

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: October 18, 2017

SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (NCAC)
MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

A meeting of the Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee was held on Wednesday, September 27, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, 3rd Floor of City Hall. Commissioners in attendance: Commissioners Micky Steinberg, Kristen Rosen Gonzalez, John Elizabeth Alemán, and Joy Malakoff. Members from the Administration and the public were also in attendance.

MEETING OPENED AT 1:09 P.M.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **DISCUSSION REGARDING THE RENAMING OF NORTH SHORE OPEN SPACE PARK TO NORTH BEACH OCEANSIDE PARK**
June 7, 2017 - C4 D
Sponsored by Commissioner Alemán
Parks and Recreation

ACTION

DIRECTION: Defer to the October 27, 2017 NCAC meeting.

2. **DISCUSSION REGARDING THE RENAMING OF NORTH SHORE OPEN SPACE PARK TO NORTH SHORE OCEANSIDE PARK**
July 26, 2017 - C4 T
Sponsored by Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez
Parks and Recreation

ACTION

DIRECTION: Defer to the October 27, 2017 NCAC meeting.

3. **DISCUSSION REGARDING ANO PANHANDLING ZONE ON LINCOLN ROAD**
April 26, 2017 - C4 Q
Sponsored by Commissioner Alemán and Commissioner Malakoff
Office of the City Attorney

ACTION

Aleksandr Boksner, Deputy City Attorney, began by recapping the last time this issue was brought to the commission. The goal had been to narrowly tailor and enact an ordinance that would address panhandling on Lincoln Road. However, the City of Miami's ordinance against panhandling has been invalidated at this point in time. He did not believe that it would be prudent to attempt to enact this ordinance, and was moving to withdraw this matter until we have more clarity on the issue.

Commissioner Malakoff inquired if the City of Miami's ordinance had been appealed.

Aleksandr Boksner stated that from his understanding it will be appealed, but he did not know if this has happened yet.

Commissioner Malakoff stated we should come back and revisit this item after it has been appealed in the City of Miami.

Aleksandr Boksner stated that unfortunately the swing in the federal courts has been to invalidate such ordinances.

Commissioner Alemán moved to withdraw the item, and asked that he keep an eye on the issue. Pending the progress of the situation; if things change and it looks optimistic then he could bring it back.

Motion: Item has been withdrawn by acclamation.

4. **DISCUSSION REGARDING THE INSTALLATION OF LANDSCAPING BY THE MURANO AT PORTOFINO CONDOMINIUM ALONG THE PUBLIC BAYWALK ADJACENT TO THE MIAMI BEACH MARINA**

April 26, 2017 - C4 S

Tourism, Culture, and Economic Development

ACTION

DIRECTION: Defer to the October 27, 2017 NCAC meeting, pending further discussion.

5. **DISCUSSION REGARDING A REQUEST FOR THE CITY TO SPONSOR THE STING SWIM CLUB**

June 28, 2017 - C4 D

Sponsored by Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez
Parks and Recreation

ACTION

ITEM WITHDRAWN

NEW BUSINESS

6. **DISCUSSION REGARDING AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE HOURS OF OPERATION FOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE SUNSET HARBOUR NEIGHBORHOOD**

July 26, 2017 - C4 P

Office of the City Attorney / Planning

ACTION

Commissioner Steinberg stated that Commissioner Ricky Arriola, the sponsor of the item, is not present. The committee will be taking testimony and hearing from the public, however no action would be taken that day.

Juan Carlos Planes, representative from Purdy Lounge, stated that this establishment is one of the longest operating businesses in the area. He began a PowerPoint presentation on Purdy lounge that included the history of the establishment, as well as information on how it has worked with the community. He stated that Purdy Lounge cannot afford to operate if it is forced to close at 2 a.m. Instead of passing an ordinance, which he felt would violate the equal protection laws in Florida, he asked that the city keep working with Purdy lounge to improve the conditions outside the establishment. He stated that this establishment is a significant and important part of the community.

Commissioner Malakoff wanted to know what Purdy Lounge was doing to be better neighbors to the residents of Sunset Harbour.

Juan Carlos Planes explained that Purdy Lounge has put up signs notifying patrons to keep quiet while outside. They have seen no issues in the last few months that would not be typical of the Sunset Harbour area, and reminded the committee it is an industrial zone. In addition to signs, they have also set up cameras outside and hired police officers on the weekends to maintain a peaceful line at the entrance. Just like with any other bar in the city, incidents on the street have been handled appropriately by police offices, which is something Purdy would like to continue.

Commissioner Malakoff asked if the owners of Purdy Lounge are hiring off-duty police officers.

Juan Carlos Planes stated that they are.

Sara De Los Reyes, Director and president of Sunset Harbour neighborhood association and resident since 1998, stated that everything happens after 2:00 a.m. Including an incident where a woman was screaming very loudly at 4:00 a.m. Officers were present but could not write a report because she was not violating any laws, however the screaming was very disruptive. She gave a few more examples of disruptive patrons that attend Purdy, and discussed how their behavior continues to get worse with the consumption of alcohol served after 2:00 a.m. She stated that there have been many meetings with Purdy Lounge, and corroborated they have hired officers and put up signs on their property. However, she stated these officers cannot do much if patrons are not breaking the law, and many of these behaviors are not unlawful but are disruptive to the neighborhood. She passed out that had been signed by 194 residents.

Bruce Packnan, Director of Sunset Harbor neighborhood association, stated that Purdy lounge had not been good neighbors. He countered their argument, which stated they could not make money if they closed down by 2:00 a.m. He added that restaurants that are closed before 2:00 a.m. are still prospering, and food has a much lower margin industry than alcohol. He stated that of off-duty officers on weekends are not sufficient, since Purdy Lounge is open every day of the week. The hiring of the police officers has not been consistent. Officers do not patrol outside of the location; they are in their car with the windows rolled up and cannot hear.

Jason, General Manager at Purdy Lounge, stated they have not had a hip-hop night in 6 months, but instead have been focusing on more rock-n-roll music, which has brought on a better crowd. Purdy Lounge hired Karma PR, and they have helped target a different demographic. Off-duty officers patrol on Fridays and Saturdays. In addition, there had been an extra security guard hired that guides guests away from the building.

Kelly Newgent, an employee at Purdy for eight years, spoke about what a great establishment Purdy Lounge is to work for. The bar/lounge cares about its employees and many have worked there for many years and are considered family. She countered resident's claims and stated that they do help the community, using the example of Hurricane Irma. They made sure to give out ice to residents, as well as let people hang out to just charge their electronics. Ms. Newgent ended by saying that Purdy means a lot to a lot of people and is an institution of Sunset Harbour.

Commissioner Alemán inquired regarding what zoning allows.

Bruce Packnan stated that Purdy's side of the street is CD2, the other side is industrial.

Commissioner Malakoff stated the problem was summarized very clearly by Bruce and Sara. She also stated however, that Purdy Lounge is trying very hard to be a good neighbor and goes on to reiterate all the steps they have taken to improve the situation. However, she had an issue with the inconsistency of hired off-duty police officers. She was willing to give Purdy another year, but they cannot stop having off-duty officers and need to be consistent. She added that there is no reason why police officers cannot remove people disturbing the peace.

Commissioner Alemán wanted to know why there have been periods of time where the off-duty officers have been let go.

Juan Carlos Planes explained that Zika was to blame. After news of Zika came out, the area was a deadzone and they lost a lot of business.

John Deharme, Owner of Purdy Lounge, stated that police officers pulled back from all clubs and bars after Zika. The only reason police officers were pulled out the first time was because the police department pulled them. The second time it occurred was due to their sales going down by 60% after Zika, and Purdy lounge could not afford to keep them. He stated that they are committed to have them now that things are back to normal.

Commissioner Alemán stated that her expectations going forward are that if there have any unforeseen circumstances where they cannot maintain police officers, they should keep the lines of communication with the neighborhood open.

Bruce Packnan state that one year is too long to allow this to go on.

Juan Carlos Planes brought up Roberts Rules of order to see what would happen with item after elections. When a new term of commission begins, he wanted to know if this ordinance would need to be brought up again with a new referral.

Commissioner Alemán stated that it is reasonable to expect open dialogue, proactive communication, and good faith between the establishment and the community.

Juan Carlos Planes pointed out that it is difficult to have a long term business plan, if they have to come back every few months and ask for an extension like the neighborhood is asking of them. He felt 9 months to a year is more reasonable than the 3 months the neighbors are asking for.

Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez stated that she understood that noise travels upwards and is more disruptive to the residents above Purdy. However, she believed all police were dismissed and their prices doubled after Zika. She stated there was good faith on behalf of Purdy Lounge, and would like to defer this item for 6 months as a compromise.

Juan Carlos Planes state that Sunset Harbour is an industrial area with a park, marina, parking lot, and traffic passing by generating noise. He felt residents should know that a certain level of noise is to be expected when living in cities, and learning to live with the noise is part of being resident there. He stated it is not fair to blame Purdy as the sole source of the resident's grief.

Commissioner Alemán stated that they can give Purdy a year with these new sets of expectations.

Commissioner Steinberg asked for Purdy Lounge to come back in 6 months with a verbal update and have the ordinance return in a year.

Bruce Packnan asked that it should be kept at a reasonable time and season, since many residents are not here during hurricane season or the summer. He stated that 6 months is sufficient.

Juan Carlos Planes stated that 6 months with a verbal update and a year to defer is more logical.

Commissioner Malakoff stated that 6 months is acceptable since the sponsor of the ordinance was ready to act on it today but could not be present. She stated Purdy should take the next six months to be good neighbors and keep the noise down from 2:00 a.m. – 5:00 a.m.

Juan Carlos Planes countered that even if they do defer the ordinance 6 months, it will take time to put into place because he believes some legal issues will be faced.

Motion: Commissioners motion to defer item for six months.

7. **DISCUSSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROJECT FOR PLACEMENT AT SOUNDSCAPE PARK**

July 26, 2017 - C4 Q

Tourism, Culture, and Economic Development

ACTION

DIRECTION: Defer to the October 27, 2017 NCAC meeting, pending review of the Design Review Board.

ADDENDUM

8. **DISCUSSION REGARDING RESIDENTIAL PARKING RATES FOR RESIDENTS WITHOUT A MOBILE PHONE**

September 25, 2017 - R9 AF

Sponsored by Commissioner Steinberg

Parking

ACTION

Commissioner Steinberg quoted an email that stated there are thousands of seniors that do not have a smartphones or know how to use one, but are still able to operate a vehicle. The cheapest phone plans can cost up to \$100 per year, and the AARP phone comes with an expensive calling plan. She stated this may be a bigger issue than we may realize.

Saul Frances, Parking Director, stated there are a couple of options they can pursue. There is a resident parking rate available through ParkMobile, which comes with a discount and waiver of the convenience fee. As of 2016, 95% of adults have at least a cellphone and 77% of those have a smartphone. ParkMobile has an 800 number that residents can call if they do not have a smartphone

In addition, an enhancement to the pay station software would allow the license-plate to be tied to the maximum time limit of their stay. It would provide the resident discount through the pay station. This software development is scheduled for 2019/2020.

The department also found that major phone carriers have an option to provide free mobile phones to individuals who qualify based on income level. Another alternative was to offer a limited quantity of virtual citywide parking permits at an annual rate of \$250, equal to 250 hours of parking to residents with no cellphone/smart phone.

However, an issue is that there is no way to determine if a resident has a smart phone or not. This would be an honor based system. Or residents would need to sign an affidavit that confirms they don't access to a cellphone.

Commissioner Malakoff asked if it would be possible to get more information about the cellphone plan mentioned, since a lot of the senior residents would qualify. She stated there could be neighborhood instructions on how to use these phones as most seniors do not know how to use them, and there is no one to teach them.

Commissioner Steinberg added that the issue is also the fact that some residents may only have a landline, and are not able to dial the 800 number when they need to park. She asked to explore some other options and bring them back in a month.

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez suggested using stickers for those residents until a permanent solution is found.

Kathie Brooks, Assistant City Manager, stated the reason stickers were no longer used was because of the huge potential for fraud. She stated that the option Saul Frances suggested regarding virtual permits, on an interim basis to avoid risk of fraud, would help to reach out to these residents. She added that this could help determine how many hours residents used these permits on average, possibly bringing down the \$250 annual rate that was suggested.

Direction: Reach out to residents who need this assistance to better understand the issue, and continue to research the best solution that would work for them. Defer item to a later date, when research is completed.

9. **DISCUSSION REGARDING THE PROGRESS MADE BY THE ADMINISTRATION TO IMPLEMENT TROLLEY SERVICE FROM MIAMI BEACH TO THE WYNWOOD AND MIDTOWN MIAMI NEIGHBORHOODS**

September 25, 2017 - C4 S

Sponsored by Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez
Transportation

ACTION

Jose Gonzalez, Transportation Director, stated that in previous occasions when the item had gone to the commission, funding had not been approved. They have looked at options based on the county service, to enhance the existing service. Any service

operating on the Venetian Causeway would require the cutaway vehicles and not trolley vehicles, due to weight limitations these are the same vehicles used by the county. The first option would be to reinstate the original level of service, prior to weight restrictions. If it were enhanced to a schedule that would provide a better level of service, the incremental cost is estimated to be \$223,000. The second option would be to take that enhanced level of service mentioned, and extend the route from the Omni Station to the Wynwood area. The incremental cost of this option would be about \$400,000. Funding would still need to be identified for either of these options.

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez stated that she has had several groups of people who live in Belle Isle, who once had a level of service that has now been cut back, and have asked to have the trolley service returned. She noted that she has used city trolleys and has noticed they are often ridden by tourists. She stated that this one route with the cut-away has the benefit of using tourist dollars for a service that can be used by residents as well. This service also has the ability to alleviate traffic. The price of completing this is comparable to the price we have spent on some traffic studies. She asked who was paying for this service prior to the Venetian Causeway construction.

Jose Gonzalez answered that the county paid for these services in the past.

Kathie Brooks, Assistant City Manager, stated it is unlikely the city would have to pay for these services now. However, it is a different cost than that of completely replacing the service with a city-operated service, which would cost \$2-3 million dollars. If the current serviced is enhanced, the price would range from \$200-\$400,000, which may be more palatable to the City of Miami or Wynwood bid to share the cost.

Commissioner Steinberg stated that this is a good compromise, working with Miami and making it more palatable for shared costs.

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez would asked if we could split it equally in thirds.

Commissioner Alemán requested to see if we could get more money from other participating parties, including the Wynwood bid, since they would benefit a lot from this service. A significant portion of the Venetian Islands is located in the City of Miami. She stated that this service benefits a small number of residents, who are taking their business to the Wynwood area. The Venetian Causeway does not have a high impact on traffic. She asked that more research be done on who is benefiting from this service and who would like to help pay for it.

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez pointed out that there are people that will use it on the inverse, bringing their business to Miami Beach.

Commissioner Steinberg asked where the drop-off point on Miami Beach is.

Jose Gonzalez stated it is currently in the Publix on Sunset Harbour, but previously it was by City Center on Washington and 17th.

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez stated that it could be done for a limited time and we could study if residents are using the service. She stated that it is mass transit that will work.

Commissioner Steinberg clarified that the commissioners are willing to explore it further, and give direction to staff to continue conversation with anyone who may be interested in participating.

Commissioner Malakoff inquired if there are any trolley routes that are not being used.

Jose Gonzalez stated they are all heavily used by residents.

Commissioner Steinberg stated that the City of Miami should do a study to see how many people use it to come into Miami Beach; instead of thinking of this service as just a one-way.

Commissioner Alemán stated to prioritize finding out who else would like to participate in payment. She feels this is a service many residents will not benefit from.

Motion: Item deferred to November 27, 2017 commission meeting.

10. **DISCUSS THE PLACEMENT OF FARAH SERVICE USE (URBAN SPORTS EQUIPMENT) AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE CITY**

September 25, 2017 - R9 M

Sponsored by Vice-Mayor Arriola
Parks and Recreation

ACTION

Jose Del Risco, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, stated that the Urban Sports Equipment item had been discussed at the commission meeting Monday, as well discussed by the neighborhood committee. However, it was referred to commission without a recommendation. When discussed at commission, some commissioners were in favor, while others were opposed. The direction was given to be brought back to NCAC to discuss location. Based on the memo provided, there are locations that have been suggested by the Parks Department and the board in the last year. However, any site within the city is open for consideration. The sites discussed by the department were two stations at Lummus Park, two stations at Flamingo Park, Polo Park, Maurice Gibb Memorial Park, North Beach Bandshell Amphitheater, Normandy Isle Park, Fairway Park, Tatum Park, the Venetian Causeway, and West Avenue.

Commissioner Malakoff stated that she originally thought that after the first year, if these were to work out well, then we would have the big ads placed on the U.S.E. However, the instruction manual that goes along with the equipment was shown at the commission meeting. It showed that any sponsorship would be placed on a small bar along the bottom. She has no objection because it would not be putting advertising posters along the city. She stated that these are a good idea and they give more exercise options to residents.

Commissioner Alemán asked for clarification that the only advertisement that will be used will be in the sponsorship section during both the pilot term and long term. She asked if it would be static or digital.

Clarification was given that it would be static and that the advertisement would strictly be a small portion.

Jose Del Risco stated that there is a fitness cluster on 6th street, muscle beach between 8th and 9th, but nothing north of 10th.

Commissioner Alemán restated all of the sites that are being considered and added Brittany Bay Park to the list, since it is getting some renovation of exercise equipment.

Commissioner Steinberg asked logistically how the workout areas would be set up.

Jose Del Risco showed a presentation on U.S.E, and what it will look like once placed on site. He added that they have an ADA compatible platform.

Commissioner Alemán stated that she is not a fan of equipment on street ends and pocket parks. Residents like green space and enjoy sitting by the water without having to put something in every single park we have.

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez agreed, and said her issue with this idea originally was that we were trying to put something in every single green space available.

Commissioner Alemán recommended a few pilot locations. She stated the Venetian Causeway is good because it already has exercise activity. North Beach Bandshell Park has the volleyball area and is a large park. Brittany Bay Park should be considered because it already has the exercise equipment present. South Pointe Park is very large and it is also a fitness destination for residents.

Commissioner Malakoff recommended the northern part of Lummus Park.

Commissioner Alemán stated there are already fitness locations in 2/3 of the parks.

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez added that there is an art piece that is under consideration for placement in Lummus Park.

Commissioner Alemán recommended an exploration of those four sites with specifics of where the equipment would be provided.

Commissioner Malakoff asked if the children's area in Maurice Gibbs Memorial park is separate from the adult area.

Jose Del Risco stated that the children's area is enclosed by fencing, but is located in the center of the park

Commissioner Malakoff stated that Sunset Harbour has a more abundant youth that would enjoy using the equipment more.

Kathie Brooks suggested Fairway park because of its exercise element, like the tennis courts and basketball courts. However, Commissioner Steinberg clarified that there are afterschool programs which make its not suitable.

Jose Del Risco stated they will give proposed locations in these parks, as well as provide additional information on features and equipment needed to build the U.S.E.

Motion: Recommendation was made for four location options: Venetian Causeway, North Beach Bandshell, Brittany Bay Park, and South Pointe Park. Defer to next commission meeting, October 18, 2017.

11. **DISCUSSION REGARDING THE CITY'S PLAN FOR THE CATS AND THEIR HABITAT ALONGSIDE THE BEACHWALK/BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT PROPOSED FOR THE MID-BEACH CORRIDOR**

September 25, 2017 - C4 R
Sponsored by Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez
Capital Improvement Projects

ACTION

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez said she wanted to get on the record of what is going on with the cats, because there are a large amount of cat feeders. We have 400 registered cat feeders.

David Martinez, Capital Improvement Projects Director said that he can update about the project and where they are, but not about the cats. This is the northern piece of the Mid Beach recreational corridor. The sequencing of the construction starts with 6 foot high chain linked fence around the whole work zone. They then pave the area of where the beachwalk will go. They then remove the evasive or exotic vegetation that is remaining within the dunes.

The contractor is well aware of the cat situation. There is a lady in the area that often comes in the work zone and inspects the areas. David Martinez said they have been working with her as best they can; they are willing to walk her through the site as needed and show her the area. They are working with heavy equipment and it moves very slowly, makes a lot of noise and a lot of vibration. If any cats are in the area, they usually leave because of the noise. He said we have not run into any situations.

Eric Carpenter, Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director said that they have engaged Mary Thingelstad from Sobe Cats to be involved in this process. She has been working closely with our in-house cat liaison, who works in public works and they have kept David Martinez informed about their position on the matter. The cats will relocate from their location temporarily during construction and once construction is complete, the cats will return at a future date. He said they are being extra cautious with the cats and the construction.

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez said she would like to make a motion for the City to inform everyone of what we are doing with the cats, so everyone can have an update.

Eric Carpenter said there was an original LTC that went out regarding construction, and he brought a follow up LTC with him that went out on August 10th that dealt with some of the questions regarding the project and one of those questions was regarding the cats.

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez suggested sending out an email. Commissioner Alemán said it is a great idea because recently implemented the feeder badging system and it would be great to market that. There are independent feeders that are out there that we would like to get on the badging system in partnership with Sobe Cats.

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez and Commissioner Alemán requested to have a workshop about the cats like the one that was done with the turtles, with them hosting.

David Martinez reminded the Committee that this is just one of the three pieces that they are doing in Mid Beach for the beachwalk. The second piece to the South is following up very closely; hopefully it will be awarded in October. They are also working on the design of the third piece, which is the section of the boardwalk. At some point they will be construction the beachwalk through North Shore Open Space Park also.

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez suggested sending out a beachwalk update. David Martinez said they typically do an LTC that has come up periodically of updating all of the different beachwalk projects. Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez said to take some pictures and send the community the timeline.

DIRECTION: Send out correspondence to the community about what is going on with the cats and the project.

12. DISCUSSION TO CONSIDER THE INSTALLATION OF A TEMPORARY SKATE PARK IN THE CITY

September 25, 2017 - R9 O

Sponsored by Vice-Mayor Arriola
Parks and Recreation

ACTION

Cindy Casanova, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, presented the item. She said at the September 25th Commission meeting, Commissioner Arriola initiated dialogue about a temporary skatepark in the City of Miami Beach. The idea is to model something similar to what is in Omni Park or in the Village of Key Biscayne. They reached out to the people involved in both projects; it seems that the smallest footprint needed would be 7,500 square feet. Cost estimates range, but the Omni Park model came in at about \$30,000. The direction from the Commission on Monday was to explore locations particularly in the North Beach area, keeping in mind the safety of the patrons coming to use the skatepark and their proximity to Collins Avenue. She explained they were directed to vet different locations in the North Beach area and also cost out amenities associated with the skatepark, such as fencing, benches, trash receptacles, recycle bins, etc. Then to move forward with an RFI process once the location has been determined.

Commissioner Alemán said she received an email from Carolina Jones, the Chair of the Parks and Recreation Facilities Advisory Board and she said she would like to recommend the West Lot immediately north of the North Beach Yard which is a large green field. She also mentioned some other recommendations that Carolina Jones mentioned in her email. Commissioner Alemán said she agrees with the placement of one of the West Lots, next to accessible parking.

Commissioner Alemán said since this is temporary maybe just add some hedges, garbage cans, fencing, and some basic things.

Commissioner Malakoff said she agrees with the West Lots, since the parking is there, so people don't have to cross the street.

MOTION: Commissioner Alemán moved for the 82nd Street side West Lot be looked at for the location of this and come back to Commission with what that would look like and what the costs probably need to be. All in favor.

13. DISCUSSION REGARDING ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR BUS STOPS

September 25, 2017 - C4 E

Sponsored by Commissioner Alemán
Transportation

ACTION

Commissioner Alemán said she noticed this during Tropical Storm Emily. She noticed that the flooding was severe and that was only a Tropical Storm. She said she lives

on Alton Road the outer lanes were completely flooded and impassable and also workers and other people who ride the bus were standing in calf deep water waiting for the bus. There was nowhere to wait to take the bus that was dry. She said in our efforts for rising above, we need to rise above at the bus stops as well. She would like for staff to look at some elevated waiting areas.

Kathie Brooks, Assistant City Manager said that it might end up being a combination between whatever public works is working on with FDOT for Alton Road and the design for our new bus stops and bus shelters, which we would be started the following week.

Jose Gonzalez, Transportation Director said that they can include resiliency in the redesigning of the bus stops and bus shelters. He said they will also work with public works in the shorter term. As they install the shelters, if the sidewalk and street is flooded, there are bigger problems.

Commissioner Alemán would like for Jose Gonzalez to think holistically about solving the problem and if it is strictly an additional requirement in the bus stop itself then put it there, but she suspects it is more than that.

Commissioner Steinberg said she wants to keep in mind those that use the bus stops the most and make sure it is not too raised that it becomes too much of a step for them. She wanted to make sure it serves the purpose of the community that does use the bus stops and they are accessible in every way.

Commissioner Alemán said we can move to that over time. She is not suggesting that this happens with every bus stop in town all at one time. As we touch them, we can do it.

DIRECTION: Incorporate resiliency when redesigning the bus stops.

14. **DISCUSSION REGARDING THE CITY'S HURRICANE PLANS TO EVACUATE SENIOR CITIZENS**

September 25, 2017 - C4 P

Sponsored by Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez
Office of Housing and Community Services

ACTION

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez said before the storm, right after she saw the senior citizens floating in Houston submerged in water she did a few media shows and people were asking what the City's senior citizen evacuation plan is. She said she knows we had one and we did a pretty good job of getting people off of the beach, but she just wanted to find out what we do, how we can improve, and what was learned through this process with the storm.

Maria Ruiz, Director of Housing and Community Services said that Irma was a great teacher. She said things have changed since the last time we had to evacuate people in a storm. The city started the outreach to elder buildings the Tuesday after Labor Day. On Wednesday they started door to door knocking Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Some buildings they went 3 times. They learned that a lot of the buildings with all of these floors are hard to cover when the people are using the elevators to go up and down. They ended up using stairwells to maximize time and cover as many buildings as they could. They learned that 16 of the special needs residents were registered in the special needs program, they encountered a significant number more that should have been in that

program. The process requires the applicant to fill out the form and take it to their doctor for them to certify it, which was a problem.

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez asked what someone is entitled to that registers as a special needs person.

Maria Ruiz explained what the special registry is. Just because someone is elderly and frail doesn't mean they qualify for the special needs registry. The special needs registry says that the person requires some level of extra care. They are medically dependent equipment or oxygen, or they are missing the ability to function on what of the activities of daily living. She said after they encountered people who they thought met that definition, they couldn't get the form certified therefore they couldn't get them into the special needs shelter, the special needs shelter also filled up pretty quickly. The City went through the extraordinary step of finding a nursing home that could take 4 of the clients on a short term basis. It was hard to get people into a nursing home without a screening. Many of the nursing homes who are south of Coral Gables also were evacuating their people. The city was competing with people south of Coral Gables. They were able to place 4 people at a nursing home, but it came at a cost of \$270 per person per day. We were very fortunate that Parks and Recreation had an ADA bus that we were able to move two people at a time in wheelchairs to that site. That took a lot of man power just to handle those 4 individuals. It did not address any of the people that decided to stay in their buildings. The city staff encouraged residents to contact their loved ones to try and help them make decisions. She said she had all 36 of her staff trying to convince people to leave and trying to make arrangements for those who wanted to go but didn't have the means to go. They also had to make arrangements for those who opted to stay to make sure they had water and food and make sure they had information on their loved ones should anything happen to be able to contact them on their behalf. There were a lot of resources that were spent before the storm.

After the storm there were a plethora of issues, which was a big learning curve.

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez said one thing she was worried about was that the seniors told her they didn't want to go to the shelters because we don't know anyone at the shelters and we don't feel safe. She asked if there are special shelters for only senior citizens.

Maria Ruiz said there are 3 kinds of shelters, pet friendly shelters, general population shelters, and special needs shelters. If you were not registered as a special needs person you went to a general population shelter.

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez asked if there is something we can do to work out where our citizens can go to a facility off of Miami Beach, that is not County.

Maria Ruiz said the first issue is MDCDC, as soon as the storm cleared we reached out to them with many concerns that we had regarding their properties before the storm and in the aftermath of the storm. They assured us that all of the elder tenants as part of the annual certification are encouraged to apply for the special needs registration program. The logistics of that program made it difficult for people to register. You don't really get to pick which shelter you go to, you go to the nearest available shelter that either is special needs, pet friendly, or if you are general population. It all depends on the availability of shelters.

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez said for the future we should make sure all people if needed are registered with the special needs program.

Maria Ruiz said they encountered many great people at all of the shelters they interacted with. They also spoke to them as many as 6 times a day, just following up on our clients.

Commissioner Malakoff said that the certification of special needs seems to a very sore point in getting the people out that needed to get out. She said she assumes that each of the senior centers know which of the people living there can't meet one of the five daily functions. She asked if we can get those people certified in advance prior to a storm in every senior center and in the MDCDC buildings where there are some disabled people.

Maria Ruiz said as part of the aftermath they were reaching out to the center and beforehand they actually tried to rush and get people certified before the storm. They just couldn't get medical clearance in time with the doctor's certification. Commissioner Malakoff said they should be done now. She also asked how long the certification is good for. Maria Ruiz said one year. She also said they start the process in her office in May of each year. They actually reach out to the all of the buildings, every elder client that walks into their office is handed the information from the special registration needs if they decide they want to do it. She said her office will assist with the application if they want; it is their doctor that certifies the sheet and makes it eligible for placement and prioritization for special needs.

Commissioner Malakoff asked if each person in each center have their own private doctor. Maria Ruiz said yes, they are the ones most familiar with their case. They are in essence certifying that you have a medical need that fits the criteria for special needs. Frailty doesn't count as a special need; it needs to be one of the five daily functions.

Kathie Brooks said that she just wanted to point out that it is a very specific criterion for the special needs. Because they do need one of those daily life support functions those are probably ones that we can more work on now to get registered because they are probably living in those buildings that we are dealing with and are familiar with. We can try and start working on those. The second category of elderly who are frail are a lot more challenging to get to because they are not required to have someone provide that daily support function. She said we have been brainstorming on that second set as well, but we are not fully there.

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez said she wanted to make a motion to come back in six months and staff tells the Committee about an outreach education program. The seniors are visiting their doctors all of the time, if we go and do a little seminar and give them the sheet of paper and it is explained to them, they will all have that paperwork ready. She said she thinks we should work with the MDCDC and if we can just go building by building.

Kathie Brooks said what Maria was saying is that we did that this year. We still couldn't get the people to fill out the form. The other option is if they want to give us the authority to get the form signed on their behalf that may help as well.

VOTE OF ACCLAMATION TO COME BACK IN 6 MONTHS TO GIVE AN UPDATE.

15. DISCUSSION REGARDING HAVING LOCAL ARTISTS DECORATE THE NEW SECURITY BARRIERS THE CITY WILL BE INSTALLING IN PEDESTRIAN ZONES

September 25, 2017 - C4 F

Sponsored by Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez
Tourism, Culture, and Economic Development

ACTION

DIRECTION: Defer to the October 27, 2017 NCAC meeting, pending review from the Art in Public Places Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.