

MIAMI BEACH
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
Staff Report & Recommendation

Design Review Board

TO: DRB Chairperson and Members

DATE: March 12, 2026

FROM: Thomas R. Mooney, AICP
Planning Director



SUBJECT: DRB25-1160, FKA DRB24-1009
1691 Michigan Avenue

An application has been filed requesting modifications to a previously approved Design Review Approval for exterior design modifications to an existing commercial building. Specifically, the applicant is proposing modifications to the façade, including materials.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval with conditions.

HISTORY

On October 11, 1999, the Design Review Board (DRB) approved a six and seven-story office and public parking structure, with ground level retail (DRB File No. 12108).

On October 6, 2015 and April 5, 2016, the DRB approved exterior alterations to the façade of the existing six-story building, including variances (DRB File No. 23201).

On September 3, 2024, the DRB approved an application for exterior design modifications to an existing commercial building (File No. DRB24-1009).

On October 11, 2024, the Board of Adjustment (BOA) approved a variance to permit an alcoholic beverage establishment that is closer than 300 feet from an educational facility and closer than 300 feet from a place of worship (File No. BOA24-0162).

On November 5, 2024, the DRB application for a proposed valet pick-up and drop-off service area to replace drive-through lanes in the existing office building (DRB24-1039).

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Lots 7 through 10, inclusive, and lots 14-20, inclusive, in Block 37, PALM VIEW SUBDIVISION, according to the plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 6, Page 29, of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida.

SITE DATA:

Zoning: CD-3 (Commercial, High Intensity) and GU (Government)
Future Land Use: High Intensity Commercial (CD-3) and Public Facility (PF)
Lot Size: 76,500 SF
Existing Use: Office/Parking garage w/ retail

LAND USES:

East: Office/Parking Garage w/ ground floor retail

North: Palm View Historic District
South: Two-story retail / office building
West: Municipal surface parking lot

THE PROJECT:

The applicant has submitted plans entitled "1691 Michigan", as designed by **BGA Architects**, signed, sealed, and dated December 30, 2025.

The applicant is requesting modifications to a previously approved Design Review Approval for façade modifications to the existing, six-story commercial building.

COMPLIANCE WITH ZONING CODE:

A preliminary review of the project indicates that the application, as proposed, appears to be consistent with the City Code. The above noted comments shall not be considered final zoning review or approval. These and all zoning matters shall require final review and verification by the Zoning Administrator prior to the issuance of a Building Permit.

CONSISTENCY WITH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

A preliminary review of the project indicates that the proposed **commercial use** appears to be **consistent** with the Future Land Use Map of the 2025 Comprehensive Plan.

COMPLIANCE WITH DESIGN REVIEW CRITERIA:

Design Review encompasses the examination of architectural drawings for consistency with the criteria stated below with regard to the aesthetics, appearances, safety, and function of the structure or proposed structures in relation to the site, adjacent structures and surrounding community. Staff recommends that the following criteria is found to be satisfied, not satisfied or not applicable, as hereto indicated:

1. The existing and proposed conditions of the lot, including but not necessarily limited to topography, vegetation, trees, drainage, and waterways.
Not Applicable
2. 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.
Not Applicable
3. 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.
Not Applicable
4. 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 118-252.
Satisfied

5. 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 Ordinance and other applicable ordinances, architectural and design guidelines as adopted and amended periodically by the Design Review Board and Historic Preservation Boards, and all pertinent master plans.
Not Applicable
6. The proposed Structure, and/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.
Satisfied
7. 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.
Satisfied
8. 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 safely 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.
Not Applicable
9. 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.
Not Satisfied; a lighting plan has not been submitted.
10. Landscape and paving materials shall be reviewed to ensure an adequate relationship with and enhancement of the overall Site Plan design.
Not Applicable
11. 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.
Satisfied
12. 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).
Not Applicable
13. 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.

Satisfied

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

Satisfied

15. 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).

Not Applicable

16. 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.

Satisfied

17. 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.

Satisfied

COMPLIANCE WITH SEA LEVEL RISE AND RESILIENCY REVIEW CRITERIA

Section 7.1.2.4(a)(i) of the Land Development Regulations establishes review criteria for sea level rise and resiliency that must be considered as part of the review process for board orders. The following is an analysis of the request based upon these criteria:

1. A recycling or salvage plan for partial or total demolition shall be provided.
To be satisfied at time of building permit.
2. Windows that are proposed to be replaced shall be hurricane proof impact windows.
Not Applicable
3. Where feasible and appropriate, passive cooling systems, such as operable windows, shall be provided.
Not Applicable
4. Resilient landscaping (salt tolerant, highly water-absorbent, native or Florida friendly plants) shall be provided, in accordance with Chapter 4 of the Land Development Regulations.
Satisfied
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.

Satisfied

6. The ground floor, driveways, and garage ramping for new construction shall be adaptable to the raising of public rights-of-ways 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 three (3) additional feet in height.

Satisfied

7. In all new projects, all critical mechanical and electrical systems shall be located above base flood elevation. Due to flooding concerns, all redevelopment projects shall, whenever practicable, and economically reasonable, move all critical mechanical and electrical systems to a location above base flood elevation.

Satisfied

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

Not Applicable

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 of 54 of the City Code.

Satisfied

10. In all new projects, water retention systems shall be provided.

Not Satisfied

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

Not Satisfied

12. The project design shall minimize the potential for a project causing a heat island effect on site.

Satisfied

ANALYSIS:

DESIGN REVIEW

The project is comprised of a six-story mixed-use office and retail building sited at the southeast corner of 17th Street and Michigan Avenue, and a five-story parking garage structure with retail on the ground floor, extending from Michigan to Jefferson Avenue along Lincoln Lane. On September 3, 2024, the Design Review Board approved exterior design modifications to the subject project known as “The Lincoln”. The modifications included, but were not limited to, the following:

- An overall warmer color palette for the entire project and the incorporation of materials such as decorative metal spikes on the prominent mechanical parapet;
- Fiberglass planters at the corner of Michigan and 17th Street on levels 2-5;
- Vertical light sconces in between the horizontal banding of windows and openings;

and

- Champagne-colored perforated metal screening to cover exposed circulation cores and garage openings.

The applicant is requesting modifications to the building façades, including materials. The revised design eliminates the previously approved limestone veneer cladding and fiberglass planters on the main building elevations, as well as the travertine mosaic wall on the south elevation at the east end of ground floor. Additionally, the metal screening proposed on the parking garage elevations has been reduced but still wraps the southeast and southwest corners to ensure that the interiors of the garage levels are screened from view from Jefferson and Michigan Avenues.

The applicant is proposing the repair and paint of the existing horizontal stucco banding and is proposing new vertical EIFS panels, with the approved vertical light sconces, to provide depth and contrast. The walls and panels will have a champagne acid wash stucco finish for texture. Furthermore, the applicant has extended the decorative metal spikes to better enhance the prominent mechanical parapet.

The design intent of the modifications is to continue the warm color and material palette of the project and ensure the overall horizontality of the facades is broken up by vertical architectural elements to provide depth and architectural interest. Staff is supportive of the modifications as they maintain the general architectural intent of the project and recommends approval of the application.

RECOMMENDATION:

In view of the foregoing analysis, staff recommends the application be **approved**, subject to the conditions enumerated in the attached Draft Order, which address the inconsistencies with the aforementioned Design Review and Sea Level Rise criteria, as applicable.

2. Revised elevation, site plan, and floor plan drawings for modifications to the existing commercial building at 1691 Michigan Avenue shall be submitted, at a minimum, such drawings shall incorporate the following:
 - a. The elimination of the limestone veneer cladding previously proposed on the elevations and on the fiber glass planters shall be approved as proposed.
 - b. The elimination of the travertine mosaic panel wall previously approved on the south elevation at the east end of the ground floor shall be approved as proposed.
 - c. The final color, finish and design details of the stucco champagne acid-wash finish proposed on all elevations shall be submitted, in a manner to be reviewed and approved by staff consistent with the Design Review Criteria and/or the directions from the Board.
 - d. The final design, details and finish of the proposed vertical 5" thick EIFS panels, including samples, shall be submitted, in a manner to be reviewed and approved by staff consistent with the Design Review Criteria and/or the directions from the Board.
 - e. The final details of all exterior surface finishes and materials, including samples, shall be submitted, in a manner to be reviewed and approved by staff consistent with the Design Review Criteria and/or the directions from the Board.
 - f. Prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy, the project Architect shall verify, in writing, that the subject project has been constructed in accordance with the plans approved by the Planning Department for Building Permit.

In accordance with section 2.2.4.8 of the Land Development Regulations, the applicant, the City Manager, Miami Design Preservation League, Dade Heritage Trust, or an affected person may appeal a decision of the design review board for design review approval only to the city commission, except that orders granting or denying a request for rehearing shall not be reviewed by the commission.

II. Variance(s)

- A. No variance(s) were filed as part of this application.

The decision of the Board regarding variances shall be final and there shall be no further review thereof except by resort to a court of competent jurisdiction by petition for writ of certiorari.

III. General Terms and Conditions applying to both 'I. Design Review Approval and 'II. Variances' noted above.

- A. Upon the issuance of a final Certificate of Occupancy or Certificate of Completion, as applicable, the project approved herein shall be maintained in accordance with the plans approved by the board and shall be subject to all conditions of approval herein, unless otherwise modified by the Board. Failure to maintain shall result in the issuance of a Code Compliance citation, and continued failure to comply may result in revocation of the Certificate of Occupancy, Completion and Business Tax Receipt.
- B. All allowable construction signage shall be in accordance with Section 6.3.2 of the Land Development Regulations.
- C. The building and parking departments shall approve a construction parking plan prior to the issuance of any building permit, including applicable demolition permits for the project.
- D. The applicant shall ensure that the contractor(s) observe good construction practices and prevent construction materials and debris from impacting the right-of-way.
- E. The contractor(s) shall ensure that the street and the alley directly abutting the construction site remains free of debris and refuse at all times; at a minimum, the contractor(s) shall inspect and clear the street and alley areas before leaving at the end of each day.
- F. This order shall be enforced by the Building, Planning, Parking and Code Compliance Departments.
- G. A recycling/salvage plan shall be provided as part of the submittal for a demolition/building permit, in a manner to be reviewed and approved by staff.
- H. A copy of all pages of the recorded Final Order shall be scanned into the plans submitted for building permit and shall be located immediately after the front cover page of the permit plans.
- I. The Final Order shall be recorded in the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, prior to the issuance of a Building Permit.
- J. Satisfaction of all conditions is required for the Planning Department to give its approval on a Certificate of Occupancy; a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy or Partial Certificate of Occupancy may also be conditionally granted Planning Departmental approval.
- K. The Final Order is not severable, and if any provision or condition hereof is held void or unconstitutional in a final decision by a court of competent jurisdiction, the order shall be returned to the Board for reconsideration as to whether the order meets the criteria for approval absent the stricken provision or condition, and/or it is appropriate to modify the remaining conditions or impose new conditions.
- L. The conditions of approval herein are binding on the applicant, the property's owners, operators, and all successors in interest and assigns.
- M. Nothing in this order authorizes a violation of the City Code or other applicable law, nor allows a relaxation of any requirement or standard set forth in the City Code.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, based upon the foregoing findings of fact, the evidence, information testimony and materials presented at the public hearing, which are part of the record for this matter, and the staff report and analysis, which are adopted herein, including the staff recommendations, which were amended and adopted by the Board, that the **application** is GRANTED for the above-referenced project subject to those certain conditions specified in Paragraph I, II, III of the Finding of Fact, to which the applicant has agreed.

PROVIDED, the applicant shall build substantially in accordance with the revised plans, entitled "1691 Michigan", as designed by **BGA Architects**, signed, sealed, and dated December 30, 2025, and as approved by the Design Review Board, as determined by staff.

When requesting a building permit, the plans submitted to the Building Department for permit shall be consistent with the plans approved by the Board, modified in accordance with the conditions of approval that must be satisfied prior to permit issuance, as set forth in this Order, have been met.

The issuance of the approval does not relieve the applicant from obtaining all other required Municipal, County and/or State reviews and permits, including final zoning approval. If adequate handicapped access is not provided on the Board approved plans, this approval does not mean that such handicapped access is not required. When requesting Building permit, the plans submitted to the Building Department for permit shall be consistent with the plans approved by the Board, modified in accordance with the conditions set forth in this Order.

If the Full Building Permit for the project is not issued within eighteen (18) months of the meeting date at which the original approval was granted, the application will expire and become null and void, unless the applicant makes an application to the Board for an extension of time, in accordance with the requirements and procedures of Section 2.2.4.6 of the Land Development Regulations; the granting of any such extension of time shall be at the discretion of the Board. If the Full Building Permit for the project shall expire for any reason (including but not limited to construction not commencing and continuing, with required inspections, in accordance with the applicable Building Code), the application will expire and become null and void.

In accordance with Chapter 2 of the Land Development Regulations, the violation of any conditions and safeguards that are a part of this Order shall be deemed a violation of the land development regulations of the City Code. Failure to comply with this **Order** shall subject the application to Chapter 2 of the Land Development Regulations, for revocation or modification of the application.

Dated _____.

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD
THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

BY: _____
Rogelio A. Madan, AICP

