

# TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Town Council Meeting on: August 9, 2022

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To: Mayor and Town Council

Via: Kirk Blouin, Town Manager

From: Wayne Bergman, Director of PZB & James Murphy, Asst. Director of PZB

Re: XIII. Regular Agenda, B. Old Business, 3. – Mid-Town Seawall Project

Date: August 9, 2022

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## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Planning, Zoning & Building Department (PZB) would like to make the Mayor and Town Council aware of staff's concerns with the proposed Mid-Town Seawall project at the Worth Avenue Clock Tower. The proposed seawall project, as designed today, calls for raising the height of the seawall to mitigate against the rising sea levels and possible flooding. While a commendable project, the area of the Clock Tower currently has an ocean vista, with a unique view of the ocean through the Tower structure and through the existing concrete balustrades. The Mid-Town Seawall project calls for blocking much of this vista with new seawall. It is this concern that staff believes merits your careful review and consideration.

The project was presented at the August 1, 2022 Pre-Application Meeting. The project was formally submitted yesterday (August 8, 2022). The plan is for this "Combo" project to be heard at the October 26, 2022 ARCOM Meeting, and then the Site Plan and zoning relief portion of the application to be considered at the November 9, 2022 Town Council Meeting.

ARCOM has long been interested in protecting the existing ocean vistas along all of Palm Beach. Staff believes that the changes proposed to the Clock Tower, which will close off the lower portion of the Tower structure and block the ocean views through the sections of concrete balustrades, could be problematic.

If the Town Council is to consider this project today, PZB asks that you defer the Clock Tower portion of the project for now, until various options can be identified and until ARCOM can consider the proposed changes to the Clock Tower and ocean vistas.