



# MIAMI BEACH

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. 028-2007

## LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor David Dermer and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: January 30, 2006

SUBJECT: Building Development Process Taskforce

The purpose of this Letter to Commission (LTC) is to inform you of the upcoming Building Development Process Taskforce. The mission of this Taskforce is to improve the City's service delivery in the area of construction and development services through a partnership and dialogue between City departments involved throughout the process and industry representatives.

The Building Development Process Taskforce will be conducted through a two-pronged approach. As part of this process, representatives from the Building Department, Public Works, Fire and Planning/Zoning will form part of an interdepartmental group that will be charged with conducting a process review and provide short-term, medium-term and long-term recommendations.

I anticipate that this taskforce will reconvene periodically as recommendations and solutions are provided by the interdepartmental group to provide their insight on specific areas and their relative importance.

Industry representatives will be advised of the Taskforce meeting dates in order to receive their feedback on the current process and their input on possible solutions/strategies to improve the process as identified by City staff. Attached for your reference are the industry representatives which have been identified for noticing. If you have any other members of the community who you would like invited, please provide me with those names. Additionally, the mission and charter for this Taskforce are attached for your information.

The first meeting of the Building Process Taskforce has been scheduled for **Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6-8 pm in Commission Chambers.** This meeting will be publicly noticed.

Please let me know if I can provide you with any additional information regarding this issue.

C: Tim Hemstreet, Assistant City Manager  
Floyd Jordan, Fire Chief  
Tom Velazquez, Building Director  
Jorge Gomez, Planning Director  
Fred Beckmann, Public Works Director  
Sonia Machen, Fire Marshall

Attachments  
JMG/TH/DM

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

## BUILDING DEVELOPMENT PROCESS FOCUS GROUP

### I. PURPOSE

Over the last 15 years or so the City of Miami Beach has experienced a sustained period of development and redevelopment. This period of development resulted, and continues to result, in continued high activity for the City's construction services areas, namely the Building, Fire Prevention, Public Works, and Planning/Zoning functions. The City, through its many feedback mechanisms, has consistently received input that development and construction services are areas that need attention. The City has continually addressed these concerns, mostly incrementally, but also through larger efforts, such as the Business Resolution Taskforce early in this decade. However, having had the time to implement and review the outcome of the Business Resolution Taskforce, it is appropriate to again take a close look at how we deliver services in this area.

### II. MISSION

The mission of the Building Development Process Focus Group is to improve the City's service delivery in the area of construction and development services through a partnership and dialogue between City departments involved throughout the process and industry representatives.

### III. PROCESS AND OBJECTIVES

The Building Development Process Focus Group will be conducted through a two-pronged approach:

- (1) *Focus Group Meetings:* Industry representatives will be advised of the focus group meeting dates in order to receive their feedback on the current process and their input on possible solutions/strategies to improve the process as identified by City staff. It is also anticipated that staff will interact with the focus group to discuss staff perspectives of the same issues with the intent of identifying "win-win" solutions. Additionally, staff has a very intimate understanding of each process and typically is able to articulate potential solutions.
- (2) *Interdepartmental Team:* As part of this process, representatives from the Building Department, Public Works Engineering, Fire Prevention, and Planning/Zoning will form part of an interdepartmental group that will be charged with conducting a process review and provide recommendations for the short-term (i.e., recommendations that can be implemented immediately or "easy fixes"), medium-term and long-range (i.e., recommendations geared toward the future vision of the process, which can be implemented over the next 5 to 7 years). Discussions by this team will be facilitated by Assistant City Manager Tim Hemstreet, with support provided by Special Projects Administrator Dolores Mejia.

Focus group meetings will be conducted as an open forum with department representatives present to share ideas, answer questions and receive input from industry representatives.

The first meeting of the Building Process Focus Group has been scheduled for **Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6-8 pm in Commission Chambers.** This meeting will be publicly noticed.

#### IV. EXPECTED OUTCOMES/RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Commission will be kept abreast of all implemented changes as well as any recommendations that come as a result of this focus group via LTC on a regular basis until the work of this group is concluded.

Expected outcomes are significant improvements to the process. It is anticipated that these improvements will come in a number of formats ranging from Administrative solutions that can be implemented at the Building Inspector level to coordinated programs that will require budget appropriations and City Commission approval.

## **PROPOSED Building Department Ad Hoc Task Force**

### **Architects**

Les Beilinson  
Charles Benson  
Ira Giller  
Kobi Karp  
Barry Klein  
Gordon Loader  
Arthur Marcus  
Jennifer McConney  
Luis Revuelta  
Dan Robertson  
Allan Shulman  
Charles Sieger  
Ari Sklar  
Jose Suarez  
Todd Tragash

### **Attorneys**

Jeff Bercow  
Lucia Dougherty  
Alfredo Gonzalez  
Neisen Kasdin  
Michael Larkin  
Carter McDowell  
James Rauh  
Harold Rosen  
Alex Tachmes

### **Contractors/Permit Runners**

Robert Arkin  
Damien Gallo  
Mahli Lee  
Ken Nichols  
David Robinson  
Ron Singerman  
Walid Wahab

### **Developers**

Ron Bloomberg  
Tom Daly  
Russel Galbut  
Scott Greenwald  
Gregg Koven  
Ron Molko  
Eric Sheppard  
Jesus Velez

**PROPOSED Building Department Ad Hoc Task Force - Page 2**

**Property Owners**

Judith Berson  
Marlo Courtney  
Steve Levinson  
Melanie Muss  
Howard Talesnick  
Neli Santamarina  
Robert Wennett

**Real Estate**

Michael Comras  
Kent Karlock  
Lyle Stern

**Others**

Stanley Arkin  
Michael Larkin  
Joy Malakoff  
Bob Raessler  
Dan Veitia