

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee Members

FROM: City Clerk Rafael E. Granado

DATE: April 9, 2025

TITLE: DISCUSSION AND REQUEST FOR RECOMMENDATION ON EARLY VOTING EXPANSION TO FOUR SITES AND RESERVED VOTER PARKING DURING 2025 RUN-OFF ELECTION (IF SUCH ELECTION IS NECESSARY).

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee (PSNQLC) is requested to:

1. Recommend approval of the proposed expansion to four Early Voting sites during the 2025 Run-Off Election (if necessary) to enhance voter accessibility, particularly in South Beach, where Art Basel-related traffic congestion may impact voter turnout.
2. Support the confirmation of priority parking reservations at the G7 City Hall Parking Garage for voters during the Run-Off Election (if necessary), ensuring accessible and convenient parking options despite Art Basel activities.
3. Direct the City Clerk to transmit this item to the full City Commission for consideration and final approval.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

On February 3, 2025, the Miami Beach City Commission held a preliminary discussion on relocating the City Hall Early Voting site due to concerns about Art Basel-related traffic congestion.

Given that Art Basel (December 3-7, 2025) coincides with the Run-Off Election Early Voting period (December 5-7, 2025), the Commission referred the matter to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee (PSNQLC) for review.

At its March 12, 2025, meeting, the PSNQLC directed the City Clerk to take two key actions in the event a Run-Off Election is required: (1) confirm the availability of a fourth Early Voting site and (2) ensure that priority parking for voters is secured at the G7 City Hall Parking Garage.

Following these directives, the City Clerk engaged with the Office of the Supervisor of Elections and the City's Parking Department to obtain the necessary approvals.

ANALYSIS

1. Supervisor of Elections' Approval for Additional Early Voting Site

In response to the City's request, Christina White, Chief Executive Officer of the Miami-Dade County Elections Department, confirmed on March 13, 2025, that the Supervisor of Elections has

approved two additional Early Voting locations for the 2025 Run-Off Election (if necessary). (See attached email from Ms. White.)

Thus, for the 2025 election cycle, Early Voting will be structured as follows:

For the **General Election** (October 20 - November 2, 2025) - Two sites:

1. Miami Beach City Hall (South Beach)
2. North Shore Branch Library (North Beach)

For the **Run-Off Election** (if necessary) (December 5-7, 2025) - Four sites:

1. Miami Beach City Hall (South Beach)
2. North Shore Branch Library (North Beach)
3. Muss Park (Mid-Beach)
4. South Shore Community Center (South Beach)

This expansion provides greater geographic accessibility, particularly in South Beach, where Art Basel-related congestion could hinder voter access to City Hall. By having two Early Voting locations in South Beach - City Hall and the South Shore Community Center - residents would have more options, allowing many of them to walk to an Early Voting site rather than struggle with traffic congestion. This additional location is a meaningful step toward ensuring that all South Beach voters, regardless of their proximity to City Hall, have a convenient way to cast their ballots.

The addition of two additional Early Voting sites, located at the South Shore Community Center and Muss Park, during a potential Run-Off Election, ensures that residents have geographically accessible alternative voting sites throughout the City.

2. Parking Accommodations at G7 City Hall Garage

The PSNQLC expressed concerns that parking availability at City Hall during the Run-Off Election (if necessary) would be severely impacted by Art Basel, potentially deterring voters. To address this, the Office of the City Clerk engaged with the Parking Department, which confirmed on March 13, 2025, that short-term parking spaces in the G7 City Hall Garage will be reserved for voter use during the Run-Off Election (if necessary) (December 5-7, 2025). The valet service for Art Basel will be adjusted accordingly. (See attached email from Alberto Ventura, Assistant Parking Director.)

This measure ensures that voters have priority parking and are not discouraged from casting their ballots due to the lack of accessible parking near City Hall.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

A cost estimate for the additional two Early Voting sites during the Run-Off Election (if necessary) has been requested from the Office of the Supervisor of Elections and will be provided upon receipt.

Does this Ordinance require a Business Impact Estimate? (FOR ORDINANCES ONLY)

The Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on .
See BIE at: <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/meeting-notice/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

To be provided.

CONCLUSION

The City Clerk has completed the directives set forth at the March 12, 2025, PSNQLC meeting:

1. The Supervisor of Elections has approved expanding to four Early Voting locations during the Run-Off Election (if necessary):
 - Miami Beach City Hall (South Beach) – Existing site
 - North Shore Branch Library (North Beach) – Existing site
 - Muss Park (Mid-Beach) – New site
 - South Shore Community Center (South Beach) – New site
2. The Parking Department has confirmed that short-term parking spaces in the G7 City Hall Parking Garage will be reserved for voter use during the Run-Off Election (if necessary), ensuring accessibility amid Art Basel traffic congestion.

These steps will enhance voter access, mitigate Art Basel-related congestion issues, and ensure accessible voting for Miami Beach residents.

We respectfully request that this item be transmitted to the full Commission for their consideration.

Applicable Area

Citywide

Is this a “Residents Right to Know” item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?

No

Is this item related to a G.O. Bond Project?

No

Was this Agenda Item initially requested by a lobbyist which, as defined in Code Sec. 2-481, includes a principal engaged in lobbying? No

If so, specify the name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s):

Department

City Clerk

Sponsor(s)

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Discuss/Recommendation: Expanding Early Voting to 4 Sites and Reserving Voter Parking for 2025 Run-Off Election. CC