

MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

RAFAEL PAZ, CITY ATTORNEY

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR DAN GELBER
MEMBERS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
ALINA HUDAK, CITY MANAGER

FIRST READING

FROM: RAFAEL PAZ, CITY ATTORNEY 

DATE: April 6, 2022

SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 18 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, ENTITLED "BUSINESSES," BY AMENDING ARTICLE VIII THEREOF, ENTITLED "PARKING LOT," BY AMENDING DIVISION I THEREOF, ENTITLED "GENERALLY," BY AMENDING SECTIONS 18-311 AND 18-339 THEREOF, ENTITLED "OPERATION OF SERVICE," AND "PRIVATE STORAGE OF VALET VEHICLES" TO ALLOW PRIVATE STORAGE OF VALET VEHICLES ON LEASED MUNICIPAL SPACES ON OCEAN DRIVE BETWEEN 5TH AND 15TH STREET, AND THE ADJACENT SIDE STREETS BETWEEN OCEAN DRIVE AND COLLINS AVENUE, SUBJECT TO THE DISCRETION OF THE PARKING DIRECTOR; AND PROVIDING FOR REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This proposed Ordinance has been prepared at the request of Vice-Mayor Kristen Rosen Gonzalez, for consideration at first reading at the April 6, 2022 City Commission meeting.

Although the City of Miami Beach is small in size geographically, the City is an internationally-renowned tourist destination and hosts thousands of visitors each and every day of the year. As a result, there is limited residential parking within the City.

In 2015, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Ordinance No. 2015-3963, with limitations on valet parking ramps within a street block, consisting of no less than two and no more than four parking spaces, in order to alleviate traffic congestion and increase parking availability.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the City reconfigured Ocean Drive from 5th Street to 15th Street by closing vehicle and turning Ocean Drive into a pedestrian zone in order to allow struggling businesses expand their outdoor seating. In January 2022 the City re-opened one southbound lane from 13th Street to 5th Street to vehicles.

Due to only one available traffic lane, valet operators are experiencing significant delays

in moving vehicles from limited valet ramp spaces, and increasingly limited private vehicle storage options. Local businesses and valet companies have expressed the desire to lease municipal parking spaces from the City.

The proposed Ordinance would allow valet operators to lease municipal parking spaces on Ocean Drive from 5th Street and 15th Street, and the adjacent side streets between Ocean Drive and Collins Avenue, subject to the discretion of the parking director.

If approved on first reading, it is anticipated that second reading/public hearing will be scheduled for the May 4, 2022 City Commission meeting.

RAP/FA/ag