

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item C-2
March 10, 2020
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Michael Mena
Commissioner Jorge Fors

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Parking Director, Kevin Kinney

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item C-2 [9:23:42 a.m.]

A discussion regarding valet parking

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And then Mayor's Comments – discussion regarding valet parking. We spent how many millions? - \$20-sum million in Miracle Mile and we are getting great shops, great restaurants, great bars in Miracle Mile, and its happened to me three times now. I go – last time was last Sunday and a week ago this past Sunday, and I went one in front of Seasons 52 and I was told, Oh no, no, we don't have anymore parking, we are closed. This is a quarter to seven in the evening. Two weeks before, I'm sorry, I go around the block and I park in the parking lot in the back and there is no problem. Two weeks before, I go to the valet parking in front of Benihana on the other side of the street and they said, we are closed, we don't have any parking. I go around the block and the one in front of Bula and the one in front of Flemings, sure leave it here, and we'll come get it later. We spent all this money on Miracle Mile and why, why is this happening? Why are they not servicing the customers that go with valet parking? Why? Change companies?

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Parking Director Kinney: If you can give me the dates, I'll look into it. I can tell you, February they parked about 5,900 cars. On a busy month they parked a little over 7,000. I will tell you that parking enforcement and police do watch them closely and if they are busy, they are supposed to move people along, so that we are not blocking the traffic lanes. But if it was on a Sunday that seems an odd situation, so I would be more than happy to find out what was going on, on Sunday.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: [Inaudible – off mic]

Parking Director Kinney: OK. But there are times when they do tell people we are too busy right now; would you go to the next stand or go around the block. That is a requirement because we don't want them to block the traffic lane. However, I will go back to on a Sunday evening at 7 that should not be happening. So, I would be more than happy to look into it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Thank you very much.

Commissioner Keon: One of the other issues I notice is, the number of cars that are kept in the valet ramp all the time, so you know what, they are full and so when they are bringing cars, they are blocking traffic because the ramp is full. Its my assumption that they tip them they get to stay there. Is that right, are they still doing that?

Parking Director Kinney: That should not be happening. I will tell you I get calls from police and we send officers out there to write tickets. Its usually on a very expensive car, but we write the tickets because they are only allowed 15 minutes at the stand. But both the bike patrol guys and the parking enforcement guys are out there. We don't catch everybody. I know we don't catch everybody, but I'm actually working with IT on what we hope will be a solution, that is the cameras that monitors 24/7, what happens at the valet stands, they are in testing right now, and Raimundo and I talk about when that's going to roll out frequently, and hopefully it should be impossible. Its just like a red-light camera. We are going to catch you every time.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much Kevin.

Vice Mayor Lago: Just a quick question. We've been having this discussion for years now in regard to preferential treatment given to some just because they pay a little extra. So, if this just happened now, which I'm not aware of, I know it was happening a lot before. Why don't we start doing maybe some audits? What I mean audits, why don't we send somebody from staff, plain clothes to maybe visit some of these stands during the lunch hour, which is where its most prevalent before.

Parking Director Kinney: We have teamed up with police to do sting on a couple of occasions, its probably been six months now at least.

Vice Mayor Lago: Its been a while.

Parking Director Kinney: So, no. I will talk to the Chief...

Vice Mayor Lago: It has to be consistent and I think once you put them on notice that this is occurring, maybe it will curb that type of behavior if its happening. I haven't seen it and I've been on multiple occasions on previous Commission meetings years ago, over two years ago, I brought up the fact that it was happening before my eyes while I waited for the valet.

Parking Director Kinney: Well, I never want to be in the position of defending the valets because I know they do things wrong, but I will say this current company does not have the number of calls we experienced with the previous company.

Commissioner Keon: The issue is not on the Mile. What I find is the private valets in the CBD, but I don't see it on the Mile as much anymore.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much. Thank you, Kevin.

Commissioner Keon: Kevin, thank you.

[End: 9:28:53 a.m.]