

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting**  
**Agenda Item C**  
**October 8, 2024**  
**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, Amos Rojas, Jr.**  
**City Clerk, Billy Urquia**

**Public Speaker(s)**

**Maria Cruz**  
**Antonella Sombrano**

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Agenda Item C [10:05 a.m.]

**Public Comment**

Mayor Lago: Moving onto Public comment.

City Clerk Urquia: First speaker this morning, Mr. Mayor is Mrs. Maria Cruz.

Mayor Lago: Before we take that, I want to put on the record also, we have the following items deferred: Item E-6, F-1, F-3, F-4, F-5, F-6, F-7, F-8 and H-3. Thank you.

Mrs. Cruz: Good morning. Mrs. Maria Cruz, 1447 Miller Road. This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. Not everyday is sunny and bright, but everyday we have we have an opportunity to make a difference in people's lives. Take advantage of that today.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk Urquia: Antonella Sombrano.

Mayor Lago: Good morning.

Ms. Sombrano: Good morning, Mayor and Commissioners. I'm Antonella Sombrano, I reside in 3121 S.W. 25<sup>th</sup> Terrace. Today, I just wanted to discuss my parking concerns, specifically down Miracle Mile. I just moved to Coral Gables, so I'm not extremely familiar, but

Commissioner Castro: What was your address again, I'm sorry.

Ms. Sombrano: 3121 S.W. 25<sup>th</sup> Terrace. I'm familiar with the parallel parking down Miracle Mile and how a majority of it is valet, and the four parking garages that center Miracle Mile, down like the median, and I just think – I'm familiar with the fact that a lot of the times that I come down Miracle Mile, a lot of the garages are either full or the parallel is valet for specific restaurants, and it's kind of difficult, especially if its like for an appointment, its kind of difficult to find parking. So, a couple solutions I just thought I could present to you today are to implement Smart Parking, so this could include technology that could allow for real-time parking availability Apps that could help drivers find open spaces without having to drive around for a decent amount of time, going in and out of garages. Time limited parking which could introduce time limits in certain areas to ensure, not only availability for shoppers and visitors, but also for turnover. And lastly, regular assessments, conducting periodic evaluations regarding parking needs and adjustment strategies based on changing demand.

Mayor Lago: Thank you, Ms. Sombrano. I appreciate you being here taking time in your day to be here.

Ms. Sombrano: Thank you.

Mayor Lago: If you indulge me, I'd like to invite you to my office, along with staff and we can get maybe the DCM to join us or the ACM, to join us, so we can talk a little bit about what we're doing in regard to parking.

Ms. Sombrano: Okay.

Mayor Lago: We have a new Parking Director, after a long time of having Kevin Kinney as our Parking Director, we also have Matt Anderson, who is involved for a long time in parking, so we can go over a little bit of what we're doing, the vision in regards to the future proposed parking in the city and again, we always welcome new ideas and I think its an opportunity, especially to see it from a different lense, a young professional like yourself who could potentially give us insight in regards to what is it that we are, not that we're doing something wrong, what can we do to potentially enhance it.

Ms. Sombrano: Yes.

Mayor Lago: To make it more welcoming to people who want to visit our downtown, because right now, I'll tell you, we have some of the cheapest parking rates in Miami-Dade County. A lot of people kind of get confused. We don't control – we do issue parking tickets, but the parking

monies go to Miami-Dade County, that money doesn't come to the City of Coral Gables entirely, a portion of it does. It's a much longer story for another day. I don't want to take up your time, but I think it would be an opportunity that you can catch up with not only myself, but with staff and other members of the Commission, if you're interested to go over this. So, I appreciate that. Thank you for being here.

Ms. Sombrano: Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Madam Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, when I was doing a tour with our former Parking Director, he made me aware of an App called, Park Me, and I tried it before, it wasn't working at that time. The last time I tried it, and I tried it again right now, it is working, and it does give you the rates. I know our future vision is to have Smart Parking as well, it's going to take some time to get it off the ground. I also hold my office hours on Fridays, so I'm on the opposite end of the hall, if you want to stop by and say hello.

Ms. Sombrano: Thank you.

Mayor Lago: So, Ms. Sombrano, we'd like you to come to my office, when you step out you make a left, you can make an appointment at your convenience and we'll get staff there, or you can stop by on Fridays during office hours, it starts at 2 o'clock, and it ends between 5 and 5:30.

Ms. Sombrano: Okay.

Commissioner Menendez: I just want to say in the short time you've been here, great observations and great suggestions. So, if anything else you see in the city, by all means, obviously you pay attention and you're out for the best interest, not only of the residents, but of the city, so thank you.

Ms. Sombrano: Thank you.

Commissioner Fernandez: I appreciate you took the time to, not only come to us with a problem, but with potential solutions as well, which I think is commendable.

Ms. Sombrano: Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Thank you very much.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Mayor, I have one speaker on Zoom, Raphael Sevilla.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Sevilla, the floor is yours. Can you hear us? Mr. Sevilla.

City Clerk Urquia: He is unmuted but does not seem to be speaking.

Mayor Lago: Give him five seconds. Mr. Sevilla.

City Clerk Urquia: Again, he is unmuted.

Mayor Lago: Well, we'll close public comment. We are going to go unto Consent Agenda. I know the City Attorney wanted to pull item D-6. We'll come back to the gentleman if he's able to figure out the technical issues.