

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-1
April 26, 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 Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Attorney, Miriam Ramos

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Assistant City Attorney, Gus Ceballos

Parking Director, Kevin Kinney

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-1 [Start: 4:00 p.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission amending parking medallion policy.
(Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

Mayor Lago: I'm going to talk about G-1 – Parking Medallions for elected officials.

Assistant City Attorney Ceballos: Good afternoon, Mr. Mayor, Commissioners, Assistant City Attorney Gus Ceballos. So, as requested in the previous meeting, the resolution basically will amend the current policy and restrict or limit lifetime parking medallion users to two and require bi-annual recertification. I did speak with the Parking Director; I think might chime in on some other ideas on how we can amend this and make it a bit more efficient.

Parking Director Kinney: One amendment I would request is to change the term medallion just to lifetime permanent, that will allow us to manage it in an appropriate manner.

Mayor Lago: You don't have to raise your hand. Listen, this is not the county where you have to like, ask me to speak, go ahead.

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Commissioner Menendez: How are they going to renew every two years?

Assistant City Attorney Ceballos: Well, the current idea was to have basically, a recertification, so basically a document that coincides with an election year. Basically, it gets reissued and refiled every year, although talking with the Parking Director, I think he came up with a bit of a little more elegant of a solution, which basically instead of a medallion you get a decal, and that decal expires in two years. So, at the end of that expiration, you would just submit a request or submit some sort of a recertification.

Parking Director Kinney: It would give the department an opportunity to ensure that the two license plate numbers are the current license plate numbers.

Commissioner Menendez: Can I ask, some are former elected officials are up there in age and is there a way to perhaps reach out to them instead of expecting them to maybe circle back with us. I just want to make it easier for them.

Parking Director Kinney: For all of them that we can contact, we will.

Commissioner Menendez: Yes.

Parking Director Kinney: Especially on this first go-around, because there are ex-elected officials that I know of that we do not have current license plates for.

Commissioner Menendez: I just want to make it...

Mayor Lago: It's a very good point. What I want to do is, I want to make sure there is accountability. There are certain individuals that have four, four is the max, medallions.

Parking Director Kinney: Yes. When we started looking at the list, there were people that had several.

Mayor Lago: Several – and some of them are no longer living. I want to make sure...

Parking Director Kinney: They are gone. They are off the list.

Mayor Lago: They are off the list, but they were on the list for a long time. I want to make sure that every two years, the elected official who has served this community in distinction and has the privilege to serve for free, excuse me, to park for free, has to simply check in with the City Manager or yourself via e-mail of signing a document of some sort, saying that they want to continue, obviously having a parking medallion, and that they are using the following car and this is the license plate. It should take no more than five minutes and its just another layer of accountability to ensure that there aren't issues where, again, as elected officials we have to do everything in our power to instill trust in the public, and when I hear from people that certain people have parking medallions, I want to get rid of all those parking medallions. I want it to be that every two years at

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a certain point, you guys pick when you want, but every two years, it can be associated with the election, whatever you'd like, fiscal year, but that we find out who is going to continue using parking medallions or parking decal to park for free in the city.

Parking Director Kinney: The only qualification I need to make sure everybody understands is, it is elected officials, but there have been some appointed officials who were granted lifetime parking on their way out of the city. So, there's a few of those, but its less than a handful.

Commissioner Anderson: Now, the only clarification I'm going to ask the Mayor, for those who are actually sitting up here, we have to reverify every two years, because we're alive.

Mayor Lago: I don't have a problem with that. I don't have an issue with that. It's okay.

Commissioner Anderson: As long as we're alive and we are sitting here, we don't need to worry about this.

Mayor Lago: Listen, the only reason why I'm bringing this up, I sat down with Kevin and his team, and we went over this. This was an issue before.

Commissioner Anderson: Oh, yes.

Mayor Lago: This was an issue before, and I want to make sure it does not become an issue in the future. Just like when people thought I was crazy that I asked to institute run-off. Nobody in this position on the dais wants to see a run-off, but I instituted that, and it was in the best interest of the city to ensure that we had 50 plus one as an elected official. So, this is another example of just us taking it to the next level of accountability, in my opinion.

Commissioner Anderson: Do we have a motion?

Mayor Lago: Would you like to make a motion?

Commissioner Menendez: I'll make it.

Commissioner Anderson: Second.

Commissioner Anderson: Yes

Commissioner Fors: Yes

Commissioner Menendez: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes

(Vote: 4-0)

Vice Mayor Mena: Absent

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