

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item H-2
July 26, 2016
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

**Mayor Jim Cason
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Vince Lago
Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Commissioner Jeannett Slesnick**

City Staff

**City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
City Attorney, Craig E. Leen
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Assistant City Manager, Peter Iglesias**

Public Speaker(s)

**Earl Jackson, Consultant with CooperRobertson
Mr. Renald, Coral Gables Resident**

Agenda Item H-2 [3:17:02 p.m.]

Review presentation and discussion of lighting alternatives for the Miracle Mile/Giralda Avenue Streetscape Project

Mayor Cason: H-2 and then H-3, City Manager.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: I'm going to ask Earl Jackson from CooperRobertson to come forward. We have worked with the Miracle Mile Streetscape on an issue related to lighting. Peter would you like to introduce this item as Earl comes forward? So Commissioners you'll recall that we had some discussion amongst you all as to whether or not you wanted colored lights or lights that could change and be colorful during certain occasions versus all white, and so we are here to give you an update on that.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: The project is here to do a presentation is coming up; and I think we came up with a very good solution and I will let him present his PowerPoint presentation.

Mayor Cason: Welcome back. Like your tie.

Mr. Jackson: Thank you. Today we are here to talk about and review the lighting for Miracle Mile and Giralda Avenue Streetscape. I'll do a very quick brief overview of the overall lighting scheme. We'll talk about the subject matter which is really the option for color changing lights within the project. I'll tell you what concerns and considerations we've had and close with a recommendation. What we have is a series of lights; we have lights akin to the ones that wrap the trees that run up and down Miracle Mile on the live oaks around the trunks. We have median spots that are going to light the palms and the plantings in the median for Miracle Mile. We have a series of two different kinds of overhead lights that are catenary lights on South LeJeune Plaza, which are bare ball and hanging raindrop lights in the center section of Giralda Avenue. There are lights that will light the arches and lastly, the pylon lights, which exist in the mid-block crossing along the edges of Giralda Avenue on the east and west ends and then also in LeJeune Plaza. The lights that I think we are mostly focused on for the option for color changing have been the pylon lights and the median spotlights. Those lights occur in the diagram that you see on the screen in the following locations, mid-walk crossings for pylons, east and west ends of Giralda, and at LeJeune Plaza. The recommendation that we had going into the design was that all the lights should be a warm, bright white. We are looking at 3200 degree calven. We at some point throughout the course of developing the design heard the desire to entertain options for color changing, so that during special times of year and events we could sort of highlight those events and celebrate those events through lighting at night in both the Mile and Giralda. The cross-section of Miracle Mile looks like this. The FF is median light, the FD are places where those pylons occur. What we thought was an applicable and acceptable place to put color-changing lights were in the median down Miracle Mile. When we looked at the cross-section of all of the other opportunities for light, we shied against color-changing in any of the other areas, because of the impact on shop for those and things that people might be selling in their stores, the color which you would have to endure if you were engaged in a restaurant outside on the sidewalk for a duration period of time. So basically anywhere where people were going to be spending time in public space, we shied away from color-changing because of potential impacts of that. We thought the median was great because that's really kind of part of the Mile you are experiencing moving through, you experience when you arrive, you are predominantly in your car so it's not going to change the color of your skin tone, it's not going to change the color of your stake, it's not going to change the color of your dress.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I don't know, green stake is delicious.

[Laughter]

Mr. Jackson: Green eggs and ham I heard...

Commissioner Lago: So let me get this right. So Commissioner's request to bring her back to her days of Studio 54 is not going to happen on the Mile.

[Laughter]

Commissioner Lago: I just want to make sure because she was very thorough and direct in the previous Commission meeting that she was insistent on having disco ball lights and strobe and smoke machines. We are not recommending that?

Vice Mayor Quesada: She had a stronger preference for Mulan Rouge.

[Laughter]

Mr. Jackson: I have a Mulan Rouge light I can show you.

Mayor Cason: Moving smartly on.

Mr. Jackson: Moving smartly on.

Commissioner Lago: So this is what we call a compromise, classy compromise.

Mr. Jackson: I don't know if this is a compromise. I actually think that this is, I don't believe we are compromising anything here. I think actually it's a nice way of celebrating moments.

Commissioner Lago: So you are going to give me credit for the idea then?- or you are going to take credit for the idea?

Mr. Jackson: I'm not sure who needs credit, certainly not me.

Commissioner Lago: We'll give it to you; we'll give it to you.

Commissioner Keon: I wish the white light first.

Mayor Cason: We agree with you in terms of the median of the light. Can that change or is that a big deal to change red to blue at some time of year or pink if its Valentine's Day?- or is it a shade over the light or is it a light bulb?- what is it?

Mr. Jackson: Well we are going to move forward with, if the Commission approves the median lights today as an alternative fixture that has LED color-changing capacity. So you'll have a program opportunity to do that. You'll have to train somebody to manage it and keep on top of it that way, but it's easier than changing out the gels which are the traditional.

Mayor Cason: How many light fixtures would you say on Miracle Mile?

Mr. Jackson: I couldn't tell you off the top of my head, but I can get back to you on a number.

Mayor Cason: Hundreds or just a few? How manageable is it?

Vice Mayor Quesada: Here's how it works nowadays. You have one bulb, it's a LED bulb and you can change it to 64,000 different colors, and there is a computer program, you hit one button and it changes to whatever color you want. So it's not like someone has to go out there and change every time and change every bulb.

Mr. Jackson: It's all computer controlled.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes.

Mayor Cason: Does it cost much more money.

Mr. Jackson: It depends on who the lighting manufacturer is, so there are multiple things that factor into what the cost of the piece would be and those would be things that we'll have to evaluate as we move forward.

Mayor Cason: It looks great. I like...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: It's a slight increase if you use the same quality of light, slight increase if we use the same quality of lighting product that we are using now.

Vice Mayor Quesada: It gives us options and the thing is it could always be white in the median, but it always gives us the option if you want to do something special.

Commissioner Lago: And in my opinion, I think that that would be, that option would be reserved for very specific moments in the year or it may not even happen. We are celebrating our 90th year, maybe one month we want to...

Mayor Cason: Like the day after elections for people who lose can have blue.

[Laughter]

Vice Mayor Quesada: OK. We got it. So we have to vote on this?

Mayor Cason: Mr. Renald would like to speak.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: I'd like to say we've also contacted the B.I.D. and the Chamber and they are dealing with this.

Commissioner Lago: I'd like for Mr. Renald who has been an incredible individual, who lives in the City of Coral Gables and I want to introduce everybody. How many meetings have you and I had?- close to a dozen meetings and with staff. He is a pro-bono physicist who is retired in the City of Coral Gables and is very interested like myself in upgrading all the lighting in the City of Coral Gables, both public and private to LED lighting, and I just want to say even though we are entering a stage where we may see some fruit, I wanted to say thank you as we go along, thank you for your pro-bono efforts and your leadership and your guidance, because it's very much needed and we are grateful. He was introduced to us by the City Manager, so I want to give her credit for introducing us to this gentleman who has been an incredible resource and has never said no to any meetings, to any guidance, to any meetings with staff, to meeting with outside consultants. You're great. Thank you.

Mr. Renald: It's been my pleasure to work...[inaudible]...2012 and we'd just like to contribute to keeping it beautiful. The area of lighting is something that is very close to my heart. I'm very pleased to see that the streetscape is being proposed to have 3200 K, which is a great color, is going to not only enhance the experience, but is also going to improve the ability to identify faces in security cameras and everything, and streetscape is going to be the first big LED lighting project in the City. It cannot get approved without that concept being fully in front of everybody, but we have a great opportunity to give all the neighborhoods a very pleasant experience and we also have LED lighting presents us with the first opportunity for lighting to be an architectural concept, because instead of having two or three colors that we had in the past with mercury and metal highlight and incandescent and everything, you have the full gambit of colors. I like to urge the City to ask Mr. Trias and his team, the Architectural Board or something, to think of the fact that as we talk about this big project that the lighting be considered a parameter that is going

to be specified, because lighting a site here in the City, if you look at Giralda, for example Giralda between Galiano and Douglas its impressive that the developer is able to put lighting posts right in the middle of the sidewalk that prevent people from walking safely, and we have too much to lose by letting that go, so I would say, please think of color as one of the parameters you can specify and don't let it be something that developers can just exercise freely as part of a special project. We have a beautiful City, we want to keep it that way and I will work with any and all of you as a volunteer just because we love this place and we want to keep it that way.

Commissioner Lago: Thank you doctor.

Mayor Cason: Thank you. OK. So anybody disagree with the color down the middle?

Commissioner Keon: No.

Vice Mayor Quesada: No.

Mayor Cason: It's all unanimous – unanimous? – OK. Let the record show it's unanimous. So ordered.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Thank you sir.

Mayor Cason: Thank you.

[End: 3:29:47 p.m.]