



DAN GELBER  
MAYOR

July 15, 2021

The Honorable Michael Hanzman  
Miami-Dade County Courthouse  
73 West Flagler ST, Miami, FL 33130

RE: Champlain Towers

Dear Judge Hanzman:

Thank you for your service to our community and, especially, for your recent efforts to address the tragedy in Surfside. Among the many difficult issues before the Court appears to be whether the site will become a memorial or whether it will be resold to help augment a fund for the families and estates of the victims.

I can only imagine the extremely emotional nature of this issue to these families, and I would never venture an opinion as to any preferred course of action. I did, however, want to alert you to a potential option that my City would be considering next week at our July 28th Commission meeting. Immediately south of the Champlain Tower site is Miami Beach's Oceanside Park. The park is 35 acres alongside the ocean, and we are about to commence a substantial upgrade of this already scenic area. I am asking my colleagues at our next meeting to consider offering an appropriate amount of acreage within the park to be dedicated to accommodating a memorial honoring the victims of this tragedy. I suspect my colleagues will proudly support such an offer in the spirit in which it is intended.

So many in my community knew or were one degree of separation from the victims of this unthinkable tragedy. While we have proudly supported the efforts at ground zero with our own police and fire rescue personnel, it would be our great honor to also help establish a dignified memorial that would appropriately honor the blessed memories of those who perished.

Let us know if we can be of service.

Sincerely,

Mayor Dan Gelber