

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item F-1
June 13, 2023
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, Peter Iglesias
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Deputy City Attorney, Stephanie Throckmorton
Assistant City Attorney, Gus Ceballos

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item F-1 [11:20 a.m.]

An Ordinance of the City Commission amending Chapter 34 - “Nuisances,” Section 34-105 “Abandoned or junk motor vehicles on public or private property prohibited; exceptions,” to prohibit the parking, storing, or leaving of vehicles under car covers on city swale areas; providing for severability clause, repealer provision, codification, and providing for an effective date. (Sponsored by Mayor Lago) (Sponsored by Commissioner Fernandez)

Mayor Lago: Let’s address F-1, moving onto ordinances on second reading.

City Attorney Suarez: F-1 is an Ordinance of the City Commission amending Chapter 34 - “Nuisances,” Section 34-105 “Abandoned or junk motor vehicles on public or private property prohibited; exceptions,” to prohibit the parking, storing, or leaving of vehicles under car covers on city swale areas; providing for severability clause, repealer provision, codification, and providing for an effective date. There was one change, Mayor, made since this was last heard at the last meeting. Assistant City Attorney Gus Ceballos was the one who prepared it, but I can pull it up, if

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“Abandoned or junk motor vehicles on public or private property prohibited; exceptions”

[Date]

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you just give me one moment. So, the change that was made is that a vehicle can be parked with a car cover on the right-of-way as long as it's the driveway approach, not the grassy swale area.

Mayor Lago: Can we also as a sponsor of the item, can we also if my colleague, the Vice Mayor will allow me to, can we amend that just a little bit and tweak it so that we make sure that we're not, obviously, it's not allowed by the code anyway, that's we're not blocking the sidewalk or blocking the street.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Sure. So, as written its not that specific. I'll turn it over to Mr. Ceballos to answer about.

City Attorney Suarez: Although the regulations regarding parking and blocking of sidewalks, all of the regulations would apply and the exact language, Mayor, is this section does not apply to vehicles parked wholly within the improved surfaces of a driveway approach if the car cover is form-fitting and does not retain water.

Vice Mayor Anderson: My request was that it had to be fitted, not with rubber bands holding it on and there are fitted ones designed for your car. I did do a recent little tour with my brother-in-law when he returned back to the Gables and saw an as sundry of car covers from a tarp to filthy ones to ones that are being held on with bungy cords, etc., and I agree with you its unsightly, but they have to be clean and no mosquitoes breeding for a variety of reasons that I indicated, because the leaves, the ants breed inside the car and etched the leaves, etched the paint of the car.

City Attorney Suarez: Mayor, certainly, if you want us to end within the section clarify that they can't block sidewalks and those other regulations and restrictions, we can certainly add that just to make it abundantly clear.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes, that's fine. That was one of the things I asked for.

Assistant City Attorney Ceballos: We can incorporate that.

Mayor Lago: I think also that car covers in general should be in good shape.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes.

Mayor Lago: For example, there is one on Bird Road that has tears on it, and it needs to be refreshed. If you're going to have a car cover, you need to make sure that again, it's in good shape.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I agree with all that.

Assistant City Attorney Ceballos: I'll make sure to incorporate some language that it be free of tears and openings.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes, and they do go through the washer.

Commissioner Fernandez: I'll make a motion.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I'll second.

Commissioner Castro: Yes

Commissioner Fernandez: Yes

Commissioner Menendez: Yes

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes

(5-0)