

## Mural, Mural on the Wall

Written by Terence Cantarella  
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The lights are off, the windows and doors are boarded up, and the girls on the corner are gone. Gone, too, are the unsavory characters and unsuspecting tourists who have converged at Miami's notorious City Inn hotel for the past two and a half decades.

But it wasn't the hundreds of calls to police over the years, or the 75 recently issued county and state violations that forced the 12-story inn's closure this past June. It was the mesh advertising banners hanging on the outside walls, a familiar sight to I-95 commuters as they approach NW 79th Street.

This past February, Miami-Dade County's Unsafe Structures Board upheld an earlier county determination that the City Inn is "dangerous to human life and welfare." Among the violations noted during an inspection: an accumulation of debris, unsanitary conditions, deteriorated structural parts, and fire, electrical, and mechanical hazards.

The owners, brothers Sam and Judah Burstyn, were given two options: Demolish the building or repair it and pass a 40-year "recertification" inspection. The Burstyns chose to salvage their hotel, corrected the violations, and submitted the required inspection report -- which was promptly rejected.

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[letters@biscaynetimes.com](mailto:letters@biscaynetimes.com)

[Edine Complex](#)