



Office of Chairman Joe Sanchez
3500 Pan American Drive
Miami, Florida 33133

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Steve Wright

PRESS STATEMENT

Telephone: 305.250.5380
Fax: 305.250.5386
www.miamigov.com/district3

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CHAIRMAN JOE SANCHEZ SETS THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON MIAMI 21 VOTE

(Miami, FL) – Chairman Joe Sanchez issued the following statement regarding his no vote on the version of Miami 21 considered by the Miami City Commission on Aug. 6:

- It was painful to vote against a concept I believe in.
- For more than a decade, I have supported smart growth principals such as pedestrian-friendly development, public transit, bicycle lanes, neighborhood preservation, shade trees, parkland, green space and sustainability.
- Tragically, the version of Miami 21 that came up for a vote yesterday was tainted by restrictions that placed our residents in harm's way by exposing us to tens of millions of dollars in lawsuits from loss of property value.
- We are in a budget crisis that threatens to bankrupt the City, so I could not uphold my fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers if I approved that version of Miami 21.
- However, I am extremely hopeful that this is a temporary setback to a common goal that is within our reach. Miami 21 must be revisited immediately after we have cut the bloated salaries and pensions that threaten our current budget.
- We now have a golden opportunity to resolve key issues and craft a pure version of Miami 21 that truly protects our neighborhoods and our City revenues.
- With all five Commissioners on the dais, we must reconsider Miami 21. We must adopt a final version of Miami 21 that truly is the people's plan.