

From: [Deschamps, Giselle](#)
To: [Stephan Ginez](#)
Cc: [Belush, Michael](#); [Herrera, Miriam](#)
Subject: RE: Planning Board Meeting April 25 - PB24-0664. Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Testing Regulations.
Date: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 9:59:26 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Hi Stephan,

I am copying Michael Belush and Miriam Hererra to assist with transmitting the email correspondence to the Planning Board members.

Kind regards,



Giselle Deschamps

Principal Planner
Planning Department

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It's easy being Green! Please consider our environment before printing this email.

From: Stephan Ginez <stephan@gaythering.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 5:43 PM
To: Deschamps, Giselle <GiselleDeschamps@miamibeachfl.gov>
Subject: Planning Board Meeting April 25 - PB24-0664. Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Testing Regulations.

You don't often get email from stephan@gaythering.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[THIS MESSAGE COMES FROM AN EXTERNAL EMAIL - USE CAUTION WHEN REPLYING AND OPENING LINKS OR ATTACHMENTS]

Hi Giselle.

I understand that Rogelio will not be back in the office for the next Planning board meeting.

Is it possible to include the email below to the planning board members for the April 25 Meeting?

Thank you!

Stephan Ginez.

From: Stephan Ginez
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 5:39 PM
Subject: Planning Board Meeting April 25 - PB24-0664. Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Testing Regulations.

Attn: Planning Board members

Re: April 25 Meeting. Item #13 STI Testing

As the owner of hotel Gaythering for now more than 10 years, I have seen how critical monitoring STI is for the LGBT community. Some of the affected individuals are also dealing with compounding issues like mental health and homelessness, which makes the matter even more critical.

We truly appreciate commissioner Alex Fernandez's efforts to bring this item to your board.

We need to reach out and seek more opportunities to offer STI testing/treatment in places which are not traditional medical places if we want to continue to make progress. Offering a diversity of options is critical in this fight. Using our traditional options did not allow us to make significant progress in areas like Miami Beach in recent years. We have even seen some increases for some STIs.

Some of the potential new patients might have moved here recently from other countries. They associate medical places/testing as a risk for their immigration status. Culturally, they might also be afraid of stigma for being seen in an establishment for STI testing/treatment.

New options are also available: In a recent test, a clinic in San Francisco offered Doxycycline to more than 2000 patients and have been seen a reduction of STI by more than 70%.

Most assume that testing is available in most LGBT places in Miami Beach, but it is not the case simply because the establishments are not zoned for medical use.

The alternative has been to offer a van outside of these establishments, but a lot of potential users are afraid to be seen getting in and out of these vehicles. You can also easily imagine the situation when a person receives "bad news" in a van...

With a hotel/bar setting, we would have the option to offer testing options in a non-threatening environment and totally respect the privacy of the patient. Other LGBT establishments will be able to consider their own approach.

You have an opportunity with your vote to improve the health of many residents at no cost to our city. I hope you will support this resolution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Stephan

Stephan Ginez

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