

140 WEST FLAGLER STREET SUITE 105 MIAMI, FL 33130 P. 786-469-2060 F. 786-534-4135 MIAMIHOMESFORALL.ORG

September 21, 2016

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CHURCH

ALISON AUSTIN, P.A.

Jeffrey Weinberger Adam Trebugge Florida Homelessness Action Coalition

Re: Florida Homeless Bill of Rights

Dear Jeff and Adam:

Miami Homes For All (MHFA), previously known as the Miami Coalition for the Homeless, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending and preventing homelessness through community collaboration. MHFA works diligently to monitor the rights of homeless individuals are protected. MHFA also worked closely alongside the Miami ACLU during the *Pottinger* re-negotiation to ensure the protection of rights and proper protocol were established in the City of Miami.

While these protections are present in the City of Miami, MHFA continues to advocate for these protections in other parts of Miami-Dade County. The passage of a statewide homeless bill of rights would provide advocates with a foundation to build broader advocacy, from increasing awareness of the challenges individuals experiencing homelessness face, to providing an opportunity to create explicit provisions that provide additional protections. Most importantly, a homeless bill of rights acknowledges the humanity of homeless individuals and their right to enjoy the protections afforded by our Constitution to every Floridian.

As our community continues to experience growth, primarily in areas with high homeless populations, it is essential that the rights of the homeless are protected. The Florida homeless bill of rights is a positive tool that can ensure the basic rights of individuals experiencing homelessness are protected. We support the creation of a Florida homeless bill of rights, and look forward to its passage.

Thank you,

Barbara "Bobbie" Ibarra

Executive Director

786-469-2067