



Dear Friends of the US Sailing Center,

The City of Miami Commission's vote on the Center's lease renewal was deferred until May 10, 2018, at 9:00AM at Miami City Hall. We thank everyone who appeared and spoke at the April meeting as well as the thousands who signed the on-line petition, sent emails and showed genuine support of the Center. If you wish to sign the petition please visit the link: <https://www.change.org/p/commissioners-at-the-miami-city-hall-save-the-us-sailing-center-miami>. We also thank Commissioner Ken Russell who is sponsoring the lease renewal. He is a true friend of the Center and the waterfront.

After the recent deferral in March and prior to April's meeting, we recruited the Bilzin Sumberg law firm (Albert E. Dotson Jr, A. Vicky Leiva and Javier F. Avino) to guide us through the legislative process and to coordinate meetings with each commissioner. We are thankful for their insight and guidance through these uncharted waters. Our goal was to educate the commissioners how the Center provides public access to Miami's waterfront, public storage and launching, regatta hosting, team training, and community outreach at a fee-for-use cost. The Center serves as an important year-round training facility for Olympians to train and compete while future Olympians can rub shoulders with their Olympic sailing heroes. Sailors come to the Center from all over the world to train and compete in numerous international regattas bringing millions of dollars to the local community. Without the Center, these invaluable benefits would disappear, greatly impacting the City of Miami and sport of sailing.

We are addressing the items that were raised at the April Commission meeting, i.e. improving public access along the northeast corridor outside our fence and offering even more community sailing opportunities to Miami's inner-city children. This is all very doable, and simply builds on the many good efforts we have partnered on with City of Miami Parks over the past twenty years.

The ad hoc Lease Sub-Committee members (Cabassa, Callahan, Ewing, Fink, Kamilar, Kilpatrick and Rubin) are continually conferencing to maintain efforts going forward.

We are planning a support rally and planning conference on May 8, 2018 at 6:00 PM at the Center. We hope you can make it. If not, please plan on being at the Commission meeting on May 10, 2018 at 9:00AM to show your support.

If you have any specific comments or suggestions prior to that meeting please send them along.

Mayor Francis Suarez: [fsuarez@miamigov.com](mailto:fsuarez@miamigov.com) District 1 Commissioner Wilfredo (Willy) Gort: [wgort@miamigov.com](mailto:wgort@miamigov.com) District 2 Commissioner Ken Russell: [krussell@miamigov.com](mailto:krussell@miamigov.com) District 3 Commissioner Joe Carollo: [jcarollo@miamigov.com](mailto:jcarollo@miamigov.com) District 4 Commissioner Manolo Reyes: [mreyes@miamigov.com](mailto:mreyes@miamigov.com) District 5 Commissioner Keon Hardemon: [KHardemon@miamigov.com](mailto:KHardemon@miamigov.com)

Thank you for your support,

Ed Cabassa, President, US Sailing Center – Miami

*U.S. OLYMPIC TRAINING FACILITY*