of Miami, 2010

- "BEST OF MIAMI – BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE" awarded to Eric Buermann and Brett Bibeau –Miami Today, 2008
- "AWARD OF MERIT" awarded to the MRC for its Multimodal Transportation Plan – American Planning Association, 2007
- "THE NEWSMAKER" awarded to MRC Chair Eric Buermann –Miami Today, 2007
- "BEST BACKSTAGE LEADER" awarded to MRC Managing Director Brett Bibeau who was then included in the "Book of Leaders" –Miami Today, 2007
- MIAMI IMAGE AWARD OF 2006 awarded to MRC Managing Director Brett Bibeau –Realtor Association of Greater Miami and the Beaches
- "BEST OF MIAMI – IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE" awarded to former MRC Chair Irela Bagué –Miami Today, 2006
- "THE ACHIEVER – MIAMI RIVER'S RENAISSANCE MAN" awarded to MRC Managing Director Brett Bibeau – Miami Today, 2006
- "COMMUNITY STEWARD AWARD" awarded to MRC–1,000 Friends of Florida, 2005
- "BEST NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION" awarded to MRC –Miami Today, 2004
- "MOST POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT" for the Miami River Greenway, Urban Environment League, 2004
- EXCELLENCE AWARD for the Miami River Corridor Urban Infill Plan, American Landscape Architects, 2003



In 2017, RMK Merrill-Stevens historic shipyard commenced significant renovations including a new seawall, new sheds, new shiplift, etc. will be completed in 2018.



New seawall under construction in Spring Garden Historic Neighborhood, on vacant, future townhome site.



River Landing under construction, featuring public riverwalk, 420,000 sq ft of retail and 503 residential units.

TESTIMONIALS

“RMK Merrill-Stevens commends the Miami River Commission’s successful long term efforts and support for the job generating marine industrial businesses operating along Port Miami River. We are pleased to undergo major renovations to this historic boatyard, including a new seawall, new infrastructure, new workshops/storage space, and new shiplift. In addition we have recently re-established the Merrill-Stevens Yachts sales and brokerage business and now represent Sealine Yachts as the South Florida dealer as well as Service and Warranty Center for Sealine, Fjord and Maori Yachts” - **Aaron Leatherwood, President, RMK-Merrill-Stevens**

“In 2017, construction commenced at River Landing, featuring 850 feet of public Riverline, 420,000 square feet of retail and 506 residential units. River Landing looks forward to becoming part of the exciting Miami River District. We want to promote urban life on the river and develop a place so unique and uncomplicated that delivers a simple lifestyle for those who appreciate generous green spaces while shopping. We sincerely appreciate the Miami River Commission’s strong support for the project and applaud the Miami River Commission’s successful efforts to revitalize the mixed-use Miami River.” - **Andrew Hellinger, Urbanxco**

The 5th Street Marina appreciates the Miami River Commission’s important role in guiding growth for the Miami River District. It’s been a pleasure to work with the Commission on our forthcoming restaurant project and public riverwalk, “Gramps by the Sea, on the River”. The proposed small seafood restaurant and the existing Ferrino Sports Fitness Club are the types of amenities that round out our primary maritime businesses; 5th Street Marina, Langer Krell Marine Electronics, and Norseman Shipbuilding Corp., making us more marketable and attractive as a location for boat owners, captains, and crew.” - **Orin Black, General Manager of the 5th Street Marina**

“The City of Miami, Park & Recreation Department is thankful for the sustained collaboration with the Miami River Commission, which hires a professional company and brings volunteers to assist in the maintenance of the City’s fabulous riverfront parks. In addition, the City of Miami appreciates the MRC’s constant efforts to secure grant funding to improve the public Riverwalk and its beautiful riverfront parks. We are also looking forward to creatively addressing sea-level rise and its impact on our riverside parks and beyond. Starting this year we will work with world class engineering and creative minds to plan and develop best practices and designs to reduce the impacts of sunny-day flooding, storm surges and significant rain events - this we will do with the MRC.” - **Kevin M. Kirwin, City of Miami, Director, Parks and Recreation Department**”

Subcommittee Reports

MIAMI RIVER GREENWAY *Dr. Ernest Martin, Chair*

IN 2017 THE MIAMI RIVER GREENWAY continued construction, featuring a public pedestrian & bicycle pathway, landscaping, decorative lights, way-finding signage, historic markers, informational kiosks, benches, art installations, and other amenities. In 2017, another 3 sections of the public Riverwalk were under construction by the public and private sectors. Over 6.5 miles of the public Miami River Greenway has been constructed, with an additional planned 3.5 miles to complete.

The MRC appreciates the mutual efforts to implement the *Miami River Greenway Action Plan*, and the cost shares provided to date from multiple public and private funding sources including Congress, State of Florida, Florida Department of Transportation, South Florida Water Management District, Florida Inland Navigation District, City of Miami, Miami-Dade County, Downtown Development Authority, and numerous private sector developments.

The MRC thanks the City of Miami and its residents for voting to include funding for the Miami River Greenway in the approved Miami Forever Bond issue and applying for grant funding from Sun Trail, FIND, Kaboom, and Neat Streets for more funding towards completing the project.

STORMWATER *Sallye Jude, Chair*

THE STORMWATER SYSTEM is the leading source of pollution into the Miami River. The Miami River water basin includes a 69-square-mile area of the most densely populated neighborhoods in the State of Florida. All stormwater from this area drains into the Miami River through over one hundred outfalls. In 2017 the Stormwater subcommittee's highest priority commenced construction of the City of Miami's Wagner Creek and Seybold Canal Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup Project. The MRC thanks the City of Miami, FIND and the State of Florida for appropriating \$20 million for the project. This project is significantly improving the environment and economy.

The MRC appreciates all the agencies which in 2017 worked towards implementing the list of action items generated when all environ-

mental agencies inspected the Miami River for three days searching for sources of contamination.

URBAN INFILL *James Murley, Chair*

THE MRC'S URBAN INFILL SUBCOMMITTEE continued efforts to assist implementing various adopted and award-winning plans, including the *Miami River Corridor Urban Infill Plan*, *Miami River Corridor Multi-Modal Transportation Plan*, *Miami River Greenway Action Plan* and others, all available for downloading at www.miamirivercommission.org.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & COMMERCE

Philip Everingham, Chair

THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & COMMERCE SUBCOMMITTEE worked with FDOT on the Miami River Freight Improvement Plan. In 2017, construction commenced at River Landing featuring 420,000 square feet of retail and 506 residential units, construction commenced at Aston Martin Residences featuring 384 residential units, renovations are under construction at RMK Merrill Stevens Boatyard, approval of a renovated 45 slip marina, approval of 1,012 new riverfront residential units featuring public Riverwalks, 2 new riverfront restaurants opened, and another restaurant was approved, all with public riverwalks, and progress on the Brickell Ave tunnel. Therefore the Miami River District is ripe with mixed-use economic development, commerce and jobs.



Public riverwalk and Brickell City Centre



Middle River featuring public riverwalk in Point Park, Historic Spring Garden neighborhood, boatyards, international shipping and Seybold Canal.

VOLUNTARY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Frank Balzebre, Chair

THE MIAMI RIVER VOLUNTARY

identifies and encourages private riverfront parcels to address issues which are potentially detrimental to the River, the environmental quality of the River's attraction as a destination for residents and businesses. In 2017 alone, the plan resulted in 29 major Miami River cleanup volunteer events featuring projects such as trash dumping, invasive species removal, and sections of the Miami River, including unclogging stormwater drains, addressing hazards to navigation and oil spill prevention sources of contamination etc. The plan is supported by Dade County, City of Miami, private sector, and the fantastic volunteers bringing these River improvements to life.

UPPER RIVER

MIDDLE RIVER



MIAMI RIVER GREENWAY'S TIMELINE

1897

Henry Flagler opens six-story Royal Palm Hotel, including first greenway

1910

Lummus Park created on Miami River

1972

Parks For People bond issue passed by voters, funds portions of the Miami River Greenway

1980s

Miami River Greenway section constructed along north shore from Biscayne Bay to NW 2 Avenue

1980s

Miami River Greenway section constructed along north shore from Biscayne Bay to NW 2 Avenue

1998

Florida Legislature creates Miami River Commission as a watchdog, advocate and clearinghouse for the river. Miami Circle site discovered

2000

Florida Legislature passes Miami River Improvement Act

2001

With the Trust for Public Land, the MRC, City of Miami and Miami-Dade County unanimously approve Miami River Greenway Action Plan

2001

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

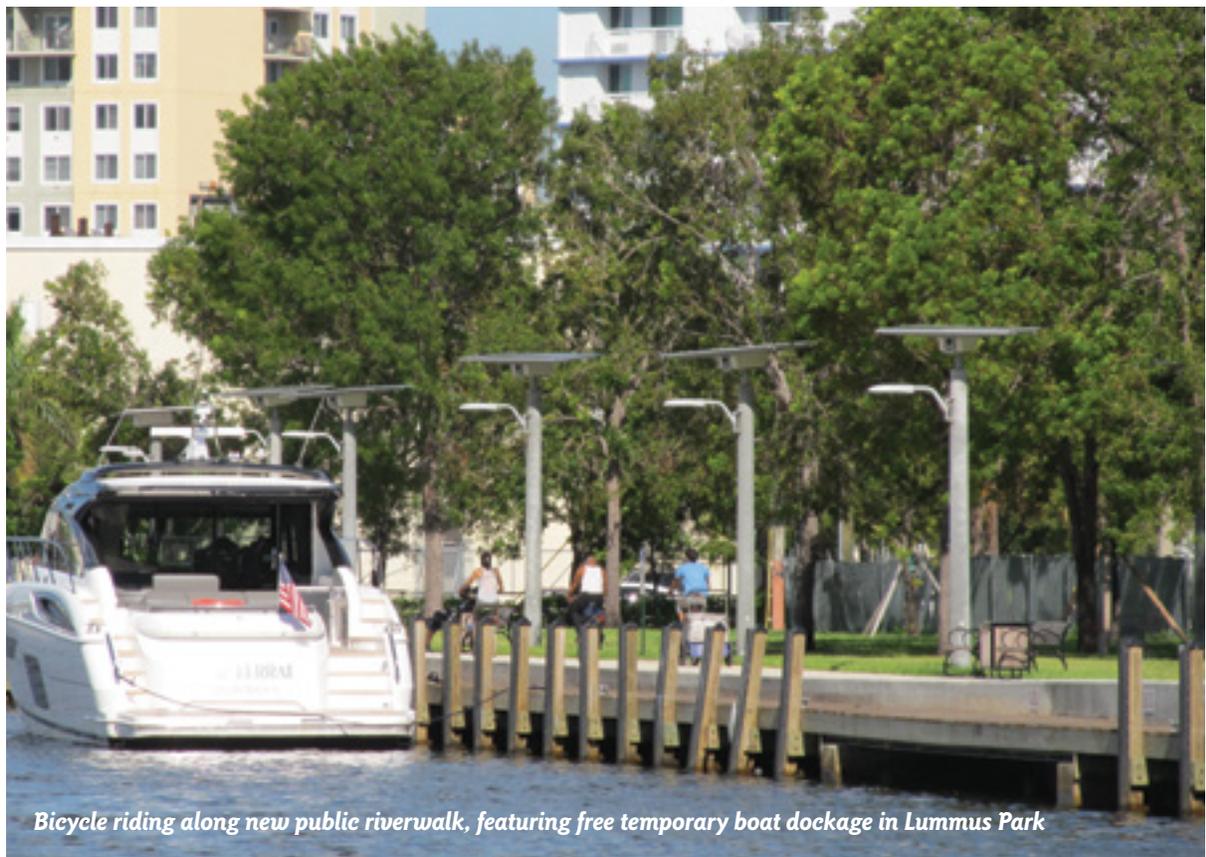
2001

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

AN

IMPROVEMENT PLAN (VIP)

public and private sector
 various riverfront issues
 ental to operations on the
 quality of the River, and the
 tion for residents, tourists
 ne, the Miami River "VIP"
 er Greenway Beautification
 antings, removal of illegal
 and graffiti along several
 repairing Riverwalk lights,
 ns, removing a floating
 een, found and corrected
 The MRC thanks Miami-
 ni, FIND, FDOT, private
 nteers for their hard work
 ments to fruition.



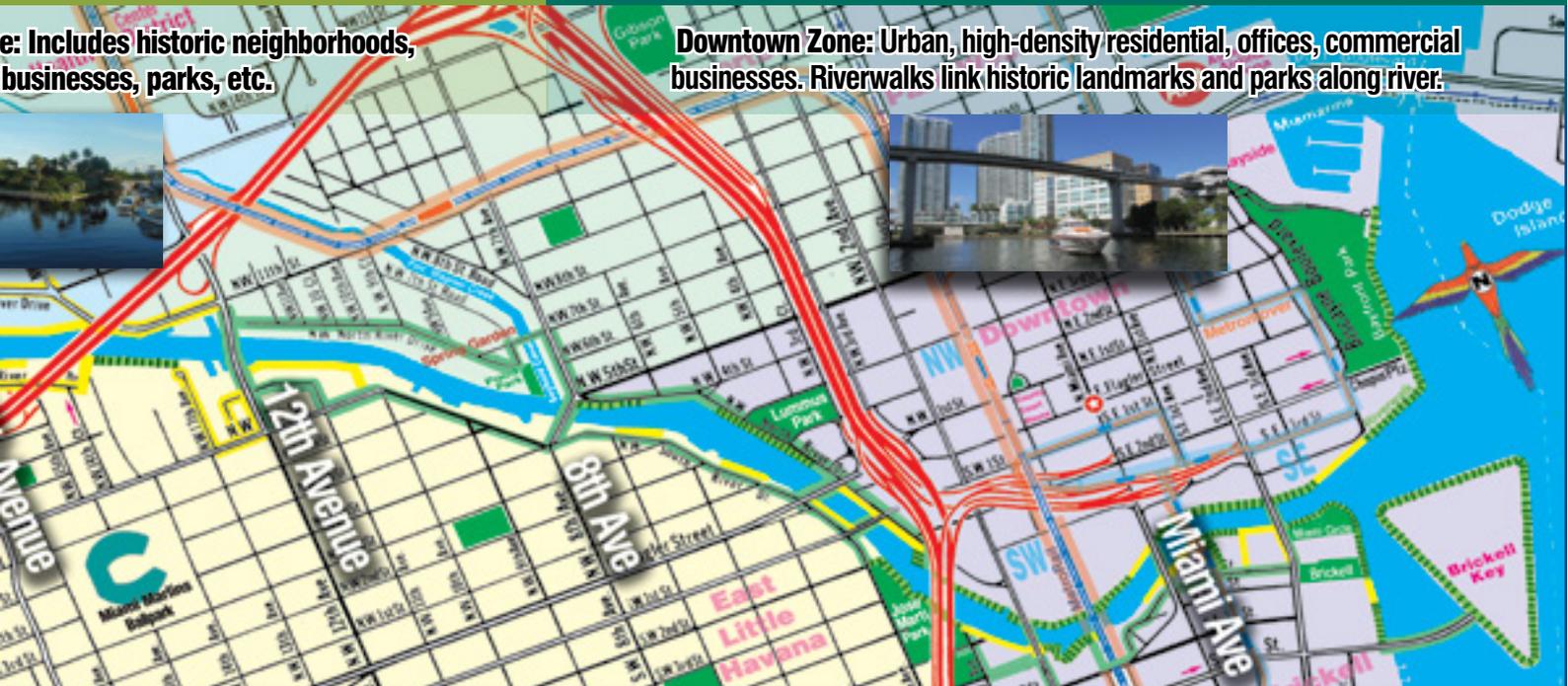
Bicycle riding along new public riverwalk, featuring free temporary boat dockage in Lummus Park

MIDDLE RIVER

Includes historic neighborhoods, businesses, parks, etc.

LOWER RIVER

Downtown Zone: Urban, high-density residential, offices, commercial businesses. Riverwalks link historic landmarks and parks along river.



Map © 2001 Richard Troutner. All rights reserved.

2002

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2003

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2004

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2005

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2006

City of Miami adopts "A Vision for Miami's 21st Century Parks & Public Spaces" recommending completion of the Miami River Greenway • MRC hosts Greenways summit • Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2007

Miami River Corridor Multi-Modal Transportation Plan created by Metropolitan Planning Organization and MRC recommending completion of the Miami River Greenway • Greenway construction continues

2008

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed

2009

City Bicycle Master Plan adopted recommending completion of the Miami River Greenway
 • Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed and additional sections funded and designed for construction in 2010-2011

2010-2017

Sections of the Miami River Greenway constructed



MIRA USA, UM and FIU volunteers beautifying the Miami River Greenway.

Get Involved!

The Miami River Commission invites groups and individuals from the community to get involved in improving your Miami River District, and the private sector to help us as sponsors of events. To learn more about what you can do, visit our website at www.miamirivercommission.org for updates.

The Miami River Commission thanks all of the incredible volunteers of all ages and walks of life who planted, painted murals, picked up litter, removed invasive plants and spread recycled mulch along the riverwalk through 29 major volunteer beautification events in 2017. The MRC is thankful to our growing list of sponsors, partially listed at right, who contributed volunteers, supplies and funding to the “greening” of the river.

The 22nd Annual Miami Riverday festival is scheduled April 7, 2018, in Lummus Park, 250 NW North River Drive. Just like the 21st annual festival, held April 1, 2017, Miami Riverday features free river boat tours, live music, environmental education, marine expo, historic re-enactors, children’s activities and much more.

All MRC and subcommittee meetings are publicly noticed. Public participation is encouraged. The full MRC usually meets on the first Monday of the month at noon, in the conference room to the right of the MRC office.

MRC thanks volunteers and sponsors:

- [State of Florida](#)
- [Miami-Dade County](#)
- [City of Miami](#)
- [Downtown Development Authority](#)
- [One River Point](#)
- [Miami Dolphins](#)
- [Miami Marlins](#)
- [University of Miami](#)
- [Hands On Miami](#)
- [Florida International University](#)
- [United Way](#)
- [Florida Wood Recycling](#)
- [Florida Drawbridge](#)
- [Comcast](#)
- [Johnson and Wales University](#)
- [YMCA](#)

Riverfront restaurants (from left to right): Kiki’s on the River, Seaspice Seafood Brasserie & Lounge, Casablanca Seafood Bar & Grill and Garcia’s Seafood Grille & Fish Market



Learn more about the Miami River's past, present and future, view reports, plans, public meeting minutes, agendas and more at the informative www.miamirivercommission.org



International shipping vessels and cargo operating in Port Miami River

Miami River Commission Members

Chair: HORACIO STUART AGUIRRE
Representative from environmental or civic organization appointed by the Governor

Vice Chair: Mr. FRANK BALZEBRE
Designee for Miami Dade Mayor:
Mayor CARLOS GIMENEZ

Florida Governor RICK SCOTT
Designee: **MS. PATRICIA "PATTY" HARRIS**

Mr. LUIS GARCIA
Member-at-Large Appointed by the Governor
Designee: **MR. JOHN MICHAEL CORNELL**

Rep. KIONNE MCGHEE
Chair, Miami-Dade Delegation

Mayor FRANCIS SUAREZ
Mayor of the City of Miami

Commissioner BRUNO BARREIRO
Miami-Dade County Commissioner
Designee: **Ms. MARLENE AVALO**

Commissioner FRANK CAROLLO
City of Miami Commissioner

KATHERINE FERNANDEZ-RUNDLE, Esq.
Miami-Dade State Attorney
Designee: **Mr. DAVID MAER, Esq.**

Mr. DANIEL O'KEEFE
South Florida Water Management

Mr. BRUCE BROWN
Chair, Miami River Marine Group
Designee: **Mr. RICHARD DUBIN**

Ms. ALYCE ROBERTSON
Downtown Development Authority
Designee: **Mr. NEAL SCHAFERS**

Mr. ALFRED SANCHEZ
Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
Designee: **Ms. SANDY O'NEIL**

Dr. ERNEST MARTIN
Neighborhood Representative
appointed by the City of Miami
Commission
Designee: **Mr. THOMAS KIMEN III**

Ms. SALLYE JUDE
Neighborhood Representative
appointed by the Miami-Dade County
Commission

Mr. PHILIP EVERINGHAM
Designee of: **MICHAEL KARCHER, Chair**
of Marine Council

Ms. SARA C. BABUN
Member-at-Large appointed by the
Miami-Dade County Commission
Designee: **Ms. ROSELVIC NOGUERA**

Mr. MANNY PRIEGUEZ
Member-at-Large appointed by the City
of Miami Commission

Ex-Officio Members:

CONGRESSWOMAN
ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Designee: **MS. DEBBIE ZIMMERMAN**

CAPTAIN MEGAN DEAN
United States Coast Guard
Captain of the Port of Miami

Managing Director: Mr. BRETT BIBEAU

Designed by: Toni Kirkland Graphics

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