

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting**  
**Agenda Item G-9**  
**May 23, 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**

**Public Speaker(s)**

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Agenda Item G-9 [5:37 p.m.]

Discussion regarding the impact of installation of trees in Central Business District and a bike lane on Andalusia on the parking needs at Garage 1/Mobility Hub. (Sponsored by Vice Mayor Anderson)

Mayor Lago: Moving onto G-9, Vice Mayor Anderson. Thank you, Raquel, great work.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Well, I wanted to bring up two things. G-9 – I’ve had a lot of requests from residents to do bike lanes all the way to the Adult Activity Center, because folks would like to bike in there. While thinking about the Mobility Hub and the number of parking spaces that we need, we also need to account for the parking spaces that will be lost to put in that bike lane, that’s very much needed. The other thing is, people have been asking for shade trees in the blistering, hot sidewalks of our downtown, and one young lady came in and also showed me an aerial view of our CBD and the fact that it’s just cement, asphalt and cement. Again, asking that we do something about putting trees in. We can’t put in trees without losing parking spaces. So, I compiled the numbers in a chart to just show the effect of the parking needs that those things will create, even if we put in small trees. That was the number I was able to get was 79 small trees, like a Silver Buttonwood, its not going to do much for shade. I would say that small trees, such as the Silver Buttonwood need 6 by 6 planting area, we need 10 by 10. So, the number is actually

a little larger than the 1027 at the low end. I circulated this memo around you all, but this is to give us comfort to know that when we're talking about the number of parking spaces, we haven't overshot the goal by putting in a parking garage for 626, based upon the study that recommended an additional 800 parking spaces to 1,000 parking spaces, that this will help our city become a more walkable downtown. So, my suggestion is, we build the garage and after we build the garage, we start greening our city streets, so when you get out of the garage, you can go walk down to Chocolate Fashion, you can go walk down to the other businesses that are in the area. So that was the purpose of doing this memo to you all, to the public, so they have the calculations of the numbers. The next item is more about design.

Commissioner Fernandez: Through the Mayor. It says actual proposed is what's currently proposed. The ones you're recommending are the numbers right above, 1,027, 1,227, and 1,127.

Vice Mayor Anderson: No, I'm not actually making a recommendation. I'm just taking the study, saying they suggested 800, adding to it, the parking that would be lost. This is up for discussion. If you all think we need more, then say so. But show the justification for the number of spaces, because we've all received some e-mails from people saying that we don't need the parking, got enough parking, and I've seen the backed-up lines. I've walked the Mile at night with my two dogs. I've seen people leaving the backed-up lines to get into the garages and not going to the next garage, they decide to go onto the next city or the next event because there's just no place to park, and that's the concern for our businesses downtown that we have inadequate facilities to do that. So, I think the core idea behind the garage is solid, we just need to move onto the design discussion.

Mayor Lago: Again, I want to commend you with putting this memo together. I know it took you a lot of time.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Oh, my Saturday and Sunday was shot.

Mayor Lago: It took you a lot of time. I want to commend you for this, because I've written a lot of memos and my staff has done a great job, they deserve all the credit, but this is comprehensive and it took a lot of things into consideration, the bike lanes, the trees. I think we've all come to the conclusion that the Mobility Hub is a requirement, now we're just talking about the design. So, I had never looked at it the way you looked at it right now. So, I want to give you credit for that, taking into consideration the trees, the bike lanes. So, when you start talking about, when Mr. Kinney starts talking about, you know we need 626 spaces, well, how many spaces do we really need, and what is an extra floor or a lesser floor...you understand, when you talk about height. So, these are things that I think this memo is going to serve us well as we drill down on the design and we finalize the scope of the Mobility Hub to really move forward in a way that, again, takes everything into consideration. This is great, really good job, really good job.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, this is attached to the agenda so the public, if they want to drill down

into the ADA accessibility issues, they understand. We are going to have to sink \$1.5 million dollars into this old facility just to bring it into compliance, and we are going to be losing more parking by doing so. Structurally its got issues. I took a picture of rust that someone else sent to me and I've seen worse in this garage than this. We just can't ignore it anymore; we need to move forward.

Mayor Lago: Very well done. May I move on?

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes, you may.