

MIAMI BEACH

**Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee Meeting
City Hall, Commission Chambers, 3rd Floor, 1700 Convention Center Drive
June 19, 2019 - 9:00 AM**

Commissioner Micky Steinberg, Chair
Commissioner Michael Góngora, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Joy Malakoff, Member
Commissioner John Elizabeth Alemán, Alternate

Eric Carpenter, Liaison
Christina Baguer, Support Staff

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A meeting of the Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee (the “Committee”) was held on Wednesday, June 19, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission Chambers, 3rd Floor of City Hall. Commissioners in attendance: Micky Steinberg, Michael Góngora, Joy Malakoff, John Elizabeth Alemán and Mark Samuelian. Members from the Administration and the public were also in attendance.

The meeting began at 9:03 AM.

OLD BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION REGARDING CRIME IN MIAMI BEACH.

February 14, 2018 - R9 X
Sponsored by Commissioner Góngora
Police

Direction: Item deferred to the July 23, 2019 NCAC Meeting.

2. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE INTEREST OF THE COMMISSION IN OPERATING ELECTRIC SCOOTERS AT ALL AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A FUTURE PILOT PROGRAM.

July 25, 2018 - R9 V
Sponsored by Commissioner Góngora
Transportation/Legal

Jose Gonzalez, Director of Transportation, presented the item. He stated the Administration has been tracking a State Bill on electric scooters that was just signed by the Governor. The City is starting to ascertain how the Bill will impact the City. The Administration is requesting to return to the July 23, 2019 NCAC meeting with a recommendation.

Direction: Item deferred to the July 23, 2019 NCAC Meeting.

3. DISCUSSION REGARDING ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR DOCKED ELECTRIC ASSISTED BICYCLE SHARING SERVICES.

October 17, 2018 - C4 J
Sponsored by Commissioner Arriola
Transportation

Direction: Item deferred to the July 23, 2019 NCAC Meeting.

4. DISCUSSION REGARDING CLEANLINESS IN MIAMI BEACH.

January 16, 2019 - C4 S
Sponsored by Commissioner Góngora
Public Works/Organizational Development

Direction: Item deferred to the July 23, 2019 NCAC Meeting.

5. DISCUSSION ON THE RECOMMENDED DESIGN CONCEPTS PROPOSED IN THE CHASE AVENUE AND 34 STREET FROM ALTON ROAD TO PRAIRIE AVENUE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE FEASIBILITY STUDY.

April 10, 2019 – C4 I
Transportation

Direction: Item deferred to the July 23, 2019 NCAC Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

6. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE SAFETY CONCERNS ON ALTON ROAD FROM 10TH STREET TO 16TH STREET.

May 8, 2019 - C4 A
Sponsored by Commissioner Aleman
Transportation

Josiel Ferrer , Assistant Director of Transportation, presented the item. He stated that this intersection has had 24 accidents in the past three years. He stated that there are some trends in the incidents and they have submitted a request to FDOT to look at various options to improve safety. He stated the Administration's preferred option is to start exclusive pedestrian phases. FDOT has committed to studying this option, with a timeline of 90 days. FDOT requires a Resolution from the City Commission if this option were to be implemented.

A resident expressed concern over the lack of lighting in the area and recommended more lighting in the area.

Eric Carpenter, Assistant City Manager, stated that FDOT is aware of the lighting issue and the Administration is working with them to correct the situation.

Commissioner Steinberg asked that the Administration reiterate to FDOT the concern over the lighting in the area. Mr. Ferrer explained that FDOT has commenced working on this issue and they must complete the work within the next fiscal year.

Direction: Transportation to return to the October 23, 2019 NCAC meeting with the FDOT study and the Administration's recommendation.

7. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE WEEKEND MORNING HOURS OF OPERATION FOR POWER TOOLS, MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT AND LEAF BLOWERS.

May 8, 2019 - C4 B

Sponsored by Commissioner Samuelian
Code Compliance

Commissioners agreed to combine agenda item number 7 and 8 into one item, sponsored by both Commissioner Samuelian and Gongora.

Commissioner Samuelian stated that this item was intended to identify two issues, how to handle noise on the weekend from construction and when we allow noise from other equipment, such as pressure cleaners and blowers and second, the emission concerns with gas leaf blowers. He stated that some Cities have banned gas blowers.

Commissioner Gongora agreed with Commissioner Samuelian on his concerns and added that a bigger conversation must be had regarding the restriction of gas blowers.

Commissioner Steinberg stated that this issue has come up in the past and she agrees the conversation is necessary.

Sarah Saunders, Assistant Director of Code Compliance presented the item. She stated that 37 complaints, for various reasons, including noise and improper blowing of leaves into the storm drain, have been received by Code Compliance since April 2018. She stated that the City's E-Gov application can assist in receiving these complaints in a timely manner.

Commissioner Samuelian would like to explore relevant ordinances as it relates to weekend noise both public and private, with an eye on respecting the resident that does not want to hear noise before 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Gongora stated he wants an ordinance for the leaf blowers and other noise producing equipment that matches the ordinance for construction equipment, so that you can't use these types of noise producing equipment before 10:00 a.m. on Saturday and preclude them on Sunday.

Rodney Knowles, Greenspace Management Division Director, spoke on the gas leaf blower portion of the item. The Department currently has five gas blowers and one electric leaf blower. They are phasing out the gas blowers as they come to the end of their life span. Mr. Knowles also stated that landscaping contracts are being updated to restrict gas blowers.

The Sanitation division has one electric blower and is also replacing their gas blowers as their life cycle concludes.

Commissioner Gongora would like to explore a more stringent ordinance on gas blowers and requested that staff meet with him and Commissioner Samuelian separately to discuss the matter further.

Direction: Commissioner Gongora motioned to amend the City Code section 46-152, subsection K, where subsection K will be amended to reflect the hours identified for the construction zones for Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays, effective January 2020. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Malakoff. Item is moved to Commission. Code Compliance to work with the City Attorney's Office, to draft the amendment to the ordinance.

8. DISCUSSION REGARDING LEAF BLOWERS AND CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AND HOW TO FURTHER REGULATE THE TYPE USED AND HOURS OF USE.

May 8, 2019 - C4 C

Sponsored by Commissioner Góngora
Code Compliance

Direction: Agenda items number 7 and 8 were combined into one. Refer to Item number 7 for after action.

9. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE INTERSECTION AT 44 STREET AND CHASE & PRAIRIE AVENUE AS IT RELATES TO SAFETY AND THE POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL STOP SIGNS.

May 8, 2019 - C4 D

Sponsored by Commissioner Steinberg
Transportation

Commissioner Steinberg recommended that the Administration conduct a study when the school year begins to receive more accurate updated data on the situation in that area.

Direction: Transportation to return to the October 23, 2019 NCAC meeting with an updated study of the safety issues in the area.

10. DISCUSSION REGARDING ILLEGAL DUMPING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY AND RELATED CITY FINES.

May 8, 2019 - R9 H

Sponsored by Commissioner Arriola
Code Compliance

Direction: Item deferred to the July 23, 2019 NCAC Meeting.

11. DISCUSSION REGARDING NAMING THE PAR 3/FUTURE COMMUNITY PARK AS BAYSHORE PARK.

June 5, 2019 – C4L

Sponsored by Commissioner Góngora
Parks and Recreation

Direction: Commissioner Gongora motioned to rename the Par 3/Future Community Park to Bayshore Park. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Malakoff. Item moved to Commission. Parks and Recreation to handle.

12. DISCUSSION REGARDING SEAWEED ACCUMULATION WITH A PRESENTATION BY MIAMI DADE COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES DEPARTMENT.

June 5, 2019 – R9I & R9J

Sponsored by Commissioners Góngora and Samuelian
Office of City Manager – Beach Maintenance

Commissioner Gongora stated he knows the seaweed accumulation is creating a horrible problem for our City, not just because it's unsightly but also because it has an odor and has potential health risks. He thanked the County for attending the meeting and stated that the City will work with all the different Government agencies to find a solution to this problem.

Commissioner Samuelian stated he fully supported the comments from Commissioner Gongora. This issue is hitting Countries all over the world and he wants to be ahead of the curve. He wants the City to be solution focused and suggested the City look at other cities/countries to see how they are dealing with this issue, research to see if this issue can be prevented and if there are opportunities to use the seaweed for other purposes.

Commissioner Higgins informed the Committee of the current efforts by the County to handle this issue. They have formed a team to focus on this issue, consisting of the Parks Director, Maria Nardi, representatives from DERM and the Health Department. The County gave a presentation to the Committee.

Several members of the community expressed their concerns over this issue and their strong desire for a quick resolution.

City Manager stated he has met with the County several times regarding this issue. He suggested a pilot program addressing the hot spots and researching different methods for removing the seaweed.

County representatives stated they would update the County Mayor on the discussion held by the Committee and inform him of Miami Beach's request for a pilot program. The County stated that this matter is of the utmost importance to them and they would work with Miami Beach on resolutions to the problem. The County also stated they wrote a letter to the Governor to help with this matter and they are waiting on the State for a permit to be able to remove or mound the seaweed.

Commissioner Gongora asked for a follow up discussion regarding the potential health issues and risks with the water and air quality resulting from the seaweed accumulation.

Commissioner Malakoff stated that this issue is very important to the City because our beaches are a major part our identity. She asked that the County look into the engineering of the rock jetty and look for solutions to prevent the seaweed from coming into our shores, including the use of netting.

Commissioner Steinberg stated that the full Committee should sponsor this item to reflect a united front for this extremely important issue.

Direction: Commissioner Gongora motioned for the Administration to work with the County to find immediate funding for a pilot program, specifically in the area of 26th to 31st Street, to provide information on the current water and air quality and report back to the Commission on June 26th. Commissioner Samuelian asked to include the latest information available on the potential health risk of seaweed. The item was moved to Commission by acclamation.

DEFERRED ITEMS

13. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE 23 STREET AND 63 STREET COMPLETE STREETS FEASIBILITY STUDIES.

December 13, 2017 – C4 A

Sponsored by Commissioner Góngora
Transportation

Status: Deferred pending community meeting.

14. DISCUSSION TO CONSIDER THE INSTALLATION OF BEAUTIFUL BARRIERS CONCEPT AS SECURITY BARRIERS AROUND THE CITY.

April 11, 2018 - C4 Q

Sponsored by Commissioner Aleman
Property Management

Status: Deferred pending implementation of a six month pilot program.

15. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF INSTALLING A TURNING LANE WHEN YOU ARE DRIVING EAST ON I-95 HEADING ONTO 41 STREET AND TURNING SOUTH ON ALTON ROAD.

May 16, 2019 – C4 Q

Sponsored by Commissioner Góngora
Transportation

Status: Deferred pending petition results from St. Patrick Catholic School.

16. DISCUSSION REGARDING UNDERGROUNDING FOR NORTH BAY AND ALTON ROAD.

May 16, 2018 - R7 O

Public Works

Status: Item deferred to the July 23, 2019 NCAC meeting.

17. DISCUSSION TO CONSIDER CONCEPTS FOR THE NORTH BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD GREENWAY.

December 12, 2018 - C4 Q

Transportation

Status: Deferred pending traffic study on the one-way portions.

18.DISCUSS REGARDING THE MAYOR'S 41 STREET BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE'S MOTION ABOUT IMPROVING THE LIGHTING ON THE 41ST STREET CORRIDOR, SPECIFICALLY TO ALLOCATE THE 41ST STREET QUALITY OF LIFE FUNDS TOWARDS LIGHTING THE TREES ON THE 41 STREET CORRIDOR.

February 13, 2019 - C4 I

Sponsored by Commissioner Góngora
Property Management

Status: Item deferred to the July 23, 2019 NCAC meeting.

19.DISCUSSION REGARDING EXPLORING ADDITIONAL AVENUES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.

June 6, 2018 – C4 Q

Sponsored by Commissioner Samuelian
Marketing and Communications

Status: Report back to NCAC on a quarterly basis, next discussion on July 23, 2019.

20.DISCUSSION REGARDING THE REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF EXTRANEOUS AND POTENTIALLY OUTDATED LEGISLATION IN MIAMI BEACH.

July 25, 2018 – C4 E

Sponsored by Commissioner Góngora
Office of City Attorney

Status: Deferred pending recommendations from each department. City attorney to bring back comprehensive multi-department recommendation to NCAC meeting when ready.

21.DISCUSSION REGARDING THE LONG WAIT TIMES FOR THE SOUTH BEACH TROLLEYS.

February 13, 2019 - C4 M

Sponsored by Commissioner Góngora
Transportation

Status: Deferred pending completion of ridership data assessment and meeting with Belle Isle Trolley Committee.

22.DISCUSSION TO POTENTIALLY BRING BACK SLEEPLESS NIGHTS.

March 13, 2019 - C4 B

Sponsored by Commissioner Góngora
Tourism and Culture

Status: Deferred to the July 23, 2019 NCAC meeting

23. DISCUSSION REGARDING FINES LEVIED AGAINST PROPERTIES AND A POLICY DECISION AS TO WHEN THE CITY SHOULD MOVE FORWARD WITH FORECLOSURE PROCEEDINGS.

March 13, 2019 - C4 E

Commissioner John Elizabeth Aleman

Code Compliance

Status: Deferred to the September 25, 2019 NCAC meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.