



Miami City Hall
3500 Pan American Dr
Miami, FL 33133

1 Roger Williams
University Way
Bristol, RI 02809

March 5, 2018.

P 401.342.7900
F 401.342.7940
info@ussailing.org
www.ussailing.org

Dear City Commissioners of Miami:

First, please let me express our gratitude for allowing us to remain a part of the fabric of the City of Miami. The United States Olympic Sailing Team truly appreciates our long time training base at the U.S. Sailing Center Miami.

For over a quarter-century, U.S Olympic hopefuls in sailing have found an indispensable home at the U.S. Sailing Center's Schoonmaker Center building, located on South Bayshore Drive. During that time, hundreds of Olympians, Olympic-level competitors, Paralympians, youth racers and sailing fans wanting to see their heroes up close have enjoyed the facility's unrivaled access to Biscayne Bay.

The Bay itself is arguably just as great of an asset to U.S. Olympic sailors as the U.S. Sailing Center facility itself. Known worldwide as one of the top sailboat racing venues anywhere, hundreds of international sailors from over sixty nations descend on Coconut Grove each January for North America's premier Olympic class regatta, World Cup Series Miami USA. With those sailors come several million of dollars per year in direct economic impact for the hospitality industry in the Grove. While the regatta's physical footprint has now largely moved to Regatta Park down the street, the U.S. Sailing Center Miami remains a significant staging area and management resource for the event.

In January 2015, US Sailing began the Olympic Development Program (ODP), which educates hundreds of promising youth racers annually. The ODP provides free access to some of the top coaches in the world, and sponsors regatta and training travel teams to venues worldwide, including to the Youth Sailing World Championships. ODP sailors are now a frequent sight at the US Sailing Center Miami, training on a monthly basis while having a chance to emulate the Olympic-level athletes working out of the same facility.

The U.S. Sailing Team also looks forward to contributing to the surrounding community in Miami. One very recent example of this was a record-breaking, sailor-run environmental cleanup of the Coconut Grove waterfront area. The cleanup was held in January, and after partnering with a local environmental nonprofit organization, Olympic Team and ODP sailors removed over 2500 pounds of hurricane-deposited trash from the waters and mangroves surrounding the U.S. Sailing Center.

U.S. Sailing looks forward to continuing our sturdy relationship with the U.S. Sailing Center, Coconut Grove and the City of Miami at large. This facility and overall venue remain crucial to the hopes and dreams of American sailors from all over the country, and we know that with proper care, attention and partnership, that can remain the case for a long time to come.

Respectfully yours,

Malcolm Page
Chief of U.S. Olympic Sailing

