

The Black Community Needs Equitable Economic Development in Miami-Dade County

October 13, 2022

Signatories

(Other signatories being added.)

Rick Beasley
Barron Channer
Valerie Crawford
Cornell Crews Jr.
Audrey Edmonson
Ronald E. Frazier
Pandwe Gibson
Oliver Gross
John Hall
Leroy Jones
G. Eric Knowles
Willie Logan
Suzan McDowell
Gepsie M. Metellus
Kevin V. Michael
N. Patrick Range
Ruban Roberts
Carol Ann Taylor
Robert Tyler
Teri Williams
Pastor R. Joaquin Willis
Katrina Wright

Honorable Members of the City Commission
City of Miami
3500 Pan American Drive
Miami, FL 33133

Dear City Commissioners

As concerned Black business owners, leaders and clergy in Miami-Dade County, we request the resolution to change the composition of the board of the [Virginia Beach Park Trust](#) be denied or removed from the City Commissioners agenda for October 13, 2022 because it is inconsistent with Equitable Economic Development.

Virginia Key Beach was designated in 1945 as a “colored-only” beach and is currently overseen by the Virginia Beach Park Trust, which is predominantly Black. The current focus of the Virginia Beach Park Trust is to build a museum on the site, in which \$15 million has already been designated in a County General Obligation Bond (GOB). And a review of the audit report that was released on October 11, 2022, does not support any accusations of financial malfeasance by the Trust.

We see the current resolution as an attempted “change of control” by City Commissioners of this historic and sacred place in our community. The resolution is inconsistent with equitable economic development, which respects or revitalizes, instead of replaces or erodes, Black culture.

We request the resolution to change the composition of the Virginia Beach Park Trust be denied or removed from the City Commissioners agenda for October 13, 2022. We are also requesting support and assistance from Miami-Dade County, who entrusted this land to the City of Miami.

cc: Mayor Francis Suarez, City of Miami
Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, Miami-Dade County