

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Town of Surfside Gives Final Approval for Permanent Champlain Towers South Memorial

SURFSIDE, Fla. (Aug. 13, 2026) - At the Special Commission Meeting held on August 6, the Surfside Town Commission gave final approval to the permanent memorial honoring the 98 souls lost in the collapse of Champlain Towers South. Construction on the memorial, to be located at the street end park at 88th Street, will begin shortly.

The memorial project began in 2022, when then newly serving Mayor Shlomo Danzinger formed the Memorial Committee to guide the community through the process of designing a permanent tribute. For five years, the Committee worked in close partnership with victims' families, survivors, first responders, and residents to shape a memorial worthy of the lives lost and the resilience of the Surfside community.

Like many public projects, the memorial's path was not without challenges. The original design, initially proposed at approximately \$7.5 million, required significant value engineering to bring the project within a scope the Town could fund. In March of 2026, two months before Danzinger returned to the Mayor's office, having previously lost his reelection bid in 2024, the project was scaled back to approximately \$3.5 million, a reduction that allowed the memorial to proceed without triggering a public referendum that could have delayed or derailed the project entirely, with the final figure inclusive of a \$1 million State grant.

As part of the August 6 approval, the Commission adopted several final design changes shaped directly by feedback from residents, the Planning and Zoning Board, family members, survivors, and first responders. The proposed image of the collapsed building was replaced with the image of hands, representing love, family, and continuity. This was the symbolic image originally approved by the Memorial Committee back in 2022, and the Commission felt strongly that it should be restored as the guiding image of the memorial.

The Commission also voted to remove the concrete slabs and rebar that had been laid out through the street end park. These elements not only posed a public safety hazard, but based on gathered feedback, they also caused unnecessary pain to families, survivors, and residents who pass by the site.

The Memorial Committee's input informed a significant part of the memorial's overall design. The 13 Pillars of Light, which begin near the Collins Avenue entrance, incorporate rebar and debris from the building within the columns, as directed by family members contributing on the Committee. The elements provide a tangible connection to the site and to those whose lives were lost.

Mayor Shlomo Danzinger said the memorial represents more than a tribute; it represents an opportunity for the town to heal.

"For five years, this community has carried the weight of remembering 98 friends and neighbors without a permanent place to do so," said Danzinger. "This memorial gives us that place. It is tasteful, it is dignified, and it was shaped by the very people who loved them most. A memorial cannot undo what happened here, but it can give a town a way forward. Now we have a permanent place to hold our neighbors in our hearts, and to heal together as a community."

The Town of Surfside thanks the Memorial Committee for its five years of dedicated service, as well as every member of the community who contributed feedback throughout the design process. Additional details on the construction timeline will be shared as the project moves forward.

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RESOLUTION NO. 2026-3543

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, APPROVING REVISED DRAWINGS AND SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE CHAMPLAIN TOWERS SOUTH MEMORIAL; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND FINALIZE A CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION WITH SHIFF CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT, INC. FOR THE PROJECT; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town of Surfside ("Town") is desirous of a community memorial in remembrance of the 98 lives lost during the June 24, 2021, collapse of the Champlain Towers South condominium; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to a two-phase competitive procurement process to solicit contractors for the construction of the Champlain Towers South Memorial ("Project"), the Town Commission on March 13, 2026 in Resolution No. 2026-3500 previously selected Shiff Construction & Development, Inc. ("Shiff") for construction of the Project and authorized the Town Manager to negotiate a contract for construction with Shiff for the maximum guaranteed price of \$3,550,000; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to the Town Commission selection of Shiff for the Project and authorization to Town Manager in Resolution No. 2026-3500, Town administration negotiated a value-engineered reduction and revision to the drawings and scope of the Project in order to not exceed the directed maximum price of \$3,550,000; and

WHEREAS, Keith & Associates developed value-engineered revised drawings and scope of work for the Project dated May 22, 2026, in accordance with the directed Project budget of \$3,550,000 (the "Revised Drawings"); and;

WHEREAS, Shiff has provided the attached letter dated June 8, 2026, confirming that based on the Revised Drawings and scope modifications prepared by Keith & Associates for the Project, that the Project can be completed within the approved Project budget of \$3,550,000, inclusive of a 5% Owner contingency; and

WHEREAS, the Town Commission wishes to approve the Revised Drawings and scope of work for the Project, as detailed in the conceptual presentation included with this agenda item and directed by the Town Commission to remove #6 (CTS Debris) from Page 2 Illustrative Plan and change the image to "Hands"; and

WHEREAS, the Town Commission further authorizes the Town Manager and Town Attorney to negotiate terms and conditions and finalize and execute a Contract for Construction with Shiff, substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, consistent with the Revised Drawings and scope of work for the Project and in the amount of \$3,550,000 inclusive of a 5% owner contingency, subject to final approval as to form and content by the Town Manager, and legal sufficiency by the Town Attorney; and

WHEREAS, the Town Commission finds that it is in the best interest and welfare of the Town and its residents to proceed as indicated in this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals Adopted. The above-stated recitals are true and correct and are hereby adopted and incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. Approval of Revised Drawings and Scope of Work. The Town Commission approves the Revised Drawings and scope of work for the Project, as

detailed in the conceptual presentation included with this agenda item and directed by the Town Commission to remove #6 (CTS Debris) from Page 2 Illustrative Plan and change the image to "Hands".

Section 3. Authorization to Negotiate and Execute Contract with Shiff. The Commission authorizes the Town Manager and Town Attorney to negotiate terms and conditions and finalize and execute a Contract for Construction with Shiff, substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit "A", consistent with the Revised Drawings and scope of work for the Project and in the amount of \$3,550,000 inclusive of a 5% Owner contingency, subject to the approval as to form and content by the Town Manager, and legal sufficiency by the Town Attorney.

Section 3. Implementation. The Town Manager and Town Attorney are authorized to take any and all necessary action to implement the Project, the Contract for Construction and the purposes of this Resolution.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 28th day of July, 2026.

Motion By: Commissioner Weingot

Second By: Mayor Danzinger

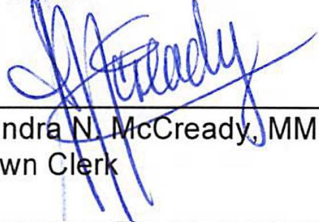
FINAL VOTE ON ADOPTION:

Commissioner Andrea Travani	<u>No</u>
Commissioner Gerardo Vildostegui	<u>No</u>
Commissioner David Weingot	<u>Yes</u>
Vice Mayor Dayana Benmergui	<u>Yes</u>
Mayor Shlomo Danzinger	<u>Yes</u>



Shlomo Danzinger, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sandra N. McCready, MMC
Town Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY FOR THE USE
AND BENEFIT OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE ONLY:



Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L.,
Town Attorney

CHAMPLAIN TOWERS SOUTH MEMORIAL

08/05/2026

UPDATE PER 07/28 COMMISSION MEETING



ILLUSTRATIVE PLAN



LEGEND

- ① MEMORIAL SIGNAGE
- ② (13) PILLAR FEATURES
- ③ MEMORIAL NAME WALL
- ④ COMMEMORATIVE WATER WALL
- ⑤ SEATWALL

RENDERING - MEMORIAL WATERWALL



RENDERING - MEMORIAL WATERWALL



RENDERING - PILLARS OF LIGHT



RENDERING - MEMORIAL WATERWALL

