

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting**  
**Agenda Item F-7**  
**December 9, 2025**  
**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)**

**Maria Cruz**

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Agenda Item: F-7 [Start: 3:28 p.m.]

Discussion regarding an initiative to encourage golf cart use throughout the city.  
(Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

Mayor Lago: F7. This is something that I would love to take credit for, but it was brought to me by JC Padron. And I'd like to give credit where credit is due.

Commissioner Fernandez: Diaz Padron. He gets upset about being called Padron.

Mayor Lago: See, Vince Lago, 2.0, coming in the clutch.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Wait, wait, wait. I didn't hear that. My hearing's going.

Commissioner Fernandez: Diaz Padron.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Diaz Padron. All right.

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Commissioner Fernandez: It's Juan Carlos Diaz Padron, not Jose Padron, as he's been called before.

Mayor Lago: All right. Well, now that we got that out of the way, we'll deal with the legislation. I think it's important. I own a Moke. I don't use it enough. I should. But I think it's important that we have a real discussion and move forward about following the necessary protocols so that we could be a real golf cart community. And I know that you have some information that you've been working on with my staff to really see how to get the proper credentials, the proper insurance, so that we can promote a golf cart community, but also be as safe as possible. Because I don't want to see somebody get hurt out there. And I also have requirements in regard to; I don't want to see golf carts full of advertisement. I don't think that's appropriate. And I think it takes away from our brand. We don't allow that here in cars. We're very careful in regard to advertisement. In regard to cars, and I think we should have the same tasteful expectations out of the golf carts. Mr. City Attorney, thank you for being here.

Assistant City Attorney Ceballos: It's my pleasure. Good afternoon, Mr. Mayor, Vice Mayor and Commissioners. So, I was asked to discuss basically the differences between currently LSVs and golf carts. So as most of you, I believe know, a lot of times you'll see golf carts on the road, and you can't tell the difference between whether it's a golf cart or an LSV. And the only way you'll be able to tell is if you look in the back, they'll have a license plate. If it has a license plate, it is registered with the State of Florida. It has proper insurance. It's gone through the proper DOT inspections. That is a different item. That is controlled by the state. That vehicle can drive on any road in the State of Florida that has a speed limit of 35 miles an hour or lower. So that's currently allowed in the city. I drive mine almost exclusively to work. Today, I didn't because it looks like it's going to rain this afternoon, and I'd rather not get wet. So, the alternative that a lot of other municipalities have taken on Cutler Bay, Miami Lakes, West Miami, Palmetto Bay, they have created a program the state allows under Florida statute 316212, specifically allows the city to designate certain roads that will allow a golf cart to be driven on those roads. Now the golf carts do have certain minimum requirements. For the most part, you need to have functioning brakes. You need to have reflectors on the front and the back. You need to have a rearview mirror. We can put additional standards beyond that as part of our registration. And what other cities have done is you apply, you basically fill out an affidavit, you fill out a document. Some cities do inspections; some cities do not. And as long as you meet the criteria for that item, you would get basically a sticker from your municipality. So, pros and cons to that. Typically, those types of golf carts in terms of insurance are much more economical, but they don't have full coverage like you would an LSV or a car. Additionally, they're not as regulated. They are supposed to be limited to only 20 miles an hour. A golf cart that is approved by municipality can only go between 15 and 20. An LSV is designed to go between 20 and 25 miles an hour. So, if the city would like to consider doing that, we can definitely look in preparing some sort of an ordinance and we can set out certain requirements and the registration process and how you'd get your decal and what that

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would look like. We cannot allow; we would be limited to city streets. So, we cannot designate county roads or state roads. So once again, if it was a golf cart process that we create, you cannot drive on those roads. If a person wants to do an LSV, they can still do that, but the process goes through the state, and you have to follow the requirements of the DOT.

Mayor Lago: So, I was corrected. I don't have a golf cart. I have an LSV. So yeah, thank you for that. This is where you're stating right now is what I would like to do at the next Commission meeting if possible.

Assistant City Attorney Ceballos: Okay.

Mayor Lago: But I would also like to put very clearly in the legislation that again, remain the same, have the same standards as a car in regard to aesthetics.

Assistant City Attorney Ceballos: Okay.

Mayor Lago: I think that we should be very tasteful in regard to the vehicles and wraps and all kinds of things that I think that are all over the top. We have that legislation already in place for cars and I think it's important that we make sure that we hold true to our standards here in the city.

City Attorney Suarez: Mayor, we can work with you on bringing the ordinance back. Do you want it at the first meeting in January?

Mayor Lago: That'd be nice. Madam Vice Mayor?

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, I have a request. If you have a chart, height of the vehicles, you know, I just for-

City Attorney Suarez: A comparison is what you're...

Vice Mayor Anderson: Comparison, you know, I want to make sure that they're visible by truck drivers. I want to make sure that they're visible period. You know, we already talked about not going on bike lanes because it presents a problem for the bicyclists.

Assistant City Attorney Ceballos: So, this would strictly be on residential roads or roads designated by the City of Coral Gables. You can allow them on sidewalks, but that's a different process. And you have to do an analysis, and you have to submit that to DOT. I don't think that's something we want to do.

Vice Mayor Anderson: No.

Assistant City Attorney Ceballos: So, for the most part, if you're just creating a registration process, it's basically any roads that we designate in the city that are not county roads and not state roads and under 35 mile an hour.

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Vice Mayor Anderson: So, I'll make my position clear. I'm a hard no on putting them on sidewalks or the little kiddie ones that, you know, they're driving around the block. But yeah, but I'd like to look at more of the details in the details, as some people say. I'd like to look at that and then brainstorm it some more. But thank you, Mayor, for bringing this up.

Commissioner Fernandez: Are we able to put in regulations like they should have seatbelts, reflectors?

Assistant City Attorney Ceballos: Yes. There's minimum requirements. The minimums, I think, are what I stated. If you look at the state statute, when a city is passing an ordinance to allow this on their residential streets, it's very limited. It's not like the LSV process that is very thorough. It literally says functioning brakes. It does say reflectors on the front and the back. And it says a rearview mirror. I mean, that's the extent of it. I suspect that we'll probably want to mirror more of the LSV with side mirrors, running lights, things of that nature, the triangle stop in the back.

Commissioner Fernandez: Wipers.

Assistant City Attorney Ceballos: Yes. Wipers are also interesting because it's actually not in the state statute. But for some reason, at the local level, when you go to get it, they require a wiper. I'm not sure how functional they are.

Commissioner Fernandez: But I'll tell you, it does make a difference. I've driven golf carts without a wiper. And you have to look out sometimes because you can't really see. So, the wiper does make a difference in the rain.

Vice Mayor Anderson: No, it would. I wish I had wipers on my glasses when I'm riding in the rain.

Mayor Lago: Okay. So, thank you very much. So, we'll bring this back to the next Commission meeting.

City Attorney Suarez: Yes, we'll work on that.

Mayor Lago: Thank you very much.