

# MIAMI BEACH

## COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee Members

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: January 29, 2025

TITLE: DISCUSS DECREASING INFRASTRUCTURAL STREET CLUTTER ON SIDEWALKS THAT INHIBITS THE INTENDED USE OF THE PEDESTRIAN RIGHT-OF-WAY.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

In a continuous effort to decrease infrastructural clutter on sidewalks, Public Works will continue its monthly sweeps throughout the City. Thus, the Administration recommends that the PSNQLC discuss and close the item.

### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY**

At its November 20, 2024 meeting, at the request of Commissioner Joseph Magazine, the Mayor and City Commission (City Commission) approved item C4E (Attachment A), a referral to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee (PSNQLC) to discuss decreasing infrastructural street clutter on sidewalks (i.e. excessive or narrowly spaced light/service poles, newspaper boxes, electrical boxes, and directional signage) that inhibits the intended use of the pedestrian right-of-way.

### **ANALYSIS**

**Land Jurisdiction:** It is important to note that there are streets in Miami Beach that are owned and maintained by various governmental agencies:

- Miami-Dade County (County): Venetian Way, Dade Boulevard and, Pine Tree Drive
- The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT): 5th Street to MacArthur Causeway, Alton Road, Collins Avenue, Indian Creek Drive and Harding Avenue, 41st Street to Julia Tuttle Causeway, 71<sup>st</sup> Street and Normandy Drive
- The Eisenhower Interstate Highway System: The Julia Tuttle Causeway (I-195) and MacArthur Causeway (I-395)

The City is not permitted to replace, remove or relocate any traffic signals, signage, light/service poles, newspaper boxes, electrical boxes, or directional signage installed by any of these agencies.

**Abandoned cones, barricades and other road signage resulting from private development construction:** The Public Works Department acknowledges that with the several ongoing infrastructure improvements projects across the City, as well as several private developments, there has been an increase of Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) signs across the City Right-of-Way (ROW).

As a result, there is evidence of several cases where said MOT signs did not adhere to the approved ROW plans and as a result, were displaced and/or obstructed pedestrian/vehicular traffic. While it is the sole responsibility of contactors to maintain all MOT signs and adhere to the

approved ROW plans, Public Works took several proactive steps to ensure these signs were properly maintained and the safety of all residents and visitors is preserved:

- Public Works has and will continue to stress the importance to all contractors to properly maintain their MOTs along the City ROW
- Through its review process, Public Works plans to minimize sign redundancy or "Sign Pollution" in order to reduce the number of signs within the ROW
- Once the MOT plans are approved, Public Works inspectors will continue to regularly check the site for compliance and inform contractors of any discrepancies
- Inspectors are instructed to immediately address any MOT issues that may pose a public safety risk, removing them, if necessary, at the contractor's expense. Additionally, to prevent abandoned MOT devices in the ROW, as part of the Public Works ROW permitting process and permit closure request (upon completion of any road work, maintenance, or construction), contractors are required to restore the construction site to equal or better condition prior to construction and remove any and all MOT signage. To ensure these are followed through, Public Works inspectors may not close the permit until all requirements are met

**Excessive or narrowly spaced light/service poles, newspaper boxes, electrical boxes, and directional signage:** On July 24, 2024, the City Commission adopted Ordinance 2024-4632, amending the City Code to regulate the placement of newsracks and newspaper storage boxes on public ROW within locally and nationally designated historic districts within the City (in order to maintain public safety, preserve the aesthetic character of the City and ensure unobstructed pedestrian and vehicular traffic flow in the historic district). Unpermitted newsracks and newspaper storage boxes placed on the City's ROW were removed and/or disposed of (depending on their condition).

Additionally, on December 30, 2024, the Public Works Operations team conducted a sweep throughout the City, of MOT signs in the right-of-way. Displaced MOT signs were collected and stored/relocated. While conducting the sweep, staff made an inventory of functioning vs. non-functioning wrap-around palm tree lights, and a quick assessment of miscellaneous sidewalk structures left behind.

### **FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

No fiscal impact.

### **CONCLUSION**

As a continuous effort to decrease infrastructural clutter on sidewalks, Public Works will continue its monthly sweeps throughout the City. The Administration recommends that the PSNQLC discuss and close the item.

### **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

### **Department**

Public Works

### **Sponsor(s)**

Commissioner Joseph Magazine.

**Condensed Title**

DISCUSS DECREASING INFRASTRUCTURAL STREET CLUTTER ON SIDEWALKS THAT INHIBITS THE INTENDED USE OF THE PEDESTRIAN RIGHT-OF- WAY.