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VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

July 13, 2025

Rogelio A. Madan
City of Miami Beach
1700 Convention Center Drive, 2nd Floor
Miami Beach, Florida 33139

Re: **DRB25-1106 - Letter of Intent** –Request for Design Review Approval for the Property Located at 1120 Bay Drive (Lot 9) in the City of Miami Beach

Dear Mr. Madan,

This law firm represents 1120 Bay Drive, Miami Beach, Florida (the "Applicant"), the owner of the above referenced property identified by Miami-Dade County Folio No. 02-3210-013-2170 (the "Property" aka "Lot 9") within the City of Miami Beach (the "City"). See Figure 1, Aerial, below. Please allow this letter to serve as the letter of intent in connection with a request to the Design Review Board ("DRB") for approval of a two-story single-family home, which is being developed on a lot resulting from the previously approved lot application under Planning Board File Number PB23-0599. The Application includes no waivers or variances.

The Property. The Property is located on the south side of Bay Drive in the Normandy Isle neighborhood within the City. The Property is identified by Miami-Dade County Folio No. 02-3210-013-2170 and is located within the RS-4 Single-Family Residential zoning district. The Property is platted as Lot 9 of the Ocean Side Section of the Isle of Normandy Subdivision, recorded in Plat Book 25, Page 60 of the Official Public Records of Miami-Dade County at (the "Plat"). The lot currently contains a single-family residence with a finished floor elevation of 6.79' NGVD, which is below Base Flood Elevation. Once a demolition permit is approved, this nonconforming residence will be demolished to make way for the replacement home currently seeking design review approval.

According to a survey prepared by Colliers Engineering and Design, dated May 7, 2024, the size of the overall Property is 8,904 square feet (0.20 acres) in size.



Figure 1, Aerial

Previously-Approved Lot Split Modification. In 2023, the Applicant obtained approval to split a property into three lots that are roughly equal in size, consistent with the originally platted lot lines (the "Lot Split Final Order"). One of the newly created lots was the Property. The dimensions of the resulting lots were consistent with the City's land development regulations. Additionally, the Lot Split Final Order resulted in the following lot sizes that were more consistent and compatible with the neighborhood than the original property's lot area as an aggregated triple lot:

Lot	Size (Square Feet)
Pre-Approved Lot Split (Lots 9, 10, 11)	Appx. 26,711 SF
Post Approved Lot Split Lot 9	8,904 SF
Post Approved Lot Split Lot 10	8,904 SF
Post Approved Lot Split Lot 11	8,904 SF

Proposed Home. The Applicant proposes an attractive two-story residence that compliments the neighborhood and has a minimal impact on the abutting neighbors. The Applicant's design complies with the current City Code requirements for height, unit size, and lot coverage. The proposed home features resilient design elements including enhanced landscaping on the shared property line, elevation to BFE +2, a driveway composed of porous materials and high albedo surfaces, and improvements to the existing seawall. Due to its compact design, the proposed home provides lot coverage of 27.2% where 30% is permitted, and is only approximately 23'-4" feet tall where up to 27 feet is permitted. The home's design is accentuated by lush native and Florida-friendly landscaping throughout the Property. The overall design and massing addresses the intent of the Code and is consistent with the City's design review criteria.

Design Review Criteria. The proposed home design is consistent with the City's design review criteria codified in Section 2.5.3.1 of the City's Resiliency Code. Below is each relevant criterion and the application's consistency with all of the standards.

a. The existing and proposed conditions of the lot, including but not necessarily limited to topography, vegetation, trees, drainage, and waterways.

The proposed home effectively responds to both of the Property's frontages on Bay Drive and the Normandy Waterway, and is resiliently designed with a finished floor elevation of 10.56' NGVD, utilizing 2' of allowable freeboard for additional resiliency.

b. The location of all existing and proposed buildings, drives, parking spaces, walkways, means of ingress and egress, drainage facilities, utility services, landscaping structures, signs, and lighting and screening devices.

The proposed home effectively provides for ingress and egress using multiple modes of transport, and provides for utility services and drainage facilities.

c. The dimensions of all buildings, structures, setbacks, parking spaces, floor area ratio, height, lot coverage and any other information that may be reasonably necessary to determine compliance with the requirements of the underlying zoning district, and any applicable overlays, for a particular application or project.

The proposed home complies with this criteria.

- d. The color, design, selection of landscape materials and architectural elements of exterior building surfaces and primary public interior areas for developments requiring a building permit in areas of the city identified in section 2.5.3.2.**

The Applicant has selected high quality materials and finishes for the project such as wood, bronze, metal, and stone pavers.

- e. The proposed site plan, and the location, appearance and design of new and existing buildings and structures are in conformity with the standards of this article and other applicable ordinances, architectural and design guidelines as adopted and amended periodically by the design review board and historic preservation board and all pertinent master plans.**

The proposed home design complies with the requirements of the City Resiliency Code.

- f. The proposed structure, or additions or modifications to an existing structure, indicates a sensitivity to and is compatible with the environment and adjacent structures, and enhances the appearance of the surrounding properties.**

The proposed home is sensitive and compatible with the surrounding neighborhood, while elevating the appearance and character of its surroundings. The proposed home height is below the maximum height permitted in the zoning district, and the proposed home provides less lot coverage than the maximum permitted in the district.

- g. The design and layout of the proposed site plan, as well as all new and existing buildings shall be reviewed so as to provide an efficient arrangement of land uses. Particular attention shall be given to safety, crime prevention and fire protection, relationship to the surrounding neighborhood, impact on contiguous and adjacent buildings and lands, pedestrian sight lines and view corridors.**

The proposed home complies with this criteria.

- h. Pedestrian and vehicular traffic movement within and adjacent to the site shall be reviewed to ensure that clearly defined, segregated pedestrian access to the site and all buildings is provided for and that all parking spaces are usable and are safety and conveniently arranged; pedestrian furniture and bike racks shall be considered. Access to the site from adjacent roads shall be designed so as to interfere as little as possible with traffic flow on these roads and to permit vehicles a rapid and safe ingress and egress to the site.**

The home provides for efficient ingress and egress to and from the Property.

- i. Lighting shall be reviewed to ensure safe movement of persons and vehicles and reflection on public property for security purposes and to minimize glare and reflection on adjacent properties. Lighting shall be reviewed to assure that it enhances the appearance of structures at night.**

The plan is in compliance. The project lighting has been designed to limit glare on adjacent properties.

- j. Landscape and paving materials shall be reviewed to ensure an adequate relationship with and enhancement of the overall site plan design.**

Landscaping and paving materials are designed to complement and enhance the overall site design.

- k. Buffering materials shall be reviewed to ensure that headlights of vehicles, noise, and light from structures are adequately shielded from public view, adjacent properties and pedestrian areas.**

The plan is in compliance. The design of the project includes lush landscaping and solid walls to ensure buffering from adjacent properties.

- l. The proposed structure has an orientation and massing which is sensitive to and compatible with the building site and surrounding area and which creates or maintains important view corridor(s).**

The proposed home is sensitive and compatible with the surrounding neighborhood. The home design uses a compact massing to minimize impacts and preserve view corridors. Further, the height of the proposed home is less than the maximum permitted.

- m. The building has, where feasible, space in that part of the ground floor fronting a street or streets which is to be occupied for residential or commercial uses; likewise, the upper floors of the pedestal portion of the proposed building fronting a street, or streets shall have residential or commercial spaces, shall have the appearance of being a residential or commercial space or shall have an architectural treatment which shall buffer the appearance of the parking structure from the surrounding area and is integrated with the overall appearance of the project.**

This criterion is inapplicable to this application.

- n. The building shall have an appropriate and fully integrated rooftop architectural treatment which substantially screens all mechanical equipment, stairs and elevator towers.**

The proposed home complies with this criteria.

- o. An addition on a building site shall be designed, sited and massed in a manner which is sensitive to and compatible with the existing improvement(s).**

This criterion is inapplicable to this application.

- p. All portions of a project fronting a street or sidewalk shall incorporate an architecturally appropriate amount of transparency at the first level in order to achieve pedestrian compatibility and adequate visual interest.**

The proposed home utilizes impact glazing on all facades to provide transparency in order to achieve pedestrian compatibility and visual interest.

- q. The location, design, screening and buffering of all required service bays, delivery bays, trash and refuse receptacles, as well as trash rooms shall be arranged so as to have a minimal impact on adjacent properties**

This criterion is inapplicable to this application.

- r. In addition to the foregoing criteria, section 104-6 (t) the General Ordinances shall apply to the design review board's review of any proposal to place, construct, modify or maintain a wireless communications facility or other over the air radio transmission or radio reception facility in the public rights-of-way.**

This criterion is inapplicable to this application.

- s. The structure and site comply with the sea level rise and resiliency review criteria in chapter 7, article I, as applicable.**

See below analysis.

Cost Estimate. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,200,000.00

Sea Level Rise and Resiliency Criteria. The proposed project advances the sea level rise and resiliency criteria provided in Section 7.1.2.4(a) of the Code as follows:

1. A recycling or salvage plan for partial or total demolition shall be provided.

A recycling and salvage plan for the partial demolition proposed will be provided at permitting.

2. Windows that are proposed to be replaced shall be hurricane proof impact windows.

New windows will be hurricane proof impact windows.

3. Where feasible and appropriate, passive cooling systems, such as operable windows, shall be provided.

The Applicant will provide, where feasible, passive cooling systems.

4. Resilient landscaping (salt tolerant, highly water-absorbent, native or Florida friendly plants), shall be provided.

All landscaping will be Florida friendly and resilient.

5. The project applicant shall consider the adopted sea level rise projections in the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Action Plan, as may be revised from time-to-time by the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact. The applicant shall also specifically study the land elevation of the subject property and the elevation of surrounding properties.

Sea level rise projections have been considered and appropriate flood mitigation will be incorporated into the design. The applicant has accounted for the land elevation of the Property along with surrounded properties.

6. The ground floor, driveways, and garage ramping for new construction shall be adaptable to the raising of public rights-of-way and adjacent land, and shall provide sufficient height and space to ensure that the entry ways and exits can be modified to accommodate a higher street height of up to 3 additional feet in height.

The proposed home has a base flood elevation of 8.31' NGVD and the exterior structures will be adaptable to accommodate the raising of public rights-of-way.

7. As applicable to all new construction, all critical mechanical and electrical systems shall be located above base flood elevation. All redevelopment projects shall, whenever practicable and economically reasonable, include the relocation of all critical mechanical and electrical systems to a location above base flood elevation

All mechanical and electrical systems will be located above base flood elevation.

8. Existing buildings shall, wherever reasonably feasible and economically appropriate, be elevated up to base flood elevation, plus City of Miami Beach Freeboard.

The proposed home will feature a based flood elevation of 8.31' NGVD and a free board of 10.56' NGVD, exceeding Base Flood elevation plus maximum Freeboard.

9. When habitable space is located below the base flood elevation plus City of Miami Beach Freeboard, wet or dry flood proofing systems will be provided in accordance with chapter 54 in General Ordinances.

To the extent habitable spaces are located below base flood elevation plus freeboard, wet or dry flood proofing systems will be provided.

10. As applicable to all new construction, stormwater retention systems shall be provided.

Stormwater retention systems will be provided.

11. Cool pavement materials or porous pavement materials shall be utilized.

Cool pavement or porous pavement materials will be utilized where any new pavement is proposed.

12. The design of each project shall minimize the potential for heat island effects on-site.

The Project utilizes pavers, high quality materials, and landscaping that will reduce heat island effects on-site.

Conclusion. Approval of the proposed home design will allow a new resilient home to be developed in the Normandy Isle neighborhood. The proposed design is sensitive to adjacent properties and compatible with the character of the neighborhood. We respectfully request your favorable review and recommendation with respect to this application. If you have any questions or comments, please give me a call at (305) 377-6236.

Sincerely,



Matthew Amster

Enclosures

cc: Nicholas J. Rodriguez, Esq.