

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Items H-3 and J-1 are related
September 25, 2018
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

**Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Vince Lago
Commissioner Michael Mena**

City Staff

**City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Assistant Public Works Director, Jessica Keller
Senior Multimodal Engineer, Mark Brown**

Public Speaker(s)

Robert Ruano

Agenda Items H-3 and J-1 are related [0:00:00 p.m.]

A discussion regarding bike rack locations.

(Sponsored by Commissioner Lago)

A discussion regarding bicycles on Giralda.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Next item, H-3, discussion regarding bike rack locations, and also, J-1, discussion regarding bicycles on Giralda. Let's do the bike rack...

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Agenda Items H-3 and J-1 are related - Discussions regarding bike rack location and bicycles on Giralda.

Commissioner Mena: Together.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Locations first.

Commissioner Lago: Whatever you want is fine with me. We didn't -- as the last Commission meeting and the previous one, we never finalized where we were standing in regards to bike racks. Does anybody have any else -- does staff want to present or...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yes.

Commissioner Lago: Okay.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: So, we have a presentation.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: And also, I wanted to introduce Mark Brown. He's new to our team. He comes from Dallas, and he has ten years of experience doing this type of work. He's our senior multimodal engineer, and he's going to give the presentation related to bike racks.

Commissioner Lago: Welcome.

Senior Multimodal Engineer Brown: Thank you. Good to be here. Alright. I'm going to give you a brief overview of the bike racks we have out there now and where we need them in the future. So, looking at the 30,000-foot level, we have 86 bike racks out citywide right now, mainly downtown, near the Miracle Mile. We have a couple at the Youth Center, the library, and along the Metro. And we have quite a few at UM. And going into more detail near the

Miracle Mile, we have nine bike racks on Miracle Mile right now. We have eight on Aragon, and we have a couple more south on Ponce de Leon Boulevard and Alhambra. And even though that may look like a lot, we do have demand for many more. We do have popular destinations that could use a few more bike racks, namely, Granada Golf Course. Right now, we have one at Liberty Café. We could use a few more. Ponce de Leon Boulevard, particularly, north of Alhambra, where we have none. Biltmore Hotel, we have one in the interior courtyard of the hotel. If you're not staying in the hotel, you may not know about it. So, we definitely need more visible bike racks out there. 8th Street retail corridor, where we have none, and Sunset Drive, I believe we only have one or two out there right now. And Miracle Mile, even though we have nine racks out there now, we do have demand for more. We've gotten comments from owners on the Miracle Mile about people locking their bike to utility poles, to trees, what have you. When you're biking, you don't want to have to lock your bike a block away, two blocks away and walk to where you're going. You would like to park directly in front of your destination or nearby anyway.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: And I want to add when you're driving your car, you also want to park directly in front of your destination. But, the difference is it's a lot easier to steal a bike than it is to steal a car. So, you'd like to have your bike so that you can see it.

Senior Multimodal Engineer Brown: Thank you, yeah. And we are predicting more cycling activity, particularly, downtown and along the Miracle Mile. Now that Miracle Mile is finished, we're going to have more retail, more cafés opening up. We're going to have the Plaza at Coral Gables opening up in a couple years, and that'll create more cycling demand. So, going to our recommendations briefly. We're recommending bike racks on all four corners of all five intersections on the Miracle Mile. We've also identified a couple of midblock locations, and I'll talk about that in a minute. And a couple of other destinations, like I talked about before, Biltmore Hotel, Merrick Park could use a few more, golf courses, 8th Street, again, where we have none, Ponce de Leon Boulevard and Sunset Drive. Many of these are privately managed properties. We could work with the manager in identifying appropriate locations. And ideally,

we would put them in public right-of-way as well. But either way, we would coordinate with the owners in locating the bike racks. Looking at Miracle Mile in a bit more detail, we have identified several midblock locations. I know that may be difficult to see, but here's a photograph of what we're thinking. So, the bike rack would be near the tree plantings, avoiding the café areas, not conflicting with people getting out of their vehicle, so it would be kind of tucked away. And, we think that would be a good opportunity to add more bike racks to the Miracle Mile. And overall, I've identified 20 new bike rack locations on Miracle Mile.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Twenty new bike rack locations in the four blocks of Miracle Mile. Tell me what that would do to the aesthetics of Miracle Mile.

Senior Multimodal Engineer Brown: Well, it doesn't mean we have to put them all in. We've identified those opportunities. Maybe we only put in five...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Because, I understand that people want to be able to look at their bikes, and maybe they can put them inside the stores, but besides that, if we fill the street with bicycle racks, it's going to be an ugly street. And we spent, what, \$20 million in...

Vice Mayor Quesada: Twenty-three.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Twenty-three million dollars and we're going to fill it up now with bike racks? I think that's wrong, frankly.

Commissioner Lago: Well...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I understand the convenience of bicycle racks, but let's be practical too.

Commissioner Lago: I understand your concern, Mayor. And, if I may -- but I think that the great opportunity is that we're just -- we're identifying locations for these bike racks. And we

can start off with, you know, a handful of bike racks or maybe two handfuls, you know, if we deem it appropriate. And then, again, if it's not such an eyesore and it's providing the relief needed by the bicycling community, you know, we can move forward. Or we can just decide that that's enough bike racks for the community at the present moment.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: How many did you say, 50?

Commissioner Lago: Twenty.

Commissioner Mena: Twenty.

Commissioner Lago: Twenty.

Commissioner Keon: Twenty.

Commissioner Lago: But I think we can -- Mayor, I think...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: No, it's ugly.

Commissioner Lago: I understand. But I think the good thing about it is that, you know, they can find options for bike racks that are aesthetically pleasing. There's a lot of options today. It doesn't have to be some rusted pole that you're used to seeing in reference to a bike rack. You can do something...

Commissioner Mena: No, we have already the circle.

Commissioner Lago: Yeah, I know. I've seen it. And they look great. They look great. Or we can find another design. And that's the good thing about Coral Gables. There's a lot of options,

you know, that are available to us and we're willing to spend on something that's -- complements the Mile.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I would have no objection...

Commissioner Lago: You want to try five?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: If we...

Commissioner Lago: Ten?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: No, about seven and a half. I would have no objection to unicycles...

Commissioner Keon: If they were all in the shape of an R?

Commissioner Lago: Unicycles?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: No objection if we put the bike racks where cars park. Take one parking space and put five, six, seven bike racks there so as not to -- soil is too strong a word -- our pedestrian area of Miracle Mile. We would be...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: That is an option. We did not think that would be palatable.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We're eliminating one car...

Commissioner Keon: To remove parking from the Mile?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yes, yes. That is an option.

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Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We're eliminating one car, one, and we -- what, five, six racks fit in there?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Correct.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: You know, we could have 10 of those for 50 bike racks and then...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: That is an option.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah. I would have -- I think that's -- that would be a good compromise.

Commissioner Keon: Or maybe you can show us where you think it...

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yeah.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Commissioner Lago: Can you show us?

Senior Multimodal Engineer Brown: If that's...

Commissioner Lago: What do you recommend? Do you have...?

Senior Multimodal Engineer Brown: I do have a plan with potential locations. I'd be glad to share that with you.

Commissioner Lago: Okay. And, when you roll out -- let's say you mentioned it's about 20 bike racks now. What would be -- as long as the Commission has the appetite for it -- what would be your preferred rollout?

Senior Multimodal Engineer Brown: I think maybe five at a time. What do you think?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Maybe what?

Senior Multimodal Engineer Brown: We would definitely do it incrementally.

Commissioner Lago: Five at a time?

Senior Multimodal Engineer Brown: Yeah, do it slow, yeah.

Commissioner Mena: But each of those locations you identified have, as opposed to like one rack, if you will? I guess -- I'm thinking of the circular ones we have, right? I'll call that one rack.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: One rack.

Commissioner Mena: Right.

Unidentified Speaker: It would accommodate...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: It holds two bikes.

Commissioner Mena: Right, so when you say 20 locations, are you talking about one rack at each location or you're talking about multiple racks at each location? And if so, how many would you say at a given location?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Mark has looked at this most closely, so I'm going to let him answer whether it would be one or two racks.

Senior Multimodal Engineer Brown: It would be one rack at every new location.

Commissioner Lago: Do you have an example like of how it would look?

Senior Multimodal Engineer Brown: I have the location -- I have, in my PowerPoint there. It would be...

Commissioner Lago: Okay.

Senior Multimodal Engineer Brown: The racks we have out there now. They would...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Correct.

Commissioner Mena: Like a circle.

Commissioner Lago: Yeah, yeah.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: And the way that they're -- yeah.

Commissioner Lago: I just wanted to see if there was anything else.

City Manager Iglesias: That's a custom design for the Mile.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Would the Commission consider doing it where the car is?

Commissioner Lago: But, the problem is that they want to do -- and I appreciate, you know, your proffer, but what I'm -- what I think they want to do is they want to be able to have five

spread out in different areas in the -- on the Mile. If we have only one space where people can park and they're visiting another destination...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: No, no, no.

Commissioner Lago: Maybe a block...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I'm not saying -- I'm saying one car space...

Commissioner Mena: But like on this...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Every two blocks.

Commissioner Mena: Like on this block...

Commissioner Lago: Oh, okay.

Commissioner Mena: Like on this...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: No, no, no.

Commissioner Lago: Oh.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: One car space every two blocks north and one car on the other blocks south.

Commissioner Mena: Like on this example, you're saying there would just be one rack right there where that star is.

Commissioner Lago: Right there, near the tree.

Senior Multimodal Engineer Brown: One rack there.

Vice Mayor Quesada: When you say one rack, is it similar to what we have now, the circle?

Senior Multimodal Engineer Brown: Yes.

Commissioner Keon: You could put two bikes...

Commissioner Lago: Yeah.

Commissioner Keon: On there.

Senior Multimodal Engineer Brown: Two bikes.

Commissioner Keon: I think -- we had a discussion about this yesterday, and I said I don't own a bike, so I don't have any...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I can't hear you, I'm sorry.

Commissioner Keon: Experience with it.

Commissioner Lago: We could buy a tandem bike together and we can ride together.

Commissioner Keon: Right, we could see. Alright.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Or unicycle.

Commissioner Lago: After this, after this.

Commissioner Keon: Okay. After this, we'll go look. But, it seems that people that ride bikes want their -- they want their bikes close to them. I mean, that's what I hear from everybody that rides a bike is that they want to be able to park their bike near to where they are.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: It's a security issue.

Commissioner Keon: It's like they want to see their bike. And, I guess because they -- parts can be easily taken from them...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yes.

Commissioner Keon: And bikes can be easily -- you know, are not difficult to steal. And so, it's -- you know, putting them -- you know, a number of bikes in one location doesn't really answer the need of the bicycle riding community, because they would like -- instead of having a lot of bikes in one place, they'd like places spread out throughout the strip in order to, you know, tie up their bike or chain their bike or secure their bike. What's the word?

Senior Multimodal Engineer Brown: Secure.

Commissioner Keon: Secure your bike.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah, but following that line of thought, you would need a bike rack every -- in front of every single store.

Commissioner Keon: Well, no. I mean, I don't think so. I mean -- but you're not going to put it in front of every single store. But, you know maybe you could just draw a diagram for us and show us what it would look like.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Would the Commission like to...

Senior Multimodal Engineer Brown: Fair enough.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Consider the alternative as an alternate of the proposal of doing it where the car is parked?

Commissioner Mena: I'm open to seeing what it looks like.

Commissioner Lago: Yeah.

Commissioner Mena: I mean...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah, why don't we do that?

Commissioner Mena: My concern is...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: We could show you two different...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Scenarios. One where they are placed individually and where we have multiple in one location per block.

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Or do it every few blocks or every block or...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Right.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Whatever, I...

Commissioner Mena: I guess my...

Commissioner Keon: Maybe you could come back and show us that.

Commissioner Mena: My concern with what you're saying with one in each...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: We'll create a -- we'll have a rendering.

Commissioner Mena: With one in each location, I mean, if you have a family of three or four, they can't all park at the one rack, right? I mean so...

Commissioner Lago: You could do one on one side and one on the other.

Commissioner Keon: But they...

Commissioner Mena: Two, that's it.

Commissioner Keon: Then they...

Commissioner Lago: That's it, yeah.

Commissioner Keon: They bike -- usually, as a family, they tie their bikes together.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yes.

Commissioner Keon: It seems like they lock their bikes to one another.

Commissioner Lago: That's trust.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yes.

Commissioner Keon: So, you know, because you don't -- when they leave, they're all leaving together, so you can...

Commissioner Lago: Good point.

Commissioner Keon: You know you can put like four or five bikes together.

Commissioner Mena: You sound like you're talking about like aliens or something.

Unidentified Speaker: Let me...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: For someone who doesn't ride a bike...

Commissioner Keon: I...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: She knows an awful lot about it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: So, you will come up...

Commissioner Keon: I tell you, after...

Commissioner Mena: What I want to make sure is the one...

Commissioner Keon: After I go for a ride with Vince...

Commissioner Mena: Rack at a given location is adequate.

Commissioner Keon: I'll come back to you and talk about it...

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Keon: Next (INAUDIBLE)...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: You'll come up with a proposal and renderings and such.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

City Manager Iglesias: Let me just say that we have a very good group of architects within the City. We want to make sure that the Mile -- that the aesthetics of the Mile is not affected. We will work with our architects and the Board of Architects to make sure that...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: That's my concern.

City Manager Iglesias: That doesn't happen.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Commissioner Keon: There's a...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

Commissioner Keon: There's a very nice shop, I think, along Salzedo, just a couple blocks off the Mile that uses the bike rack out there as an advertising -- to tie up their...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yes.

Commissioner Keon: Advertisement to. Maybe they could be persuaded not to use that...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: No, but let's not...

Commissioner Keon: Bike rack all day long.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Fill it up with advertising.

Commissioner Lago: So, let me ask you -- let's...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Let's move on.

Commissioner Lago: Again, very similar to what I was talking about with Kevin. Can we put this on the next Commission agenda? How can we deal with this issue? I want to resolve this issue. I don't want it just to get lost, you know, out there.

Commissioner Keon: If you could meet with us individually.

City Manager Iglesias: Commissioner, I'd like to look at it -- what are the different alternatives and also, discuss it with the Board of Architects and our architectural staff to make sure that what we're doing, it doesn't hurt any of the aesthetic issues on the Mile.

Commissioner Lago: So, our next meeting is in October. Obviously...

City Manager Iglesias: It'll be the meeting -- the second meeting in October.

Commissioner Lago: You feel comfortable with that?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

Commissioner Lago: And then -- so, let's -- in ref -- to the Clerk, I want to put this item on the agenda for the second meeting...

City Attorney Ramos: 23rd.

Commissioner Lago: In -- and I would like for staff to work, obviously, with Peter and make sure that we get some input from the BOA, take into consideration the Mayor's comments, I think, which are very appropriate. I think there's a need. There's obviously a need and we're going to find a way to deliver on this need. And, you know maybe the Mayor's idea is the appropriate one. And I think it's an interesting one, you know. I think it's an interesting one.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Okay.

Commissioner Mena: I think we had a -- Mr. Ruano, did you -- were you going to...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah, Mr. Ruano, you wanted to say...

Commissioner Lago: You want to say something?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: A few words?

Commissioner Keon: What works for people that ride bikes a lot?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Mr. Ruano, do you ride a bike?

Robert Ruano: Yes, I do.

Commissioner Keon: All the time.

Mr. Ruano: I didn't bring it today. Robert Ruano, 1544 Murcia Avenue. Well, I didn't want to speak. I didn't want to overstay my welcome. I'm speaking on the next item. But, I think the Mayor's idea is very interesting. But, I think that you should listen to your folks when you make a decision, as the Manager said, also, the Board of Architects. You have architects that are looking at the aesthetics of the street. In some locations, one centralized location -- and if you've been to Europe or if you've been to Portland and other places, centralized locations, particularly, if it's covered, which is our next step as a city, I think, to have covered parking that is secure, that's lit at night, I think that would work very well. As for the Mile, on certain locations, I mean, it's something that we had said before the Mile was being done that we thought that it needed bike racks on the Mile. And I applaud the City for looking at that.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: When you say covered, you mean the covered parking for bicycles?

Mr. Ruano: Yeah, at some point. Now, I'm not...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: How...

Mr. Ruano: Saying here.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: How are you going to get there without getting wet if you need covered parking for the bicycle?

Mr. Ruano: It's not -- it's...

Vice Mayor Quesada: That's a really good point.

Mr. Ruano: It's not for riding in the rain.

Commissioner Lago: He's on point today.

Mr. Ruano: It's not for riding in the rain. It's more for riding in the summers or in the wet season of Miami. So, when you get there in the morning, you might park your bike there. You might go to your job or you might go with what you need to do. But when you get on your bike, the bike isn't soaking wet and the...

Commissioner Keon: The seat isn't soaked.

Mr. Ruano: Seat is wet and everything. And also, bikes now -- particularly, the people that you want to attract to the Mile to go to the stores, bikes aren't a hundred dollars. They're -- some of those bikes are thousands of dollars. So, people are spending a lot of money on these bikes, so they want to keep them safe. They want to keep them protected.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We could have bus...

Commissioner Keon: Bus benches for bikes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Bus benches -- covered bus benches for bicycles.

Mr. Ruano: Yeah, basically. That's what they look like. I mean, but I would say, just listen to the staff and they have the...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And they're ugly as sin.

Mr. Ruano: Best idea of where they should go, I think.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Mr. Ruano: Yeah.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Mr. Ruano: You're welcome.

Commissioner Lago: So, we'll...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

Commissioner Lago: You'll meet with each one of us and then we'll regroup for the second Commission meeting in October?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yes.

Commissioner Lago: With some renderings and make a decision on whether -- on which opportunity best fits the City...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yes.

Commissioner Lago: And the Mile.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: I'm here for J-1 also.

Commissioner Lago: Great work.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Good. J-1.

Commissioner Lago: It's a pleasure. Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Mr. City Manager.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: So, J-1 is the item related to bikes on Giralda. You asked us to discuss with the representatives on Giralda what their feelings were as far as limiting the use of bicycles on the plaza. Fortunately, our colleagues in Economic Development had a meeting with them and they communicated that they were interested in posting signage on Giralda. That signage would say something along the lines of pedestrian priority area. Please walk your bike or ride with care. And that was their preference. And I would actually invite Mr. Ruano to come up, because he was actually the one who had proposed that signage to the committee there.

Mr. Ruano: Yes. Hello, again. Robert Ruano, 1544 Murcia Avenue. So, now, basically, as part of Bike Walk Coral Gables -- I'm actually the Chair, and we did discuss this. And what we thought is, yes, we haven't had really a problem. I see the concerns. We see the concerns of cyclists and pedestrians and we want to make sure that they're mitigated, but we didn't think that there was an issue. And, I think all of you may have received a mockup that we did, which was - which Jessica was talking about. But, I think the committee also agreed that when you send

that message, don't come on here, it can -- you know, you can revisit this later, but if you haven't had a problem on Giralda with 40,000 people with all the umbrellas, don't necessarily restrict it now. Tell people, you know, ride with care, you know, ride slowly, you know, give pedestrians priority. But, allow them to go to that shop or to that restaurant and put their bike there and have something to eat. I think that's a better...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Mr. Ruano: Better solution.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: But, then where are you going to put the bike? You need bike racks all over Giralda again?

Mr. Ruano: No.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Come on.

Mr. Ruano: No. I didn't say that.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We want to soil...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: But there are bike racks...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Huh?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: There are bike racks there, on Giralda, on the ends.

Mr. Ruano: Yeah, but, sir...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: At the end, yes.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: At the end, right. Okay...

Mr. Ruano: Mr. Mayor...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And they're going to stay at the end, I hope.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Mr. Ruano: No, Mr. Mayor. I'm not saying put bike racks all over Giralda. But you know, you can go -- when it's not busy, you can go to a place to sit down and eat and you can put your bike next to it, if it's not bothering anybody. I think that the restaurants see that there is right now more of an economic benefit to attract families, attract people that are going to eat in their space or in their -- you know, at the restaurant than just saying don't come here at all. And we, for our part, in terms of Bike Walk Coral Gables, we'll talk to all the messenger companies and hope -- and encourage them to heed that warning and to heed the slowness and the care, so that they don't ruin it for everybody.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Well, I'm not saying forbidding anything and forbidding access to anything. I'm just saying if you want to walk your bike or leave it at the end, that's fine and put it by your table. But, what I am concerned about -- and I see it -- is young people -- or maybe not so young people if you ride it -- riding on Giralda at a fast speed and running over somebody. I mean, I'm all for access, but I also want to protect the kids that -- I think it was Commissioner Keon was saying running around and everything. I'm concerned.

Mr. Ruano: No. I would be concerned, too, but what I'll say that you had two months of the greatest influx of people that you've seen in the Gables for a long time. Most of it was on Giralda and you didn't have -- and correct me, if I'm wrong -- you didn't have reports of people getting hit by bikes, people getting run over, kids getting hit. So, just, you know, give it a chance. Don't necessarily, you know, remove it or tell people, no, you can't ride through here or anything. Just give it a chance and let's see if it works.

Commissioner Mena: That's -- you know, I'm as skeptical as, I think, some of my colleagues are. But, I think the last thing you just said is what sort of is persuasive to me, which is...

Commissioner Keon: Yeah.

Commissioner Mena: If there's not really an issue right now, there hasn't been any incidents, why don't we kind of see how it goes before we prohibit...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: You haven't had bicycle riding on...

Commissioner Mena: Throw every...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Giralda yet.

Commissioner Mena: Well...

Commissioner Keon: But they do.

Commissioner Mena: That's not true. People...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: We have.

Mr. Ruano: Mayor, I personally led a group of 20 people through Giralda on a Sunday morning. We didn't have any problems. We were perfectly okay.

Commissioner Mena: Right.

Mr. Ruano: I see bikes there. I had lunch there this week. I see bikes go through. I mean...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: (INAUDIBLE).

Mr. Ruano: You do have bikes go through.

Commissioner Mena: I just don't want to preemptively sort of overregulate this if it's not a real problem. So, I mean, if -- I'm open to seeing how it goes for a little while. And if we see incidents, I'd ask, obviously, Chief Hudak and Public Works to let us know...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Particularly, I think we'll hear from the business community. That was the biggest thing for me is that the business community wanted to have it done this way. And they will tell us. They're there every single day. They'll see if there is an issue and they'll bring it to our attention.

Commissioner Lago: Yeah. They're the best gauge of what's exactly happening on the street. So, I mean, I have to agree with you, Commissioner, and along with Jessica's comments. Let's see what happens. Let's not overregulate this. I agree a hundred percent. Your comments are right on point. What do you think, Vice Mayor?

Vice Mayor Quesada: So, actually, I met with Robert yesterday about this.

Commissioner Lago: I think Robert met with everybody.

Vice Mayor Quesada: And, I went into the meeting -- and before I went into the meeting...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Not with me.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I told him...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: He didn't meet with me.

Mr. Ruano: I texted him. I sent him an email.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Before the meeting, I was against it. And during the meeting, he convinced me, yeah, okay. But then the scooter conversation today, I think, got me back against it. I don't -- I agree with Commissioner Mena and Lago, what they're saying. I don't want to overregulate. But what Commissioner Keon said earlier is so true. My kids...

Commissioner Keon: (INAUDIBLE).

Vice Mayor Quesada: My kids are nuts.

Commissioner Lago: Yeah, but Commissioner -- but Vice Mayor...

Vice Mayor Quesada: If you take them outside, they're running back and forth in the plaza -- in a very positive way. I want to be clear about that statement I last made. I love my children...

Commissioner Lago: But take into consideration...

Vice Mayor Quesada: But, they're running around rampant whenever we go to Giralda. And...

Commissioner Keon: And they don't listen. They're kids.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yeah.

Commissioner Keon: They're little kids.

Commissioner Mena: But, I think -- I think what the missing piece of this is people who ride bike are similarly not interested in riding through an area...

Commissioner Lago: Getting into (INAUDIBLE)...

Commissioner Mena: Crowded by pedestrians. It's dangerous for them. They don't want to ride near high-traffic areas, you know, where there's cars and they don't feel comfortable. They don't want to ride through a crowd on Giralda.

Commissioner Lago: By the way, we're not talking about...

Commissioner Mena: I think for the most part, they go there weekend mornings, you know, a time that it's relatively quiet. Maybe it's a commuter or not, you know, depending on maybe somebody works there. But, it's usually not where you have big crowds and they're whizzing through this crowd. They don't want to do that either, because it's unsafe for the rider of the bicycle. So, again, I -- trust me. My kids are as nuts as yours, I'm sure. But -- and I worry about the situation where you have a kid running around on the plaza and their safety. But, I've also been there many times and I haven't encountered that problem.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yeah.

Commissioner Lago: And, I have the same situation when you talk about the kids. I mean, they're just as rambunctious as everybody else's. But, I don't see like a giant peloton of professional riders...

Commissioner Mena: Right.

Commissioner Lago: Riding -- you know, flying down...

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yeah.

Commissioner Lago: You know, the heart of Coral Gables, you know, down Miracle Mile or down Giralda, which...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Those are not the problem.

Commissioner Lago: No, no but what I...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: The problems are...

Commissioner Lago: But what I...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: 18-year-olds...

Commissioner Lago: But what I see is...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Or pizza delivery people.

Commissioner Lago: We can find a way to deal with that. But I don't want to just, you know, destroy an opportunity based on one group that may be not complying, delivery drivers, for

example. What I see a lot of is people who are taking their family for a morning breakfast, a morning coffee, getting an ice cream, enjoying, you know, how scenic our downtown has become, the atmosphere. I just want to be careful -- and that's one of the questions where I asked -- and I asked Jessica and I asked the Chief, has there been any major incidents? Give me even minor incidents in regards to people using the scooters. I find the scooters to be more invasive, more of an issue because...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I do too.

Commissioner Lago: Again, it's new. It's new. People are not...

Commissioner Keon: They go fast.

Commissioner Lago: People don't -- they go faster. People don't know what they're actually doing a scooter versus somebody who's been bike riding for years. They understand the rules and the regulations when they get on the street. So, I just think that we -- like Commissioner Mena mentioned, I want to be careful about overregulating this, especially when there isn't a present issue that I can really find.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright, thank you.

Commissioner Lago: Do we need something from...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much.

Commissioner Lago: Do we need any action by the Commission on this or no? What do you need?

City Attorney Ramos: I think staff could use direction as to whether we should leave it as is, which is not posted at this time.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Correct.

City Attorney Ramos: Is that correct, Jessica?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: It's not posted at this time.

City Attorney Ramos: If it's not posted, it's permissible. So, we do nothing if that's the will of the Commission.

Commissioner Lago: I'm fine with that.

Commissioner Mena: Yeah. I don't want to over sign things -- signage things either. We have enough of that, so...

Commissioner Lago: Yeah.

Commissioner Keon: I don't want those signs there too.

Commissioner Lago: We have enough signage.