

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY RAUL AGUILA, CITY ATTORNEY

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO:

Mayor Dan Gelber

Members of the City Commission Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

FROM:

Raul J. Aguila, City Attorney 2 ms (8.)

DATE:

July 17, 2019

SUBJECT:

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, CALLING FOR A SPECIAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 5, 2019, FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO THE ELECTORATE OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, A BALLOT QUESTION ASKING WHETHER THE MAIN CONVENTION CENTER PARK/P-LOT (LOCATED GENERALLY WEST OF CONVENTION CENTER DRIVE, EAST OF MERIDIAN AVENUE, AND BETWEEN 18TH AND 19TH STREETS) BE NAMED "PRIDE PARK"?

Pursuant to Section 82-503 of the Code of the City of Miami Beach, the attached Resolution has been prepared calling for a City of Miami Beach Special Election to be held on November 5, 2019, for the purpose of submitting to the City's voters the following question:

In April 2019, the City began construction of a 5.8-acre public park on what is currently a surface parking lot, known as the main Convention Center Park/P-Lot (located generally west of Convention Center Drive, east of Meridian Avenue, and between 18th and 19th Streets). The park will include wandering paths around a central lawn, a play and fitness area, and a Veterans Plaza. Shall the new park be named "Pride Park"?

The subject ballot measure asks the City's voters whether the current surface parking lot, known as the main Convention Center Park/P-Lot ("P-Lot"), located generally west of Convention Center Drive, east of Meridian Avenue, and between 18th and 19th Streets, should be named "Pride Park."

At its meeting on April 24, 2019, the Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee ("NCAC") held a discussion regarding whether to name the P-Lot as "Pride Park." Following the discussion, the NCAC voted to transmit a favorable recommendation on the proposed name to the City Commission.

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On May 8, 2019, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2019-30821, accepting the recommendation of the NCAC to name the P-Lot as "Pride Park," and, pursuant to Section 82-503 of the City Code, setting a public hearing on June 5, 2019, to obtain citizen input and consider the naming request.

Following the duly noticed June 5, 2019 public hearing, the Mayor and City Commission approved, by 5/7ths vote, the naming of the P-Lot as "Pride Park," subject to and contingent upon the approval of the majority of the electorate voting in a Citywide referendum. The subject Resolution calls for a Special Election to be held on November 5, 2019, to submit the request to the City's voters.

Finally, it should be noted that today is the last regularly-scheduled meeting of the City Commission at which a Resolution may be adopted placing a ballot question on the City's November 5, 2019 ballot.¹

RA/FA/sp

¹ NOTE: Should the City Commission wish, after today's meeting, to place a ballot measure on the November 5, 2019 ballot, such action could be taken no later than September 6, 2019 at a Special Commission meeting (such deadline established by County Charter and County Elections Department).