## City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting Agenda Item F-4 October 22, 2024 City Commission Chambers 405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

## **City Commission**

Mayor Vince Lago Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson Commissioner Melissa Castro Commissioner Ariel Fernandez Commissioner Kirk Menendez

## **City Staff**

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez City Manager, Amos Rojas, Jr. City Clerk, Billy Urquia

## Public Speaker(s)

Claudia Miro Maria Cruz

Agenda Item F-4 [10:46 a.m.]

Presentation regarding Freebee and possible expansion (Sponsored by Commissioner Castro)

Mayor Lago: We'll move onto item F-4, its time certain, I apologize for being a few moments late.

Commissioner Castro: F-4 is a presentation regarding Freebee and a possibility for expansion. I asked Claudia to come up and do a presentation on Freebee, and then I'll go ahead and discuss what the future plans look like and maybe we can come into agreement to what is the next step.

Thank you. Good morning Mr. Mayor, Vice Mayor, esteemed members of the Commission, Claudia Miro, Vice President of Business Development and Government Affairs for Freebee, with offices at 371 N.E. 61<sup>st</sup> Street, Miami, 33137. Thank you so much for having me today. I do have

a presentation, if it could please come up. So yes, I wanted to come here and give you an update on our service. I will say, I have great news, everything is running very smoothly with Freebee service here in the Gables area. As you all know, we recently upgraded the vehicles from the GEM vehicles or the golf cart type vehicles to the Tesla model X, and so, what we have been seeing, as a recommendation to the city for years was to upgrade to the vehicle because it would decrease wait times and increase ridership and that's exactly what we're seeing. So, we are very happy to see that. I plan on being very brief here and just kind of going over the high-level points of the service, so I am going to kind of breeze through this, just to again provide the update and touch on the high-level points. When the service first started, it was started with the goal of – the streetscape project was going on. It had taken, the sidewalk project on Miracle Mile had taken a little bit longer than expected and a lot of the businesses were affected. So, Freebee was brought into connect the residents to those businesses to help them keep their doors open. And so, Freebee operates within the commercial district on Miracle Mile, down on Ponce de Leon, and that has been the use. I will also say, the majority of the riders for the service are residents, so we are serving our residents. Again, what you will see here is the hours of service. We recently changed the service. Again, this was all prompted by some of the recommendations that came from the data. Freebee does provide every city with a dashboard, a live dashboard, and that data is valuable because we are able to take that data and then make data-driven decisions. The service hours are Monday through Sunday. Now Monday through Thursday, it is 10 to 9 p.m., and on Friday and Saturday we are going 10 to 12 p.m., where before we used to go 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. So again, some of the feedback that we got from the community that likes to go out to Miracle Mile, to the restaurants and stay out to dinner a little bit later, maybe have an extra drink, an appetizer or just simply take a stroll along beautiful Miracle Mile. So, the service does run till 12 p.m., till 12 a.m. midnight, with a reminder that every time the service ends, it always does last ride 15 minutes before. And I want to share different little things like that that are going to help our residents get the majority, the best benefit of using the Freebee service. And then on Sundays, we are running from 10 to 7 p.m., before we used to run 10 to 10, but the data showed us that after a certain hour the ridership was dropping off. So again, we strive to offer a service that moves or that works in the way that the community actually needs it, and the community actually uses it. So, some of these changes were made. The vehicles that we have – we have five Tesla Model X and that is the current map that we have right now. It is an on-demand door-to-door transportation. Freebee service is the first and last mile to help folks who, maybe you want to take the trolley and can't walk two or three blocks to get to the trolley. A lot of our seniors that might have trip hazards on the sidewalks along the way use it as a first mile last mile service to our wonderful trolley service here in the City of Coral Gables. This is annual ridership data that we have. Now this data is a year. This is from October of last year to September 30<sup>th</sup> of this year – 74,000 passengers were served, that's a wonderful number, an average of one and-a-half people per ride. You are talking about over 50,000 rides that are completed, over 50 percent of the riders are female, 49 percent are male. Also, very important is wait times. It's important to note that Freebee operates in many cities, but each city dictates the City Commission Meeting

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wait time for their residents, and so, the average wait time here in Coral Gables has been set to ten minutes. Currently, we are operating at about an average of 11.6 minutes, but here it will show you that out of all the riders that took Freebee, 56.9 percent of them waited zero to ten minutes; 22, ten to fifteen percent, 10 to 15 minutes. So over 70 percent of folks waited less than 15 minutes and when you look at the over 30-minute wait, you are talking about 1.9 percent, that's great, and again, it's also normal. Understanding that every city is going to have, what we call a peak time here in Coral Gables and it's on one of my slides, our peak time is 11 to 4, folks coming down to Miracle Mile, they are going to have lunch, late lunch, etc. A lot of the folks go to the supermarket, the Publix there on LeJeune, that's one of the high riding points. Again, our driver rating is 4.9, that's very positive. By the way, we also have the ability to rate a rider, so if you have maybe a rider that comes up and maybe throws up in the vehicle or something like that, we have the ability to rate them, we have the ability to put them on warning and also restrict their ride if it's something that's egregious and continues. The app requested rides, 86 percent of our folks are very appfriendly, they are tech-savvy, they are requesting the rides through the app. We've got 14 percent flagging it down. If you see a Freebee, flag it down. And the ridership, you have the majority of the ridership coming from our over 51 age range, followed by the 21 to 34, and then 35 to 50, and then under 20 is 5.9 percent. So, it's great, you get to see who is riding, but you see everyone is riding, all the different age ranges are riding Freebee. So, when we did this, when you look at the ridership, average ridership when we were using the GEM vehicle was 5800 average monthly riders; 72 percent of those rides, again waiting under 15 minutes. Now when we brought in the switch, we initially started with the Y vehicles that we were doing at the same cost as the GEM to try out the service, that moved up to 6500 riders per month, so 77 percent of the riders were often under 15 minutes, and it was a 12 percent increase in ridership when we switched from the GEM vehicles to the Tesla Y, and then when we switched again to the Model X vehicles, which is what we have now, you saw ridership increase again to 7200, so it's an 80 percent of the rides under 15 minutes, it's a 24 percent overall increase from going from the GEM vehicle to the Tesla Model X vehicle, ridership increased by 24 percent and that is a very positive number. Also share with you that we are heading back to those pre-pandemic numbers as far as ridership is concerned. I know the city is seeing the same thing with the trolley, so its good news that folks are feeling comfortable going back to public transit. Again, some of the pros and cons of the vehicle that we had before was a 45-minute to charge it. It could only go 65 miles, where it takes over 30 minutes to charge a Tesla and it can go 277 miles without having to go back for a charge, so almost all day our vehicles can go without charging. Should also note that we've implemented ride-peering optimization, which is really auto-peer and that basically means, we have this amazing technology which is proprietary algorithms that, let's say, Commissioner Anderson request a ride and then Commissioner Castro request a ride, we have the ability to say, well, we don't want Commissioner Anderson to be, I'm sorry, Vice Mayor Anderson to be in the car for more than ten minutes, so it will just drop her off before they pick up Commissioner Castro, but if it makes sense and its more efficient, the algorithm is going to do what's more efficient. This is ride-share, but as long as it City Commission Meeting

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makes sense. We're not pooling rides just to pool rides. We do pool rides, so sometimes you are going to see that your wait time goes from six minutes to ten minutes, because someone else requested a ride and it just makes sense to pick them up and pool the ride based on the location of the request and the location of the destination. Again, headways, 11.6 minutes; customer satisfaction is doing very well, again your peak times I mentioned are 11 to 4, Monday through Thursday and then on Friday and Saturday, peak times are 4 to 9, and on Sunday those peak times are 1 to 5. We've gotten great feedback from the riders and again, we are very happy with the way the service is going. We continue to work hand-in-hand with your Transportation Department. I gave this update to the TAB last week as well, so we are very committed to working hand-in-hand with you and listening to your feedback, listening to the feedback of the riders. We passed that feedback from our drivers to our performance managers back to your city staff in transportation so that we keep you there. You want to know where everybody is going. Well, this is the heat maps, and you see a lot of folks are going to the grocery store, the condos on Biltmore Way, a lot of ridership is coming from there, the restaurants, the bars, the shops on Miracle Mile. Again, the technology we have, we are able to really pinpoint, and this is kind of something that it looks like. Its shows you how many people in real time, you can see how many people have taken the Freebee so far, how many people are currently waiting, what is that average wait time, and any other KPIs that the city wants us to track, we are happy to add them for you. With the rides and reports are given to the city at the beginning of every month, even if they don't go into the live dashboard. So again, just keeping you appraised of everything that's happening there. We are super happy with the environmental impact that we've had here and the CO2 that's been saved is over 2.4 million, translates into over 7,000 miles, great, great news for the economy here and we are very, very sustainability conscious here at Freebee. And that basically concludes my presentation. I am here to answer any questions, any recommendations that you may have and just again, we've had a lot of feedback from the residents that they are happy with the service, they want to expand to more areas. And again, we are here to serve you and of course implement any recommendations that you have for us. So, thank you.

Commissioner Castro: Claudia, thank you so, so much for your presentation. One of the things I love about you is that you care for the residents as much as I do, and I think that's so important especially when it comes to business in the city, and I think we all share the same sentiment. We've been having conversations, I don't know for how long, over and over and over. I was in the Pumpkin Patch on Saturday and there were three concerns that parents kept on talking to me about. One of them was permitting, the second one was that they don't want passive parks, that they want community parks where they can take their children to, and the third one was that they want more Freebee. I don't think they are asking for more cars. I think they wanted expansions. Besides the Pumpkin Patch, this is an everyday issue that I personally get, I don't know if my colleagues get this as well, but they want an expansion, and I know that I have been promising but I cannot do something by myself. I need the consensus of my fellow Commissioners, right. So, we've spoken

to administration, we came up with different plans, the point here is not to spend more money. You guys are not charging us anymore, let's make that very clear. We came up with a map of the possible locations where people were asking that we wanted to expand to. Administration wasn't very accepting, or they weren't recommending us to expand. However, I feel that we can start somewhere at least, right. So, I think that some of the residents in high density buildings in the Central Business District were asking to expand a little down Ponce and what else did they want, they wanted Merrick Park, they wanted...

Ms. Miro: The Publix on 37<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Castro: They wanted the Venetian Pool as well. Right now, I think we should start expanding just a couple blocks. Right now, we go to Target, and I think that there's other businesses down Ponce, not to go all the way to 8<sup>th</sup> Street, what is it, four more blocks.

Ms. Miro: Yes, so it's a few more blocks what we have been looking at. Right now, the service on the north end of Ponce de Leon ends at Madeira, so it would be going down to what you might think as tenth street or on Ponce, the equivalent would be Santian, so that would include just to kind of give you some like references, like I think its Tinta Café or Café Tinta, I always get the name backwards, closer to the American Airlines Building, it encompasses there is like a strip mall there that has a Domino's Pizza, a laundry mat, that folks try and go to, a tag agency is another one. You have your tag, its expired and you need to go get it and people are getting tickets parked right in front of the tag agency while they wait. So that's only a couple of blocks. We did the time because of course, Freebee does not, as you well said, Freebee does not charge to expand or retract a geo fence, however there may be a time implication. I think that was the concern that staff had brought up, but when you are talking about four more blocks, it's a minute, you know, driving at 20 miles per hour, it's one more minute to go a little bit further, and of course with the Tesla vehicles we are able to go 30-35 which is also why we are able to get to more people and get them where they need to go in less time. So, it wouldn't really be a time impact, but again, we are going to be able to track that with the data, is it an impact, is it not an impact. And again, it allows you to have the ability to come back and say, listen, those four blocks didn't have any impact, or they did have an impact and then you can make your decisions based on the data that you're seeing.

Commissioner Castro: Time ridership has improved dramatically, and I am of the opinion that we should go ahead and do those four, five blocks more than analyze data again, and then if we want to go ahead and expand a little more depending on what our data says, then we go ahead and do it. I personally don't think this is going to make a difference. This is like a minute. Other people were asking me for the Women's Club, which is a block away from, I think, I mean it's up to you guys if you want to extend it to the Women's Club or not. How do my colleagues feel about expanding.

Ms. Miro: If I may, I just went ahead and sent the proposed map to the Clerk so that the Commission can take a look at it and see what it looks like. I think if you are visual, like I am, maybe that helps.

Vice Mayor Anderson: And I appreciate you doing that. Now some of the areas where I've seen that we have more critical needs are areas where the trolley doesn't serve right now and that is the parking was out of control at the Biltmore. It is always out of control at Venetian Pool. So, I do think there is potential there, but I really would need the assistance of staff to study the traffic and see what we can do, maybe in partnership with some other folks to make this feasible, because I am concerned about the wait times, but Matt's amazing, and I know you agree with that, to be able to help us reach a great conclusion. There was more parking, more cars at the Biltmore on Saturday than the parking allowed. There was illegal parking, there was double parking, there was parking all over the swales, everywhere there was a no parking sign, there was someone parking. It's out of control. So, that's why I bring up the Biltmore. It was sad to see that we can't fulfill the needs of one of our gems in our city. So, that's what I would like, Matt Anderson and his team to study this and give us some input on how we could best serve this very high traffic area in our city, because there are a lot of cars going to the Biltmore and if we can reduce the number of cars that park at the facility, that would be a tremendous improvement. The same happens at Venetian Pool. We can bring people from the Central Business District; they can park in our parking garages and then they can move on out to these other locations, and it becomes a public nuisance. The complaints that come in with parking all over the place on people's swales and the tickets that are handed out and the parking on the sidewalks, etc. is over the top, and I am concerned about lead times, but I think the department can crunch the numbers for us and give us some excellent input.

Ms. Miro: So, I do want to say that for the Biltmore, two different points for the Biltmore. Number one, I heard about the event with Ronald McDonald House, we are happy to assist for event activations like that, like we do with the city. Normally Matt reaches out for us like for the Fourth of July, he reaches out to us, and we are able to on that day, we do rides from the parking garages to Biltmore and back, because of the Fourth of July, to avoid exactly that same scenario that you described happened now with this event. So, we could have come in and helped you with that and say, with a couple of weeks' notice, we put a message up on the app for those folks that are transit dependent of the Freebee on that day so that they have a way to manage it, the expectations and understand that on that day we are going to be working this event from here to here. So that's something that we can do immediately, if you have any other events that come up to the Biltmore; and secondly, we have been in conversation with Mr. Sailor at the Biltmore, because they used to offer a car service for their guests to bring them down to Miracle Mile, to bring them back to Merrick Park, and some of the issues that they were having is, they are not transportation providers, so they were having their concierge and their guest work calling them like they had a personal chauffer. So, we have had conversations with them, and so it would be a good idea for the Commission to engage them in a partnership for them to help fund an additional Freebee that's City Commission Meeting October 22, 2024

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going to go from, its going to help their guest and its going to help our economy bringing them to the local business community. We have had those conversations, it's been about a year since that conversation kind of turned stale, but it is something that they looked at that they used to fund themselves and it didn't make sense, and they were actually very open to the fact that it would be handled through the app. They can just refer their guest to hey, call the ride through the app and so it would be something to look forward to. Now for Venetian Pool, our geo-fence is just outside Venetian Pool right now, and let me tell you, a lot of the times we have had drivers who have, people say, can you just take me over here, and our drivers have gone above and beyond and just dropped them off at Venetian Pool. So, it's something you can, obviously you can do.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I did it before the geo-fence.

Mayor Lago: If I may, just one second, if I may, my recommendation is, there's a lot of conversation here is twofold; number one, work with the Manager. I'm not privy to any of this information here, so I recommend you work with the Manager and the Manager can work through the Commission on this front. If it doesn't cost the Commission, I'm more than in favor of it. Number two, if you'd like, have a Sunshine meeting, invite the residents in the community to come and speak about it, and you can host it, and everyone can have a conversation in regard to the Freebee. We'd like to see if we can move onto other items that we have.

Commissioner Menendez: I just want to really quick.

Mayor Lago: If I may, if we can move onto the next item on the agenda, because we have a lot of time certain items, and they just keep stacking up and I want to make sure we can address it.

Commissioner Menendez: My comment is really quick. I'm supportive of it, going north especially with Coral Gables Preparatory Academy being outside, I think currently the range, I think it would be helpful for a lot of families to maybe pick up the kids and stuff like that; and Venetian Pool, we all know we have a parking overflow issue, especially in the summer months that people are parking in front of people's houses when they shouldn't. So, I think just in order to serve the school, that area and also Venetian Pool, I'm totally supportive of expanding the footprint of Freebee going forward.

Ms. Miro: Thank you.

Commissioner Fernandez: And I think one of those hidden requests that I got a lot during the campaign was expansion of Freebee. You hear about sidewalks, you hear about street repaving, you hear about all the infrastructure that hasn't been addressed for years, this was one of those things that people had been asking for an expansion of Freebee more into the residential zones. I agree with the Vice Mayor. I think the Biltmore needs to be addressed, but my concern is, I don't think that's going to get the people who need to get to the Biltmore to the Biltmore, because the people who need to get to the Biltmore normally residents who are going to events and they are City Commission Meeting October 22, 2024

not going to have a pickup at their home. Those are not people who are going to be in downtown Coral Gables trying to get to the Biltmore, but there is a need to expand to that northern Ponce area. I did have numerous residents in one building in particular who told me, the Freebee is offered, but I have to walk four blocks to get to it, and it was a concern that the trolley stop was not close to their building either. So, I have no problem with a small expansion of Freebee in this area and Venetian Pool, I think is a no-brainer. We do have tourists who do go there. We also have residents who congregate in that area for walking, for exercising, you see a lot of residents who just park there and go walking. So, I would have no problem with expanding to that zone.

Commissioner Castro: So, moving forward, this is my item, I would like to move to expand to that northern section of Ponce. I don't know if there is any consensus, maybe I think its what, a block away for the Venetian Pool, its right there.

Ms. Miro: Yes, it's literally right there.

Commissioner Castro: And we can go ahead and offer Venetian Pool, because – and I know Venetian Pool really sees a lot at this point.

Ms. Miro: Only during the summer months whenever its open.

Commissioner Castro: Yes, so it will only be during the summer months, so that really shouldn't affect wait time, and that is my motion.

Mayor Lago: Madam City Attorney, we don't have a resolution or an action item here on the Commission. Should she prepare something for the next Commission meeting and then we can take action on it? I have no issues with it, whatever you recommend.

City Attorney Suarez: Yes, that would be prudent. I think also, I am hearing from the Commission that there is some, perhaps need to discuss with staff further on different ideas and perhaps just a suggestion would be to kind of address this perhaps holistically, rather than piecemeal is a suggestion, and of course like anything else, we would need to review to make sure there are no, to address any potential legal implications or legal concerns.

Commissioner Castro: Okay.

Commissioner Menendez: Can Commissioner Castro present, I guess on the spot legislation instructing the administration to bring back expanding it.

City Attorney Suarez: Certainly, that can be done. Yes. Different things can occur here, absolutely, but also, I think staff has gotten some input and perhaps the Commissioner, its not needed to have a resolution if its just to discuss with staff and bring something back, we don't need a resolution, but we can do that too.

Commissioner Castro: Okay. So, I'll go ahead and amend my motion, and it is to direct staff to go ahead and start the expansion of the north area and Venetian and then we can go ahead and speak further after we analyze data on other possible expansions.

Commissioner Fernandez: I'll second.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I'll like to add to that.

Mayor Lago: Let's take a step back. Madam City Attorney, I think you are as confused as I am. Are we asking for staff to work on something to bring back or are we moving forward.

Commissioner Castro: We are moving forward.

Mayor Lago: Madam City Attorney.

City Attorney Suarez: I mean we would of course, we can take that direction, but staff would do whatever it does when these things happen, when these changes happen, we would review, of course for legal sufficiency and any concerns that we may have, and if there is anything we would have to bring it back, but perhaps we could do that by the next meeting.

Mayor Lago: My only two issues are very simple, is legal sufficiency and the simple fact of the cost. If there is no cost and its legally sufficient, I'm in favor of it, but we can wait one meeting, it takes two weeks, and we can get it done. If you'd like to make a motion to give staff, through the Manager, the push forward to draft, to help draft legislation that amends the current footprint of where Freebee travels, I think that's perfectly fine by the City Attorney. As per the City Attorney, we should take action moving forward without at least analyzing the legal sufficiency and also the cost, is my request.

Commissioner Castro: So, there is no cost. The way Freebee charges us is that we are currently it's a per vehicle fee, right. If we go ahead and we make the geo-fence smaller, its not going to cost us anything. If we go ahead and make it longer, its not going to cost us anything. The implication here is time, wait times.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner, I understand that. I just want to have it in writing so that Freebee can work with staff to bring forth legislation and we just vote on it. I'm in favor of it. If there is no cost and its legally sufficient, I'm willing to move forward.

Commissioner Fernandez: For the Mayor's comfort, can somebody send him a memo after the fact so that he has no issues with it.

Ms. Miro: I did want to offer that we have been meeting. We met with the Manager, with all of transportation, we met with the City Attorney about three weeks ago, and we've been having this

conversation with city staff since August. So, what you are recommending us to do, we've already been doing.

Commissioner Castro: Continuously.

Commissioner Menendez: So could you bring back a status – could the administration bring back a status report next meeting. If we move forward now, just bring us a status report.

City Attorney Suarez: So, my understanding from those meetings was, staff did have some potential concerns. As the Commissioner mentioned, staff was not recommending that we do any expansion and we, from our office also need to review and make sure the implications of any expansion.

City Manager Rojas: That is correct.

City Attorney Suarez: So, there can be a motion, Mayor, but I just want the Commission to have that information.

Commissioner Castro: And like in every item, the City Attorney advises us, and I believe that if there was a big implication, we wouldn't move forward. However, I think this follows our goals with Freebee and the business community.

Mayor Lago: One of the things I'd like to also have Matt Anderson, through the Manager and his team put together is an analysis when we bring back, the last thing I want to do is cannibalize our funds from the CITT in regard to the trolley, something that we worked on very hard. We are the poster child of any municipality in Miami-Dade County in regard to the trolley and more expansion to the Freebee potentially could have an implication in regard to the trolley use and the funding that we get from the CITT. Again, I want to reiterate, I'm in favor of expansion of the Freebee if it makes financial sense and if it meets legal sufficiency. I'm not ready to vote on it today, as per the clear statement of our City Attorney.

Ms. Miro: I just wanted to add and clarify that we had meetings with staff and the City Attorney, the hesitation on staff was not on adding any expansion to north Ponce. The hesitation with staff was adding Merrick Park, that was the hesitation that had implications, I think the concerns were about Title 6, but right now, expanding on north had no implications that legally were of a concern. There is definitely, to the Mayor's point, absolutely zero fiscal impact, so if that gives you any peace of mind.

Commissioner Castro: And we are also going to be looking into, there is additional funding, and I believe...

Ms. Miro: There is another grant available for the city to apply to in the spring, which is the Department of Energy, it's a federal grant that is 50 percent matching grant, just like the 50 percent *City Commission Meeting*October 22, 2024

matching grant that we're getting right now through FDOT. This is a \$250,000 minimum, which the city would meet and would be able to, so we are hand-in-hand working with you, understanding the fiscal constraints, understanding that your CITT funding that you use for this. So again, we've actually just now identified another grant that we are looking into to see if it's also germane so that cities can apply for it. So again, we continue to be mindful of the fiscal responsibility to be able to assist the city with alleviating the funds.

Commissioner Castro: Thank you so much Claudia, for coming and I believe there's a motion and there is a second on the floor.

Vice Mayor Anderson: And I was trying to add a friendly amendment, because I do think that there is a need for additional study and the traffic to the Biltmore is more than just people coming from residential homes. You have the Central Business District folks, the Chamber, the Chamber events, so that would be many opportunities to be able to tell folks, if you can't find parking here when the Latin Builders Association is doing its events, to park in the city garage, pick up transportation services and then be taken out to the Biltmore, rather than risk getting a parking ticket for parking on the grass, and parking in areas where they shouldn't be parking. So, that's my friendly amendment to have staff come back, study this issue, see what we can do to better enhance transportation to the hot spots where we are having parking issues and where people are travelling the most. We saw the heat map, we've got the Adult Activity Center, we have Biltmore Way, we have the grocery stores, the grocery store will change eventually when this LeJeune is torn down and of course Venetian Pool and the Biltmore Hotel. So that's my friendly amendment.

Commissioner Castro: And I accept your amendment.

Mayor Lago: So, we have a motion and a second on the floor.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor before we move on, we have a member of the public requesting to speak on the item, Mrs. Maria Cruz.

Mrs. Cruz: Mrs. Maria Cruz, 1447 Miller Road. I was amazed, surprised of the number of people that called me, talked to me when they saw me, people that I didn't even know that wanted to talk about Freebee. Usually when people do that its to complain. I have heard complaints about anything and everything, but not this time. I did not have one person complaining. What they wanted was more. They wanted the service to be expanded. I'm sitting here listening to, it doesn't cost anymore. Its easy to do and yet, we have to keep waiting and waiting. People do not want to wait. They want, if its possible to do it, let's do it, because we do other things. We have things that come here, and we decide on the spot. I mean I sat here when pocket items have been brought up, when surprise items that we forgot to put on the agenda have been discussed. You know people, remember what I said at the beginning, you need to listen to the people. In this city, the Freebee is a plus, doesn't cost you any money. What is the problem with expanding it, if its possible to do it

with no consequences, no money out of my pocket. Why do we have to keep putting stumbling blocks in the way. I do not understand. My only complaint is, some day the rest of us that do not live near the core business district should be also able to benefit from the Freebee, that's my only thing. Maybe some day when I don't drive any more, I could use the Freebee also, that's my only thing. My only hope so that everybody would have access to Freebee. Alright. I understand what you're doing now. I think that people want the expansion. Stop kicking the can down the road.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes

Commissioner Castro: Yes

Commissioner Fernandez: Yes

Commissioner Menendez: Yes

Mayor Lago: Madam City Attorney, do you need further time, or you feel comfortable with

moving forward.

City Attorney Suarez: I briefed all of you on this matter and so, we...

Mayor Lago: You didn't brief me.

City Attorney Suarez: We didn't have your briefing yesterday.

Mayor Lago: I know.

City Attorney Suarez: But we can do the short expansion and then we can evaluate and if we need

to make any changes, we'll bring it back.

Mayor Lago: No problem. I think you're fine. Yes.

City Clerk Urquia: Thank you.