

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-4
June 28, 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, Jr.

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Attorney, Miriam Ramos

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Deputy City Attorney, Cristina Suarez

Senior Sustainability Analyst, Matt Anderson

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-4 [Start: 5:10 p.m.]

Discussion regarding the signage and safety measures required for scooters.
(Sponsored by Commissioner Anderson)

Mayor Lago: Moving onto G-4, Commissioner Anderson.

Commissioner Anderson: A picture is worth a thousand words. So, I'm going to ask for a few of the photos be brought up. The real purpose of this is for us to have a discussion about the willingness and the direction that we're going to take on parking of scooters on sidewalks and the ticketing. That one was up for last time. Just keep flipping through them. Have to determine where these types of motorized scooters are going to be parked so they don't block parking. That's an example of somebody Monday on the Mile that wasn't ticketed. Another scooter on Monday this week, that was yesterday. Going right back there was an incident. That's next to Publix, you can see its impassible. Next one, we have more. That's the same one. We're missing some pictures. Some additional pictures I had in there with a wheelchair, with a blind person coming in and

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scooters are a problem for a number of reasons; one, where they are parked. They are all over the sidewalk areas. If you look at our current language on the ordinance that requires for the scooters to be parked on the sidewalk, even in the residential areas and they are parked any which way, all over the place. So, I'm going to assess the appetite to have designated parking spots for scooters in areas like Merrick Park here, where you are going to have obvious heavy use. Assess the appetite for having them parked on swale areas as opposed to blocking the sidewalk to people getting across with strollers and wheelchairs and all kinds of devices. If this is the direction that our Commission is willing to go, I can start working with staff and the City Attorney's office on devising some solutions and put it through Planning and Zoning.

Commissioner Menendez: It is a little bit out of control. I've seen it myself, even where I live are multiple scooters on the sidewalk. I have a gentleman who is in an electric wheelchair, and he goes about the sidewalks and sometimes it blocks his path, so it is a concern.

Commissioner Anderson: So, if that's the will of the Commission, Mayor.

Mayor Lago: I support you wholeheartedly. We've just got to find, obviously, we've got limited parking spaces in the downtown. We need to find areas where we can appropriately dock or set aside these scooters. One of the big issues that we're having and it's painfully obvious, it behind Hillstone and we had it adjacent to the Aragon theater where Mark Trowbridge and I, along with Solanch I think was there, we took five, five gallon buckets of garbage on the side of the street, in bushes that were being thrown from the delivery drivers, the Uber Eats and I know everybody has to do a job, but at the end of the day let's respect the city that we are blessed to live in and also work. So, I'm with you. We welcome everybody. We ask people to take alternate modes of transportation, but let's be respectful, especially people who have disabilities, clog up an entire sidewalk. If you walk by that, I wouldn't leave it like that. Fix it. It's our responsibility. It's incumbent on us to be civilized. That to me, in my opinion is just a recipe for disaster.

Commissioner Anderson: I've moved them a number of times, but this is just out of hand. So, we'll work on it, okay.

Mr. Anderson: I just wanted to mention that we do have the vendors here from the pilot program, that we have Spin and Bird are represented, they are both online. Jose is here from Spin listening to the conversation. I know in other cities they have done in certain locations, parking corrals, because I think most of those pictures are probably related to somebody, like a group that rented a scooter and then ended up going to Merrick Park and didn't park them properly. I know, I've worked with both vendors that have put in the requirement to where the people need to take a photo when they are finishing their ride of how the scooter is parked to make sure its parked properly and not looking like that. And we've also refined, as Commissioner, I've updated you, we refined the GPS on no-ride areas that we have throughout the city, and I know that's working effectively. I've spoken with the Police Department, because I know that they were out on Miracle

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Mile doing enforcement this past week. From what they had told me, they didn't see any of the rental scooters, the Spin or the Bird scooters on Miracle Mile because of that geo-fencing, and I know a few of those pictures look like it was a private scooter, or a private bike is what that looked like that was up on the Mile. So, I can fully work with you on that as far as the rental scooters go, I mean the pilot program that we have, the micro-mobility. I also wanted to update you that we did lower the signs down to 7 feet. There were 10 signs located throughout Miracle Mile and on Ponce and we had lowered those down to 7 feet, which is the minimum height by Miami-Dade Public Works standards and FDOT standards.

Commissioner Anderson: I heard from – that's why I got pictures from violations on Monday, yesterday, still with the persistent problem, because there are private skateboards going up and down the Mile and on Ponce as well, where it's supposed to be a no-ride zone.

Commissioner Menendez: By the way, what are the no-ride zones?

Mr. Anderson: The no-ride zones are on the sidewalks all along Miracle Mile, three blocks north and south along Ponce of Miracle Mile, like going down toward Giralda Plaza and then going south, on Giralda Plaza itself, within our city parking garages; and then UM, one vendor is allowed to ride on campus, if someone rents it and happens to go on campus, but then they need to immediately remove it off campus.

Commissioner Menendez: And they leave their scooters pretty much anywhere, like once they finish the ride in residential areas.

Mr. Anderson: They could end up in residential areas from time to time. I haven't received the number of calls, like I said I've been overseeing this program for about a year and-a-half. I haven't received the number of calls related to them ending up in a residential area, because usually the vendors are going out frequently and collecting those and then restaging them in the approved locations that they are allowed.

Commissioner Menendez: Like I said earlier, like two or three on the sidewalk on my residential street for about two days.

Commissioner Anderson: Same here.

Mr. Anderson: That shouldn't be happening. If that does, please let us know. They also have phone numbers on the scooters, like if its parked wrong or whatever, that somebody can call and notify the vendors as well. And we also have a lot of messaging going out through both of the apps that they have and on our city website. I also updated our city website to designate the no-ride zones. Its very bold and in your face once you get to the website. So, we have been putting additional messaging out there to help, let people know that they can't be riding in the no-ride zones.

Commissioner Anderson: I get calls for that reason and also for the jay walking tickets.

Commissioner Menendez: People are jay walking.

Commissioner Anderson: We know you never do. Mayor, if you're ready, I want to do a similar thing with the bike lanes, G-6.

Mayor Lago: Okay. Perfect.