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Miami City Hall
3500 Pan American Drive
Miami, Florida 33133

Mayor Eileen Higgins
Commissioner Damian Pardo
Commissioner Miguel Gabela
Commissioner Christine King
Commissioner Ralph Rosado
Commissioner Rolando Escalona

Dear Mayor and Commissioners:

We are writing in strong support of the restoration of the Miami Marine Stadium (MMS). The Save Our Sisters Dragon Boat Team (SOS) has been paddling alongside the MMS since 2007. Paddling is a growing international sport. Our team of seventy breast cancer survivors, along with 300 to 400 other serious paddlers and outrigger teams, plus masters and youth program rowers have built Miami's reputation in international competitions. Yet, we are forced to leave for competitions due to the lack of a suitable venue.

We envision growing opportunities for water sport training and competition in the MMS basin. While other cities invest heavily to build venues for paddling sports, Miami already has the perfect location with MMS. International breast cancer events draw 5,000 participants and supporters generating significant economic benefits for host cities. In 2014, we collaborated with Sarasota, FL, to bring a weekend of international competition that created revenue of more than a billion dollars for the city.

The MMS is an ideal location to support training and competition for paddling sports. The calm, flat waters of the Basin and the shoreline of Virginia Key provide the right size and conditions for weekday training and weekend competitions. Restoring the MMS aligns with our vision for community recreation and strengthens Miami's international reputation as a water sports destination. We support the City of Miami moving forward with the engagement of an operator and plans for a restored Miami Marine Stadium.

Sincerely,

Peg Richardson

Peg Richardson
President, Save Our Sisters DBT

Kim Bonomo

Kim Bonomo
Founding President, Save Our Sisters DBT



SAVE OUR SISTERS DBT, INC.

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JANUARY 27, 2026