

# MIAMI BEACH

Neighborhood and Quality of Life Committee  
April 28, 2021 - 8:30 AM

Commissioner Micky Steinberg, Chair  
Commissioner Steven Meiner, Vice-Chair  
Commissioner Michael Gongora, Member  
Commissioner David Richardson, Alternate

Eric Carpenter, Liaison  
Christina Baguer, Support Staff

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A meeting of the Neighborhood and Quality of Life Committee was held on Wednesday, April 28, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom. Commissioners in attendance: Micky Steinberg, Steven Meiner, Michael Góngora, and Mark Samuelian. Members from the Administration and the public were also in attendance.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **DISCUSSION REGARDING THE JACK STEWART MURAL PRESENTLY AT THE VERSAILLES AND ITS POSSIBLE RESTORATION AND INSTALLATION ON THE 17TH STREET GARAGE OR SOME OTHER CITY PROPERTY.**

October 14, 2020 C4 M

Commissioner Gongora

Tourism & Culture and Property Management

Commissioner Gongora introduced the item.

Lisette Arrogante, Director of Tourism and Culture updated the Committee and explained the details of staff's recommendation.

**Motion: Move to full Commission accepting Staff's recommendation for the Aman/Faena Group to fully subsidize all restoration and installation, excluding having to pay for permit fees and an endowment. Remove from NQLC agenda.**

2. **DISCUSSION REGARDING CREATING A BEACH WALK ART EXHIBIT.**

January 13, 2021 - C4 P

Commissioner Gongora

Tourism and Culture

Commissioner Gongora introduced the item and updated the Committee on the current artwork being displayed along the beachwalk and staff's recommendation of adding 11 more pieces for \$12,000.

**Motion: By acclamation, the Committee recommended this item be considered during the budget process.**

**3. DISCUSSION REGARDING CREATING AN OUTDOORS BACKDROP FOR MARRIAGE CEREMONIES AND PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES.**

February 10, 2021 - R9 O

Commissioner Gongora and Commissioner Richardson  
Tourism and Culture

Commissioner Gongora introduced the item and explained that this item started with the LGBTQ Committee. Commissioner Gongora explained his interest in the concept of having a fixed backdrop and location for all type of marriage ceremonies.

**Direction: Return to the May 19, 2021 NQLC meeting with potential locations and cost to implement the marriage backdrops.**

**4. DISCUSSION REGARDING WASHINGTON AVENUE TO INCLUDE THE CURRENT LANE CLOSURES.**

February 10, 2021 - R9 W

Commissioner Michael Gongora  
Transportation & Mobility

Commissioner Gongora introduced the item and explained the complaints he has received regarding traffic and the concerns of the cycling community that the bicycle lanes will be removed.

Jose Gonzalez, Director of Transportation, gave an overview of the current pilot program and the benefits and challenges.

Public transit has been moved to Collins to accommodate the pilot program and Miami-Dade County expressed concerns and wants to return transit to Washington as soon as possible.

The Administration is looking for solutions that will not hurt the parklets or bicycle lanes.

**Direction: Return to the July 21, 2021 NQLC meeting with an update on the transit issue and potential solutions for continuing or modifying the current pilot program. If Miami-Dade County wants to move the transit back to Washington before July, bring back to Committee immediately.**

**5. MONTHLY CRIME UPDATE.**

February 14, 2018 - R9 X

Commissioner Gongora  
Police Department

Commissioner Gongora introduced the item and asked Chief Clements questions regarding arrest statistics and technology update.

Rick Clements, Chief of Police and Major Henry Doce presented to the Committee the arrest statistics and provided an update on how technology is helping the Department, especially during the high impact weekends.

**Direction: Return to the June 30, 2021 NQLC meeting and discuss how police resources are being impacted in Mid Beach and other residential areas and policy around police deployment of technology.**

**6. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE SOBESAFE RESOLUTION ON PUBLIC SAFETY.**

February 10, 2021 - C4 J

Commissioner Samuelian and Commissioner Gongora

Police Department

Commissioner Samuelian introduced the item and asked for further detail on the plans for technology that is already coming together, such as LPR's and cameras from GOB projects. He also asked what else we can do in the area of technology and requested an assessment of current lighting in the Art Deco Cultural District.

Commissioner Gongora agreed with Commissioner Samuelian and added a request for an update on the lighting challenges in Lummus Park.

**Direction: Return to the May 19, 2021 NQLC meeting to discuss the questions from Commissioner's Samuelian and Gongora. Police to schedule a meeting with both Commissioner's to discuss item before the May 19<sup>th</sup> agenda is printed.**

**7. DISCUSS UPDATE TO THE COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER PATROL ROLLOUT.**

February 10, 2021 - R9 Y

Commissioner Meiner

Police Department

Commissioner Meiner introduced the item and gave an overview of his endeavor since January of 2020 to implement this community volunteer program to help improve the quality of life and public safety of our City. Commissioner Meiner noted that the name until now has been Civilian Volunteer Patrol and his preference is the original name.

Paul Acosta, Assistant Chief of Police addressed the Committee and explained the Police Department is exciting to start the program and expressed that the Department had no issues with the name of the program to be Civilian Volunteer Patrol and they are ready to move forward.

**Direction: If there is any future action required, take to the full Commission. Remove from NQLC agenda.**

**8. DISCUSSION REGARDING METHODS TO REDUCE EXCESSIVE VEHICULAR SPEEDING IN MIAMI BEACH**

October 14, 2020 C4 Q

Commissioner Steven Meiner

Transportation & Mobility

Commissioner Meiner introduced the item and commended the Police on addressing this issue

Jose Gonzalez, Director of Transportation and Mobility presented and updated the Committee on the issues surrounding the intersection of Normandy Drive and Vichy Drive. Mr. Gonzalez informed the Committee that FDOT is expediting the issuance of a Notice To Proceed to a contractor for the installation of plastic delineators at the intersection of Normandy Drive and Vichy Drive. Staff is also working with FDOT for added traffic calming devices and will update Commission via LTC when updates are available.

Wayne Jones, Deputy Chief of Police explained their responsiveness to speeding complaints and their ongoing enforcement efforts.

**Direction: Remove from NQLC agenda.**

**9. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE ADDITION OF A 4-WAY STOP IN THE VICINITY OF 40<sup>TH</sup> STREET AND CHASE AVENUE TO IMPROVE VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY.**

March 18, 2020 - C4 K

Commissioner Steven Meiner

Transportation & Mobility

Commissioner Meiner introduced the item and explained the complaints he has been receiving regarding speeding and accidents.

Jose Gonzalez, Director of Transportation and Mobility, addressed the Committee and explained that he would investigate the accident history and make sure they are being addressed. Mr. Gonzalez stated that the signal timing issue can be corrected by his Department.

Mr. Gonzalez explained that this intersection is under the jurisdiction of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Therefore, any changes would have to be reviewed and approved by FDOT. Mr. Gonzalez informed the Committee of ongoing collaboration between the City and FDOT to improve the safety conditions at this intersection.

**Motion: Move to the full Commission, a resolution affirming all the steps the City would like to take at this intersection and asking FDOT to work expeditiously to complete. Motioned by Commissioner Meiner and Seconded by Commissioner Gongora.**

**10. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE FLYOVER ROUTES ESTABLISHED BY THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION.**

February 10, 2021 - C4 O

Commissioner Steven Meiner

Transportation & Mobility

**Item was deferred to the May 19, 2021 NQLC Meeting.**

**11. DISCUSSION REGARDING POSSIBLE WAYS TO IMPROVE THE HOMELESS ISSUE.**

December 9, 2020 - C4 S

Commissioner Steven Meiner

Office of Housing and Community Services

Maria Ruiz, Director of Housing and Community Services provided the Committee with an update.

**Direction: Add Police Department to the item and return to the June 30, 2021 NQLC meeting with an update.**

**12. DISCUSSION REGARDING NOISE CONCERNS IN THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH.**

October 14, 2020 C4 N

Commissioner Samuelian and Commissioner Meiner

Code Compliance

Commissioner Samuelian introduced the item and asked questions specific to vehicular noise, ambient music and party houses/Short Term Rental's.

Samuelian asked that the Administration address the vehicular noise – citations on noise coming from vehicles, unorthodox vehicles, slingshot, golf carts – Miami Beach rentals return at 7:00. Other ideas for tackling these noise issues.

Alek Boksner, Deputy City Attorney, addressed the Committee and discussed the options available for addressing vehicles with modified mufflers and how the Police Department can enforce. Mr. Boksner also addressed the unorthodox vehicles such as slingshots. He stated that the enforcement on those vehicles can be accomplished using the City and County noise ordinance.

**Motion: Send to full Commission a recommendation to update the ordinance that regulates the return of scooter rentals, to mandate unorthodox vehicles such as slingshots, when rented in Miami Beach, be returned by 7:00 p.m. Motion made by Commissioner Meiner and seconded by Commissioner Gongora. The Committee would like to know ahead of the Commission meeting how many Miami Beach rental businesses rent out slingshots.**

**Direction: Return to the May 19, 2021 NQLC meeting to discuss how we are enforcing vehicular noise, what are the stats on the enforcement and did the Ambient music restrictions during COVID help tamper the noise levels.**

**13. QUARTERLY BUILDING DEPARTMENT UPDATE.**

January 15, 2020 - R9 Y

NQLC Committee

Building

Ana Salgueiro presented the item and provided the Committee with an update on ongoing improvements in the Building Department.

**Direction: Return the July 21, 2021 NQLC meeting.**

**14. DISCUSSION REGARDING AMENDING THE SPECIAL MASTER ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND PROCEDURES TO ENSURE THAT CERTAIN CODE VIOLATIONS SUCH AS LIFE SAFETY OR HABITUAL PROPERTY VIOLATIONS ARE PRIORITIZED ON THE SPECIAL MASTER CALENDAR AND ARE SET FOR HEARING ON A PRIORITY BASIS WITHOUT UNDUE DELAY.**

January 13, 2021 C4 O  
Commissioner Meiner  
Legal

Commissioner Meiner introduced the item and explained the issues with timing of items being heard at Special Master Hearings.

Alek Boksner, Deputy City Attorney, explained that the process has been updated to include chief Special Master entered an administrative order delineating six violations that will take priority over other violations for both scheduling and time of compliance. The order is effective as of April 26, 2021.

**Direction: Remove from NQLC agenda.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**15. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY TO EXTEND THE OUTDOOR SEATING PROGRAM IN SELECTED AREAS.**

March 17, 2021 - C4 O  
Commissioner Steven Meiner  
Public Works

Commissioner Meiner introduced the item and explained there is nothing new and item should be deferred to the September NQLC meeting.

Commissioner Gongora stated that this item should be discussed with the Washington Avenue discussion returning to NQLC in July.

**Direction: Commissioner Meiner stated he would advise at a later time if the item would return to NQLC in July or September.**

**16. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AT THE INTERSECTION OF ALTON ROAD AND CHASE AVENUE**

March 17, 2021 - C4 N  
Commissioner Steven Meiner  
Transportation & Mobility

Commissioner Meiner introduced the item and gave a brief history on the issue on this intersection.

Jose Gonzalez, Director of Transportation and Mobility presented the item.

**Motion: Move to full Commission consent agenda motioned by Commissioner Meiner and seconded by Commissioner Gongora. Remove from NQLC agenda.**

**17. DISCUSSION REGARDING RENAMING A PUBLIC STREET AFTER SIMON BOLIVAR**

March 17, 2021 - C4 R  
Commissioner Michael Gongora  
Transportation & Mobility

Commissioner Gongora introduced the item and expressed his desire for renaming a City street after Simon Bolivar.

Commissioner Meiner would like to name streets after Miami Beach residents that have made an impact in our City.

**Motion: By acclamation, the Committee moved this item to the full Commission without a recommendation. The Committee requested this item be included with the other street naming items sponsored by Commissioner Richardson. Remove from the NQLC agenda.**

18. **DISCUSSION REGARDING THE NUMBER OF TAXI PARKING SPACES IN MIAMI BEACH.**

March 17, 2021 - C4 M  
Commissioner Gongora  
Parking

Commissioner Gongora introduced the item and asked staff if they could reduce the number of taxi parking spaces and include more flex spaces to include ride sharing and other public uses.

Monica Beltran, Director of Parking explained that the spaces can be evaluated, and can be changed as the need arises and offered to investigate any complaints received by Commission.

**Direction: Remove from the NQLC agenda.**

19. **DISCUSSION REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF VIRTUAL SCHOOL TOURS TO PROMOTE THE MIAMI BEACH K-12 EDUCATION SYSTEM TO FAMILIES CONSIDERING A MOVE TO MIAMI BEACH.**

March 17, 2021 - C4 P  
Commissioner Steven Meiner  
Organizational Development Performance Initiatives

Commissioner Meiner introduced the Item and explained the concern from the Committee for Quality Education regarding students and parents' ability to tour Miami Beach schools when decided what school to attend.

Dr. Leslie Rosenfeld, Chief Learning Development Officer, presented to the Committee and asked for direction to develop virtual public-school tours.

**Motion: Move to full Commission consent agenda with a recommendation to direct the Administration to develop virtual school tours. Motioned by Commissioner Gongora and seconded by Commissioner Meiner. Remove from NQLC agenda.**

20. **AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 46 OF THE MIAMI BEACH CITY CODE, ENTITLED "ENVIRONMENT," BY AMENDING ARTICLE II, ENTITLED "CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF TREES AND PLANTS," BY AMENDING DIVISION 2, ENTITLED "TREE PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION," BY AMENDING SECTION 46-58, ENTITLED "TREE REMOVAL REQUIREMENTS, EXEMPTIONS, AND PROHIBITED SPECIES" TO PROHIBIT REMOVAL OF TREES AND PALMS IDENTIFIED IN APPENDIX F OF THE URBAN FORESTRY MASTER PLAN FROM PUBLIC PROPERTY; AMENDING SECTION 46-**

**63 THEREOF, ENTITLED "CRITERIA AND CONDITIONS FOR HERITAGE TREE DESIGNATION AND HERITAGE TREE REMOVAL AND RELOCATION," TO PERMIT PALMS OR GROUPING OF PALMS TO QUALIFY FOR DESIGNATION AS HERITAGE TREES IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER SPECIMEN TREES; AND, PROVIDING FOR REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Commissioner Steven Meiner  
Office of the City Attorney

**Item was deferred to the May 19, 2021 NQLC Meeting.**

## **DEFERRED ITEMS**

- 21. DISCUSSION REGARDING PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ON THE BEACHWALK**  
December 11, 2019 - C4G  
Commissioner Micky Steinberg  
Transportation & Mobility  
**Status: Deferred to the May 19, 2021 NQLC meeting.**
- 22. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TRAFFIC ANALYSIS FOR THE 63 STREET COMPLETE STREETS STUDY PROPOSING ELIMINATION OF ONE EASTBOUND LANE ON 63 STREET TO ACCOMMODATE PROTECTED BICYCLE LANES.**  
November 16, 2020 - C4A  
Transportation & Mobility  
**Status: Deferred to the May 19, 2021 NQLC meeting.**
- 23. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE TOPS PROGRAM: OFF DUTY POLICE.**  
October 30, 2019 - C4G  
Commissioner Samuelian  
Police  
**Status: Deferred to the June 30, 2021 NQLC meeting.**
- 24. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE NORTH BEACH REGIONAL PARKING PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS**  
October 30, 2019 - C4 F  
Commissioner Samuelian  
Parking  
**Status: Deferred to the June 30, 2021 NQLC meeting.**
- 25. DISCUSSION REGARDING LIGHTING IN LUMMUS PARK AND MARINE TURTLE PROTECTION.**  
March 18, 2020 - C4 H  
Environment and Sustainability  
**Status: Deferred to the June 30, 2021 NQLC meeting.**
- 26. DISCUSSION REGARDING CITY'S WEBSITE AND THE STRATEGIC MARKETING PLAN FOR 2021.**  
February 10, 2021 - R9 T  
Commissioner Steinberg and Commissioner Meiner  
Communications; I.T.  
**Status: Deferred to the June 30, 2021 NQLC meeting.**



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

July 25, 2018 - C4 E

Commissioner Gongora

Office of the City Attorney

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

**ADDENDUM**

**28. DISCUSSION REGARDING AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 142-3 OF THE CITY CODE, TO PROHIBIT PERSONS AND BUSINESS ENTITIES FROM ENGAGING IN THE RENTAL OR LEASE OF MOTOR VEHICLES IN ALL ZONING CATEGORIES IN THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH.**

March 17, 2021 - C4 J

Commissioner Richardson

Legal

Alek Boksner, Deputy City Attorney addressed the Committee and explained the draft ordinance.

**Direction: Deferred to the May 19, 2021 NQLC meeting.**

**Adjourned – 12:13 p.m.**