




**CITY OF MIRAMAR
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

TO: Mayor & City Commissioners

FROM: Dr. Roy L. Virgin, City Manager 

BY: Salvador Zuniga, Engineering and Strategic Development

DATE: March 27, 2025

RE: Temp. Reso. No. 8392 – Blasting Community Advisory Board Update

1. Introduction

Blasting Citizen Advisory Committee

Meeting Information:

Day: 3rd Thursday/month

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Engineering Conference Room (Development Services Building, 2nd Floor, 2200 Civic Center Place)

Staff Liaison: Salvador Zuniga (sezuniga@miramarfl.gov; 954-602-3323) / Leah deRiel (lderiel@miramarfl.gov; 954-602-3356)

Purpose of the Report: Quarterly Update (December - February 2025)

Background of the Advisory Board: The purpose of the Blasting Citizen Advisory Committee is to facilitate communication between the City and residents of the City of Miramar who are impacted by construction materials mining in northwest Miami-Dade County, and to provide a forum for residents to provide information and recommendations to the City Commission.

2. Board Composition

The Blasting Committee is comprised of 9 members who serve 2-year terms. The City Commission appoints 8 members by majority vote, one resident from each of the specific communities listed below. The Broward County School Board Superintendent also selects a representative to serve as a non-voting, ex-officio member. Anyone who is

appointed to fill a vacancy serves only for the remainder of the unexpired term. The current term ends in May 2025.

Members and Appointments:

NAME	AREA/ROLE	APPOINT. DATE	ATTENDANCE
Edward Daizovi	Sunset Lakes Resident	06/05/24	83%
Ryan J. Millay	Sunset Falls Resident BOARD CHAIRMAN	05/17/23	90%
Jorge H. Solis	Riviera Isles Resident	05/17/23	50%
Melissa Thomas	Huntington Resident	06/21/23	40%
VACANT	Nautica Resident		
VACANT	Country Club Ranches Resident		
Rose Thompson	Miramar Resident	05/17/23	60%
Audrey Tomlinson	Miramar Resident	05/17/23	80%
VACANT	Miramar Business Representative		
VACANT	Broward County School Board Ex-Officio		

- **Member Qualifications:** The board is made up of concerned residents, none of whom have expertise in mining.

3. Meetings and Activities

At the meetings held in Q4 2024 and Q1 2025, the board has discussed the following:

- Miguel Martinez of the Miami Lakes Blasting Advisory Board (MLBAB) updated the Board with a history of the blasting and of MLBAB’s efforts to support legislation curbing blasting and its detrimental effects. He asked the Board to partner with MLBAB to support their efforts and to request the Commission to do the same.
- The Board drafted a Situation Report to the Commission, giving a current status update on blasting operations and recommending various legislative, administrative, and public education actions:
 - Legislative – encourage the Commission to offer support and resources to MLBAB, including coordinating lobbying efforts.
 - Administrative – request the Commission prioritize the blasting issue in lobbying efforts and request more CFO/SFMO involvement (including in-person visits and a dedicated liaison for the Miramar/NW Miami area).
 - Education – request \$10,000 to be used by the Board for marketing/educational efforts and permit use of city staff for supplemental marketing. Also request that the Board be assigned a Commissioner as a dedicated liaison for the issue.

- The Board discussed the recommendations made by the City Commission after the Situation Report was presented. Discussion included the need for workshops and marketing efforts to address concerns about blasting and its impact on residents, the new HB303 filed by Rep. Fabricio that would allow residents within a 3-mile radius to file claims for damages, and staff's research on how other communities nationwide are handling blasting-related damages.
- The Board prepared for future community outreach by requesting MLBAB's marketing materials so that marketing efforts can be streamlined with a consistent, standard message.
- Residents are always encouraged to submit complaints through the State's website: <https://mineactivityclearinghouse.myfloridacfo.gov/>

4. Accomplishments and Outcomes

The Board presented the Situational Report to the City Commission at the 2/19/25 Commission Meeting. Determination of impact is pending the scheduling of a workshop and Commission response.

5. Challenges and Lessons Learned

The major challenge that this board faces is that the blasting is occurring in Miami Dade County, where Miramar Residents have limited engagement. Also, these mining operations are regulated and permitted by the State, not the City or County. There is an ongoing sense of frustration on the board because of the limited ability to take direct action on these issues. Because of the lack of ability to engage in Miami-Dade, the Board has taken on a supporting role for the Miami Lakes Blasting Board – including outreach to Miramar residents to encourage attendance at Miami Lakes Blasting Board meetings, and notification of updates from that board to Miramar residents.

6. Financial Overview

This board currently has no budget and no expenditures.

7. Future Plans and Recommendations

- **Upcoming Projects:**
 - Board members are plan to attend the next MLBAB meetings to keep up-to-date on the latest legislative and political developments. Board is tentatively planning increased public outreach efforts, and has requested Commission assistance and increased lobbying efforts.
- **Strategic Goals:**
 - Strategic goal – work with the Miami-Lakes Blasting Board to re-introduce a bill in Tallahassee to address the issue. Solicit support of the Commission of Miramar to do so. Begin stronger public outreach program to foster resident engagement.
- **Recommendations:**
 - Lobbying in Tallahassee to members of House and Senate to support bills that would provide stronger regulations and accountability for the mining companies.

8. Conclusion

The Board continues pursuing its goal of reducing blasting impacts to the residential areas in Miramar through public awareness and engagement, fostering a unified legislative front with MLBAB, and recommending lobbying efforts and actions to the Commission. As more residents become educated about the rock blasting processes, how the industry is regulated, and where to file complaints, residents can increase the number of complaints filed with the State's fire marshal's office. Resident complaints, combined with the lobbying efforts of MLBAB and the City of Miramar, will hopefully help to foster meaningful change - to both blasting limits and resident recourse for blast-induced structural damages - at the State's legislative level.