

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
FROM: Rafael A. Paz, City Attorney
DATE: October 26, 2022

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, URGING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY (THE "COUNTY") TO EVALUATE THE COUNTY'S CURRENT CONFIGURATION OF THE BELLE ISLE RIGHT-OF-WAY AND TRAFFIC SIGNALS ON VENETIAN WAY, AT THE INTERSECTION OF CENTURY LANE AND ISLAND AVENUE, AND TO IDENTIFY FUNDING TO ACCOMPLISH THE RE-CONFIGURATION OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY AND TRAFFIC INTERSECTION AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE, AND THEREBY IMPROVE TRAFFIC SAFETY AND TRAFFIC FLOW AT THIS INTERSECTION; FURTHER, DIRECTING THE CITY'S TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY DEPARTMENT TO WORK WITH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY ON POTENTIAL OPTIONS FOR THE RE-CONFIGURATION OF THE INTERSECTION; AND FURTHER, REFERRING THIS ITEM TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE FOR AN UPDATE ON DISCUSSIONS WITH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND ANY ISSUES RELATED THERETO WHICH MAY REQUIRE CITY COMMISSION ACTION.

ANALYSIS

Pursuant to the request of Commissioner Steven Meiner, the above-referenced Resolution is submitted for consideration by the Mayor and City Commission at the October 26, 2022 Commission meeting.

SUPPORTING SURVEY DATA

N/A

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

N/A

Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-14?

Does this item utilize G.O. Bond Funds?

Yes

No

Legislative Tracking

Office of the City Attorney

Sponsor

Commissioner Steven Weiner

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

▯ Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, URGING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY (THE "COUNTY") TO EVALUATE THE COUNTY'S CURRENT CONFIGURATION OF THE BELLE ISLE RIGHT-OF-WAY AND TRAFFIC SIGNALS ON VENETIAN WAY, AT THE INTERSECTION OF CENTURY LANE AND ISLAND AVENUE, AND TO IDENTIFY FUNDING TO ACCOMPLISH THE RE-CONFIGURATION OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY AND TRAFFIC INTERSECTION AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE, AND THEREBY IMPROVE TRAFFIC SAFETY AND TRAFFIC FLOW AT THIS INTERSECTION; FURTHER, DIRECTING THE CITY'S TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY DEPARTMENT TO WORK WITH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY ON POTENTIAL OPTIONS FOR THE RE-CONFIGURATION OF THE INTERSECTION; AND FURTHER, REFERRING THIS ITEM TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE FOR AN UPDATE ON DISCUSSIONS WITH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND ANY ISSUES RELATED THERETO WHICH MAY REQUIRE CITY COMMISSION ACTION.

WHEREAS, on September 21, 2022, the Belle Isle Residents Association adopted a resolution requesting that the City work with Miami-Dade County (the "County") to address a problematic County right-of-way and traffic signal on Venetian Way, at the intersection of Century Lane and Island Avenue; and

WHEREAS, currently, there are frequent vehicle traffic backups along Venetian Way from the East Bascule Bridge into Sunset Harbour and South Beach; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the frequent delays and backups caused by the East Bascule Bridge opening, there is a problematic traffic signal and right-of-way configuration on Venetian Way, at the intersection of Century Lane and Island Avenue, adding to the buildup of traffic not only on the Venetian Way but also entering and exiting the west end of Island Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the current configuration involves four separate lights at one intersection and an awkward right-of-way design, causing confusion for motorists, especially the many visitors to the Standard Hotel who are not accustomed to the intersection; and

WHEREAS, vehicles often use the incorrect incoming/outgoing lanes of the intersection to and from Venetian Way to Island Avenue, presenting a potential safety hazard for motorists; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the "long" left turn from Island Ave/Century Lane to eastbound Venetian Way causes confusion for many drivers when they see the separate traffic light on Venetian Way, which is intended for Venetian Way traffic and not Island Ave/Century Lane traffic, resulting in left-turning vehicles often stopping in the middle of the intersection under the mistaken belief that it is the traffic light designated for their lane; and

WHEREAS, such confusion often creates potentially unsafe conditions for motorists and pedestrians, with drivers deviating from the intended path, unknowingly running through red lights, or creating roadblocks and delays for other vehicles; and

WHEREAS, re-configuring the Venetian Way intersection will not only solve the safety issues caused by the current intersection configuration, but also improve traffic flow on the Venetian Way and reduce the backup traffic for residents trying to reach their homes on Belle Isle, traffic which will only be exacerbated once the two large residential projects at 31 Venetian Way are completed; and

WHEREAS, further adding to the confusion is a large grassy area/island (the "Island") in front of the Standard Hotel containing an overhead streetlight and two (2) traffic signs, with vehicle traffic passing on both sides; and

WHEREAS, the Island can be eliminated or easily be reduced in size, creating additional space for traffic engineers to devise a potential reconfiguration and better alignment with the street on the west side of the Island and sidewalk in front of the "Vistas" property at 1 Century Lane, all in an effort to improve traffic flow; and

WHEREAS, for the following reasons, the Mayor and City Commission respectfully urge Miami-Dade County to prioritize this important traffic safety issue and identify funding for a re-configuration of the intersection, and further direct the City's Transportation and Mobility Department to work with the County to identify potential solutions for the County's consideration, in an effort to collaboratively address the traffic safety and traffic flow issues caused by the County's existing configuration; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission also desire for this matter to be referred to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee, for a progress update on discussions with the County, as well as any issues related thereto which may require City Commission input or action.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby urge Miami-Dade County ("County") to evaluate the County's current configuration of the right-of-way and traffic signals on Venetian Way, at the intersection of Century Lane and Island Avenue on Belle Isle, and to identify funding to accomplish the re-configuration of the right-of-way and traffic intersection as expeditiously as possible, and thereby improve traffic safety and traffic flow at this intersection; further, direct the City's Transportation and Mobility Department to work with Miami-Dade County on potential options for the re-configuration of the intersection; and further, refer this item to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee for an update on discussions with Miami-Dade County, and any issues related thereto which may require City Commission action.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____ 2022.

ATTEST:

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk
(Sponsored by Commissioner Steven Meiner)

Dan Gelber, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

City Attorney PAZ

10-19-22

Date