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STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 9, 2015

Statement from the City of Miami Beach

Re: 1881 Washington Avenue (Octagon Tower), Short-term Rentals

Maintaining our community's quality of life and safety are a priority; as such, we've been working with the Octagon Tower's management to obtain compliance with the various regulatory codes that control the use and occupancy at this property.

The Miami Beach Fire Department issued a Cease and Desist order on April 29, 2015 after a determination by the fire marshal (Miami Beach Fire Prevention) that a violation exists that can pose an imminent danger to those occupying the building -- in this case, a "failure to provide sprinkler system on a transient property."

The danger is to those renting short-term (30 days or less) in a building that is classified as a condominium (31 days or more) and does not have the life-safety systems required for such use including but not limited to fire sprinklers and alarm systems.

If one (1) unit in the building continues to engage in transient use, the entire building could be in violation and shut down either by the building official or the fire marshal. If the building is found to be in violation of Fire, Building (Florida Building Code), and/or City codes, the matter can be taken to the Special Master who can impose fines. If the building then continues to violate the code, the building can ultimately be shut down.

Code compliance officials are in discussion with the condominium manager to gather details on any unit owner who may continue to engage in short-term rentals despite the cited violations.

If illegal rental activity is observed, residents are urged to immediately contact Miami Beach Code Compliance at 305.604.CITY (2489).

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To request this material in alternate format, sign language interpreter (five-day notice required), information on access for persons with disabilities, and/or any accommodation to review any document or participate in any city-sponsored proceedings, call 305.604.2489 and select 1 for English or 2 for Spanish, then option 6; TTY users may call via 711 (Florida Relay Service).

We are committed to providing excellent public service and safety to all who live, work and play in our vibrant, tropical, historic community.