

MIAMI BEACH

Finance and Citywide Projects Committee Meeting
City Hall, Commission Chambers, 3rd Floor, 1700 Convention Center Drive
February 23, 2018 - 12:00 PM

Commissioner Ricky Arriola, Chair
Commissioner Mark Samuelian, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Micky Steinberg, Member
Commissioner John Elizabeth Aleman, Alternate

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A meeting of the Finance and Citywide Projects Committee was held on Friday, February 23, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, 3rd Floor of City Hall. Commissioners in attendance: Commissioners Ricky Arriola, Mark Samuelian, and Micky Steinberg. Members from the Administration and the public were also in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS

26. DISCUSSION TO CONSIDER AN INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR NORTH BEACH RESTAURANTS TO ACTIVATE THE SIDEWALKS BY ASSISTING THEM IN OBTAINING A SIDEWALK CAFE PERMIT TO ALLOW UP TO TWO TABLES AND FOUR CHAIRS TO BE PLACED IN THE CITY'S RIGHT OF WAY

February 14, 2018 - C4 M
Sponsored by Vice-Mayor Aleman
Public Works

ACTION

Jay Fink, Public Works Assistant Director, presented the item. Jay Fink explained that in front of the Committee is a proposal to allow incentive to sidewalk cafes to put furniture in the right of way in a simplified manner. Through the North Beach Master Plan process, there are areas there that the City Commission has tried to activate around the Normandy Fountain. There is push to activate the area with tables and chairs for restaurants. In front of the Committee is something they think they can effectuate and basically what it does is allow an existing restaurant that is in good standing, which has their licenses, permits, grease traps, etc. in place, the ability to place tables in chairs in the sidewalk in an area that will be safe that will be compliant with ADA and not impose or impede pedestrians' right to use that sidewalk. That will have a certain sunset, if the restaurant after activating that this is a good business model, they can go ahead and go through the formal process and do what needs to be done to come into full compliance with it. He explained they have had some discussion internally with various departments that go through the approval process of the normal cafes, such that they are looking at only limiting it to a couple tables and chairs, not allowing fans, heaters, umbrellas that would trigger a certain fire inspection response.

Commissioner Samuelian asked if we have a ball park cost of the fees we would waive. In order of magnitude he asked what are we talking about with dollars to the City. Jay Fink said we have already waived all of the fees above 63 Street in North Beach, there is no net revenue loss for doing this program. There is a potential net gain, if we look at additional meals that are served, additional taxes, additional revenue for the businesses. There is a potential.

Commissioner Samuelian asked on the gain, if we can a apart of the process make a commitment to track how the businesses do so we can understand what Jay Fink spoke about. Jay Fink said if we were to go forward with this we would be able to track their permit, at least what they are going to put out there, we would be able to say if this program was successful a year from and how many people have continued on into full compliance with a fully activated

sidewalk café. Because there almost 200 sidewalk cafes throughout the City, this is a business model that works, it is a benefit to certain pedestrian areas because it is an attraction. For example, in 2016 we had issued looking at the Parklet program, Commission had authorized an abatement of sidewalk café fees along Washington Avenue as an incentive and because of that 3-4 additional restaurants took advantage of that that did not have sidewalk cafes out there. He said we could be able to share the information with the Committee. The tax dollar and things like that, Public Works could not provide that information, that is not to say it couldn't be done, but that is above what they could do.

Commissioner Samuelian said that if Finance could do that, it would be nice to know we did some waivers and the sidewalk cafes were open and there was some benefit to the City it would be nice to do. He also asked given the work that was done if the administration recommends this.

Jay Fink said that this would fall in place with the North Beach activation, the emphasis and attention that has been put there, he thinks it is a step in that direction. The NCAC meeting the other day, the Committee would recommend going forward with the small business plan, this ties in with that. He said he suspects this may invoke some ordinance change to allow this to happen.

Commissioner Steinberg said she would move this with a favorable recommendation and of course see what the ordinance changes would be. She asked if there was a pilot program that we could do if it would still trigger an amendment before we amend the code.

Raul Aguila, City Attorney, said yes if we are talking about streamlining or amending the application process that specifically prescribed in the code. This would require a code amendment.

Commissioner Steinberg said she would have to see that, but for purposes of moving this forward. She would like to move it forward with a favorable recommendation pending the change of language in the ordinance.

Raul Aguila said the code amendment would go to the City Commission as the Committee knows it requires two readings with a final public hearing. There would be ample time for the City Commission to comment on the code amendment.

MOTION: Commissioner Steinberg moved to approve the administration's recommendation favorably. Commissioner Samuelian seconded.