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Miami 21 to get further public input

South Florida Business Journal - by Oscar Pedro Musibay

City of Miami Commissioners agreed Thursday to hold a meeting in the coming weeks to allow the public to weigh in once more on the city's controversial rezoning plan called Miami 21.

Schedulers are working to make the meeting happen in late May or early June, before the public usually takes off for summer vacation, said a spokesman for Miami Commission Chairman Marc Sarnoff.

Miami commissioners **voted in December** to implement the new code on May 20 instead of Feb. 19, giving the public, newly elected commissioners and the city's new mayor time to tweak the approved code.

Although the public hearing will happen after the plan is implemented, Mayor Tomas Regalado has said that Miami 21 is a living document that is subject to tweaking.

Feedback from the forum could contribute to amendments to the code in the future, said Sarnoff's spokesman.

Many urban planners have supported Miami 21, which was supposed to scale density throughout the city and make neighborhoods more walkable.

It was one of the signature accomplishments of former Mayor Manny Diaz, who was the plan's biggest champion.

But, some of the plan's details sparked criticism from local activists, who said the city's streamlined zoning review process limited public input. Some business owners, developers, landlords, architects and zoning attorneys charged it would downzone property and stifle design.

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