

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item E-4
January 13, 2026
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 Richard D. Lara

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Assistant City Attorney, Gus Ceballos

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item E-4 [Start: 11:58 a.m.]

An Ordinance of the City Commission amending Chapter 74, "Traffic and Vehicles," of the City Code, creating Article X - "Golf Carts"; authorizing and regulating the operation of golf carts on designated city streets; providing for severability clause, repealer provision, codification, and providing for an effective date. (Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

Mayor Lago: Moving on to item E-4.

City Attorney Christina Suarez: E-4 is an ordinance of the City Commission amending chapter 74 traffic and vehicles of the city code creating article 10 golf carts authorizing and regulating the operation of golf carts on designated city streets providing for severability clause repealer provision codification and providing for an effective date.

Mayor Lago: Thank you very much. As a sponsor of this item thank you, Mr. City Attorney for being here and for working with me and obviously your team. I would love to take credit for this

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Agenda Item E-4 – Ordinance amending Chapter 74, “Traffic and Vehicles” of the City Code Creating Article X – “Golf Carts”

because it's something I've been meaning to do for a long time, but I got to give credit where credit is due. This was brought to me by a gentleman by the name of J.C. Padron. He lives very close to my house. I don't own a golf cart. I own a Moke. It's a little bit different. Very similar intent but I think that this is a great idea. I think it's a great idea to make our community a golf community. A community that is again a little friendlier, a little slower in pace but adheres to safety and I think this could be potentially something that brings our community together.

City Staff: So, Mr. City Attorney, what do we got?

Assistant City Attorney Ceballos: Good morning Mr. Mayor, Vice Mayor, Commissioners, for the record Assistant City Attorney Gus Ceballos. So, as the title indicates, basically this will allow for golf carts on designated roads. Designated roads are currently being proposed is any road that has a speed limit of 25 miles an hour or less. So typically, our residential streets. As you indicated, a Moke or other LSVs are still treated by the state and those can drive on streets up to 35 miles an hour. This is not in any way trying to change that. That is controlled by the state. This would create a particular process for golf carts that you'd have to be inspected. We're going to work on that process. We have a meeting coming up internally. We do need to iron out some specifics on how we're going to do that. Whether how the label is going to look and the process of how we're going to inspect it. But these golf carts will require all the safety equipment typically commonly found on LSVs meaning turn signals, seat belts, horns, signaling devices, things of that nature. Pretty much everything you would find on an LSV but without the requirements of the state and you don't need to put a license plate. You would need to just go through the city through their process, and you'd be issued a decal that you'd have to place on your vehicle. And once again you are limited to the roads that we designate. If you have any questions or comments, I'm happy to make any changes.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner.

Commissioner Fernandez: As far as insurance what is the requirement that we have on insurance?

Assistant City Attorney Ceballos: So currently, I haven't seen any insurance requirements. The person that is driving does need to be a licensed individual. So, we're not going to have you know 13, 14-year-olds driving these. You do need to have a license. I can look into and see if there's any insurance requirements. Typically, the golf cart insurance for a golf cart is very economical because it's not designed to be driven on the road. So, once you start driving on the road, I think it changes the type of insurance that you may require. But I can look into that prior to second reading, and we can come back with some further additional information.

Commissioner Fernandez: Yeah. I'm not sure if Key Biscayne required. I believe they do have an insurance requirement in Key Biscayne.

Assistant City Attorney Ceballos: I'll make sure.

Commissioner Fernandez: We don't want to -- I wouldn't want to give an approval for something if we don't have a method that should be required for some sort of protection for not just the person driving the passengers, but also the other drivers that are motorists that are on the road as well.

Assistant City Attorney Ceballos: Understood.

Mayor Lago: Again, if you read through it obviously, we've all read through the legislation. Everything that applies basically to a car applies to this, you know, in regard to signage in regard to making sure that we abide by all the laws that are in place. So, I want to thank you for allowing me to bring this forward and I think this is just again another benefit for the community and hopefully people start using it. I see it, I see more and more people engaging in the use of how do you call it? Not golf carts.

Commissioner Fernandez: Low-speed vehicles.

Mayor Lago: Low speed vehicles.

Assistant City Attorney Ceballos: I typically drive one to work on most days. Whenever it's raining, I drive my truck, but if not, I love it. I drive an LSV.

Mayor Lago: I love it.

Commissioner Fernandez: That's what I'm driving today.

Mayor Lago: Perfect. Good stuff.

Commissioner Fernandez: I'll move it.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Second.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk, any public comment?

City Clerk Urquia: Yes, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Okay. Perfect.

City Clerk Urquia: Mrs. Maria Cruz.

Mrs. Cruz: Good afternoon, Mrs. Maria Cruz, 1447 Miller Road. I've never been recently to Key Biscayne so I don't know how they do it, but I can tell you that since I go down to Dixie and 144th at least two or three times a week because I pick up day-old bread to take to Camilus House, I encounter a lot of golf carts. A lot of young children riding on golf carts and I think that if nothing

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else we need to have a requirement that they have to wear a helmet, because I have seen many accidents almost happening because kids fall off and I know that you're talking about seat belts but if you have had young kids there comes a time when they know how to take it off. Okay, they know how to undo it and when somebody and you're talking about driver's license, a 17 year old has a driver's license and they get their friends on the golf cart and I'm going to tell you it becomes really interesting when you're driving down there and seeing all this packed and you're telling me the numbers they're going to be stopping people right and left because I've never seen a golf cart that is not full of kids and that's what happens down on what is it, Palmetto Bay, all that area I witness that two three times a week and my concern is we should make sure that the kids are safe and the fact that you know, one of my granddaughters is 17 and she drives but she takes her sister with her and anybody else, nobody else because we don't allow friends only sister maximum, but kids are kids and I think it's up to us to make sure that they're protected.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk Urquia: That's it, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lago: All right. We'll close. We have a motion in a second.

City Clerk Urquia: Yes sir.

Commissioner Castro: Yes.

Commissioner Fernandez: Yes.

Commissioner Lara: Yes.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes.

Mayor Lago: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)