



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
April 12, 2016

ITEM TITLE:

Discussion Item. North Ponce Planning and Zoning Strategies

DEPARTMENT HEAD RECOMMENDATION:

Discussion. This is a Commission preview of strategies that implement the recommendations of the 2015 North Ponce Community Visioning Workshop. Staff is seeking initial direction on proposed Zoning Code amendments, Planning Studies, Capital Improvements, and Community Programs, to be presented for discussion at a future community workshop.

BRIEF HISTORY:

North Ponce is one of Coral Gables' most promising neighborhoods, as one of the only places in South Florida where affordable apartment living meets high quality of life and world-class amenities. North Ponce is an attractive destination for young professionals, retirees and working families who choose to live within a lushly-landscaped, low-scale apartment community within walking distance to schools, parks, transit, shops and restaurants.

The City of Coral Gables has collaborated with North Ponce stakeholders for many years to determine ways to protect and enhance the special character of the neighborhood. In June 2015, the City hosted the North Ponce Community Visioning Workshop in conjunction with the City's 90th Anniversary celebration. Following the Community Vision Workshop, the public input received was crafted into a set of policy recommendations and Action Steps.

Over the past few months, Staff has developed a series of planning and zoning strategies that implement the policy recommendations from the Workshop. These strategies are broken into four categories:

1. Two Zoning Overlays

- a. North Ponce Neighborhood Conservation Overlay
- b. North Ponce Corridor Mixed-Use Overlay

2. Planning / Preservation Studies

- a. North Ponce Apartment Buildings Local Thematic Historic District
- b. Obispo-Madeira Bicycle-Pedestrian Route Study

3. Capital Improvement Projects




- a. Landscaping and Open Space
- b. Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility
- c. Public Parking

4. Community Amenities

- a. Civic Places
- b. Ageless Community Programs
- c. Coral Gables Preparatory Academy: Centerpiece of a Neighborhood
- d. Incentive Housing for Teachers

A summary of the proposed North Ponce Planning and Zoning Strategies is provided as Exhibit A. A copy of the powerpoint presentation of North Ponce Planning and Zoning Strategies is provided as Exhibit B.

APPROVED BY:

Assistant Department Director	City Attorney	City Manager
		

EXHIBIT(S):

- A. North Ponce Planning and Zoning Strategies Summary
- B. North Ponce Planning and Zoning Strategies Powerpoint Presentation 04.12.16