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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 19, 2014

Miami Beach Commission Approves Multi-Million Dollar Convention Center Renovation Project

Miami Beach, FL – In a unanimous vote, the Miami Beach City Commission approved project plans and agreed to move forward with the \$592 million dollar proposed Miami Beach Convention Center Expansion and Renovation Project. City leaders say the new 1.4 million square foot, LEED-certified convention center will generate an economic impact of \$2.5 billion over 30 years; create approximately 5,000 temporary jobs and 1,600 permanent jobs supported by the ongoing spending of future convention guests.

“This is an historic moment. With the full funding in place and plans approved, it is now a certainty that South Florida will have a high-tech convention center,” said Miami Beach City Manager Jimmy L. Morales.

Home to the internationally acclaimed Art Basel Miami Beach, the Miami International Boat Show and national sporting events, the convention center is one of the region’s largest tourism draws for South Florida.

Built in 1957, renovations to the convention center will be designed with a strong emphasis on the natural environment, utilizing solar energy, sun-shading design concepts and using 60% natural lighting for the interior leading to a 20% energy reduction.

Visitors will also experience a new six-acre public green space, which will replace an existing asphalt parking lot in front of the new center, and adjacent to the existing Miami Beach Botanical Garden and Holocaust Memorial.

“Thursday’s Miami Beach Convention Center and flagship hotel votes signal to our residents and the tourism industry that we are moving forward and one step closer to state-of-the-art renovation of our aging convention center,” explained Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine. “I am confident Miami Beach will attract more boutique conventions that put more heads in beds rather than cars on the roads.”

The unanimous approval comes on the heels of the Miami-Dade County Commission’s decision Tuesday, December 16, 2014, approving an extension of what is known as the City Center Redevelopment District, or RDA, a community development taxing agency, to March 31, 2044 in order to provide \$275 million in funding towards the Miami Beach Convention Center Renovation Project. This underscores the regional importance of this project in creating jobs and economic opportunity.

The new Miami Beach Convention Center is slated for completion in late 2017. For more information, visit www.miamibeachfl.gov.

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