New Business and Commission Requests - R9 AB

MIAMIBEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
FROM: Commissioner David Suarez
DATE: March 13, 2024

SUBJECT: DISCUSS/TAKE ACTION TO POTENTIALLY ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE UTILIZATION OF CAMERA TECHNOLOGY IN ORDER TO ISSUE WARNINGS TO MOTORISTS CREATING EXCESSIVE AND UNNECESSARY TRAFFIC CONGESTION BY "BLOCKING THE BOX" IN VIOLATION OF STATE LAW.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

Was Agenda Item initially requested by a lobbyist which, as defined in Code Sec. 2-481, includes a principal engaged in lobbying?
No

If so, specify name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s): N/A

ANALYSIS

I would like to discuss the potential installation, implementation, and utilization of cameras to issue warnings to motorists that "block the box" in violation of State law, particularly on the cross-streets along 41st Street, thereby creating dangerous situations and exacerbating traffic congestion in the City.

Florida Statute 316.2061 prohibits any driver from entering an intersection or a marked crosswalk unless there is sufficient space on the other side of the intersection or crosswalk to accommodate the vehicle the driver is operating without obstructing the passage of other vehicles or pedestrians, notwithstanding any traffic control signal indication to proceed. By violating Fla. Stat. 316.2061, drivers not only create substantial additional traffic congestion and increase drive times around the City, but also endanger pedestrians who often must perilously cross busy streets by weaving in between vehicles illegally obstructing pedestrian crosswalks and roadways.

Accordingly, I would request that the City Administration, upon consideration of all relevant factors (including, but not limited to safety, cost, and effectiveness), provide the Mayor and City Commission with its recommendation and position regarding the potential implementation of a Pilot Program to utilize camera technology in order to issue warnings to motorists "blocking the box" in violation of State law (in particular on the cross-streets along 41st Street), along with any specific issues or concerns relating to this initiative, so that my colleagues and I may discuss and take any appropriate action.

SUPPORTING SURVEY DATA

N/A

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Administration is requested to be prepared to address the fiscal impact of this proposed measure, if any, at the March 13, 2024 City Commission meeting.

Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-14?	Does this item utilize G.O. Bond Funds?
No	No

Legislative Tracking

Commissioner David Suarez

Sponsor

Co-sponsored by Mayor Meiner, and Commissioners Fernandez and Bhatt