

January 30, 2026

Mayor Eileen Higgins

Chairwoman Christine King
Commissioner Miguel Gabela
Commissioner Damian Pardo
Commissioner Rolando Escalona
Commissioner Ralph Rosado

Miami City Hall
3500 Pan American Drive
Miami, Florida 33133

Dear Honorable Mayor and Commissioners:

I am writing to you in strong support of restoration of the Miami Marine Stadium. As past President and CEO for 23 years of the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, I know that in promoting a destination, distinguishing yourself from the competition is critical. As an attraction and a venue, it has no competition. This is a reminder that we are the cruise capital of the world.

I've had some wonderful experiences there. I got to Miami in 1969 and I attended many boat races, concerts (yes, Jimmy Buffett) and events there. Today, there are multiple ways to use the facility that we have not thought of before. The Miami Marine Stadium will help the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau attract new meeting business. Convention managers always look for unique opportunities for attendees in the host city. Since the Oak View Group will operate both the Marine Stadium and the Miami Beach Convention Center, this will be a big selling point that will be very helpful to the Bureau.

The Stadium itself is a wonderful press magnet. In 2023, I was the host to a segment about the Miami Marine Stadium done by the Great Britain's Discovery Channel for the television series, "Hidden America". The episode is being aired in 30 countries worldwide and the United States for a six-year period. I always get texts and emails from people around the world who see it. This is the type of constant publicity that the Miami Marine Stadium will generate. It is a perfect showpiece for Miami. It reminds the world that Miami is on the water. It is truly the Magic Venue in the Magic City before it.

Moving forward with the Miami Marine Stadium restoration is a wonderful opportunity for the new City Commission and our opportunity,

Yours truly,

William D. Talbert III, CDME
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