

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item E-5
November 9, 2022
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Michael Mena

Commissioner Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Jorge Fors

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Attorney, Miriam Ramos

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Maria Cruz

Agenda Item E-5 [10:15 a.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission authorizing the waiver of parking fees in the City's public garages from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on November 26, 2022 for the 2022 Small Business Saturday event.

Mayor Lago: Item E-5.

City Clerk Urquia: Ms. Maria Cruz has requested to pull Agenda Item E-5.

Mayor Lago: Ms. Cruz, you'd like to speak in regards to E-5. The floor is yours, good morning.

City Clerk Urquia: Doesn't seem to be responding on Zoom.

Mayor Lago: Let's give her a few seconds to make sure.

Ms. Cruz: I'm here. I'm here. Can you hear me?

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Mayor Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Anderson: Yes – can't see you but we can hear you.

Ms. Cruz: Alright. Well, I don't know. Remember, I'm not a techy. Alright. So, I saw this item and I was so glad that I saw it, because it reminded me of something that I wanted to bring up. When there are issues of flooding in the city, there are some areas that people have difficulty parking, because their streets are flooded, the basements are flooded, and...

City Clerk Urquia: Ms. Cruz.

Ms. Cruz: Yes.

City Clerk Urquia: Ms. Cruz, I'm sorry, but that's agenda item E-4, I believe.

Ms. Cruz: No, it says E-5.

Commissioner Menendez: E-5 is parking.

Mayor Lago: Yes – E-5 is parking.

Ms. Cruz: Yes, that's what I'm talking about.

Mayor Lago: Okay.

Ms. Cruz: And this item talks about waiving parking fees for the use of something that's very good. I'm not arguing that, but I thought that perhaps, we could do something similar for those people that find themselves because of flooding that they do not have a place to park their vehicles nearby, and I'm talking specifically about people in the Biltmore Way area that the street floods, the basement, the underground parking flood and these people get desperate because they don't know where they are going to put their cars; and I thought like Miami Beach and other areas, maybe they could be allowed to park in the city garages with no charge.

Vice Mayor Mena: Ms. Cruz, I think we've always done that for hurricanes and storms, we've always opened the garages and mad them available for people to park.

Ms. Cruz: But I'm talking about flooding, not just hurricanes.

Vice Mayor Mena: Okay.

Parking Director Kinney: We open the public garages once there is a hurricane warning.

Vice Mayor Mena: Right. Okay.

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Commissioner Menendez: How long do they stay open until the warnings...?

Parking Director Kinney: After the storm is gone, we give people 48 hours to remove their cars.

Commissioner Anderson: That's enough time for them to pump out their garages.

Vice Mayor Mena: And obviously, it's a serious event.

Parking Director Kinney: If we have standing water all over the place, that 48 hours will not be enforced.

Vice Mayor Mena: Of course. Alright, thank you.

Mayor Lago: We have flexibility.

City Manager Iglesias: I think Commissioners, that would depend on the severity of the hurricane.

Vice Mayor Mena: Of course. Okay. I'll make a motion on E-5 to waive parking fees for Small Business Saturday, which is the item that's actually on the agenda.

Commissioner Menendez: I'll second.

City Clerk Urquia: All in favor.

All: Aye.

City Clerk Urquia: Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Thank you Vice Mayor.