



# MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

LTC # 116-2010

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LETTER TO COMMISSION

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To: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

From: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

Date: April 20, 2010

Subject: Convention Center Expansion and Enhancement Steering Committee Update

This Letter to Commission (LTC) is intended to provide you with an update on the progress of the Convention Center Expansion and Enhancement Steering Committee and the Convention Center Master Plan process. As noted in my LTC dated March 26, 2010, the Steering Committee met on April 19, 2010 to review Arquitectonica's progress. Attached for your review is the summary of the meeting, as well as the summary from the previous meeting (held on March 3, 2010).

Additionally, attached please find an updated set of drawings of the Convention Center expansion and enhancement for your review. These are preliminary drawings that reflect a vision for expansion of the facility to address the needs identified by meeting and convention planners, current facility users, and stakeholders, and as discussed by members of the Steering Committee during the four meetings (and several subcommittee meetings), to date. These drawings will be further refined following additional community input, including the Community Design Workshop that has been scheduled for May 13, 2010 at 6pm in room C220 of the Convention Center. Needless to say, you are all encouraged to attend.

As you will note, the renderings provide suggested enhancements that re-orient the entrance to the facility, and add space to the center to address the meeting and event needs that have been identified. Additional work remains on traffic patterns and options to address the displacement of the bus layover. The renderings also provide several options for the placement of a convention center hotel adjacent to the facility, should that option be pursued in the future. More specifically, the architects have laid out two potential locations for an adjacent convention center hotel, should that be considered in any future development discussion. One potential location is north of the current convention center where the 21<sup>st</sup> Street Community Center is currently located. This space, which would not touch the two historic structures, could accommodate an 800-room hotel. The second location option, which was presented to the group at the meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup>, would be in the current location of the Fillmore Miami Beach. This space provides several added benefits in terms of proximity, and provides for 1,000 rooms – which is considered more in line with what is required for a convention center hotel. The two options are presented in the renderings as placeholders, as the proposed expansion plans are being designed in a manner that would not forestall the ability to develop a convention center hotel in the future, should that be desired.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions with regard to this project.

JMG/HMF/MAS