

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 IMPLEMENTING A SYSTEM THAT NOTIFIES RESIDENTS IF THEIR VEHICLE IS ILLEGALLY PARKED TO PROVIDE A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF TIME TO COMPLY WITH THE CITY'S PARKING POLICIES BEFORE IT IS TOWED.

RECOMMENDATION

The City Administration ("Administration") recommends that the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee ("PSNQLC" or "Committee") discuss and provide input on this item, in particular, defining the key parameters of a parking violation advance notification system, such as the duration of the advance notification period, number of times a resident may be notified in advance, and limiting the advance notification to certain types of parking violations.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

At the November 20, 2024 City Commission meeting, at the request of Commissioner Alex Fernandez, the Mayor and City Commission ("City Commission") referred an agenda item (C4 D) to the PSNQLC to discuss implementing a system that notifies residents if their vehicle is illegally parked to provide a reasonable amount of time to comply with the City of Miami Beach ("City") parking policies before it is towed.

ANALYSIS

The Parking Department enforces towing policies which require the towing of vehicles parked in residential zones during restricted hours without a valid permit; vehicles parked in no-parking zones, fire lanes, and Freight Loading Zones (FLZ); vehicles obstructing the public rights-of-way, including, but not limited to, travel lanes, bicycle lanes, and sidewalks; vehicles parked in disabled spaces without a valid permit; and abandoned vehicles.

Currently, when a parking enforcement officer identifies a vehicle illegally parked in a residential zone, the officer scans the vehicle's license plate for a permit. If no permit exists, the officer contacts dispatch to validate the vehicle's status. If the dispatcher confirms the vehicle does not have a valid permit, a tow truck is requested. During this process, the parking enforcement officer waits for the tow truck to arrive, which provides the vehicle owner an opportunity to move their vehicle before the vehicle is towed. The average time for a tow truck to arrive at the scene is approximately 15 to 20 minutes, depending on the time of day and location. In cases where the vehicle owner arrives while the vehicle is in the process of being towed, the vehicle is released without the owner incurring any fees.

The Parking Department acknowledges the potential benefit of implementing a system that would notify residents if they are illegally parked, by providing them with an opportunity to comply with the City's parking regulations before their vehicle is towed. While the Administration is receptive to notifying residents in advance, it is important to note that there are currently approximately only 20,000 active registered residents in the City's parking permit system. Of these, approximately

16,000 residents have provided contact phone numbers, leaving approximately 4,000 registered residents without any contact information. **For a notification system to be effective, all residents who wish to be notified would need to register in the City's parking system and provide a contact phone number. The goal would be to create an efficient and resident-friendly automated parking notification system that minimizes unnecessary towing while ensuring compliance with parking policies.**

Furthermore, to move forward with the implementation of an advance notification system, the Parking Department would need to ensure a streamlined registration process, conduct outreach to encourage all residents to register and provide their contact phone number, work with the vendor currently providing automated parking enforcement solutions as well as the Information Technology Department to develop the resident notification system, and develop a departmental procedure to ensure residents are notified in a timely manner. The notification system could issue real-time alerts via text messages or mobile app, allowing residents to promptly address any parking violations before their vehicle is towed.

It is important to note a potential unintended consequence that may arise from implementing an advance notification system. For instance, some residents may deliberately park illegally, fully aware that they will not be subject to immediate towing, which could lead to situations where vehicles are left in violation of parking regulations for extended periods, as residents know they will be afforded advance notice before any towing actions are taken. This could undermine the intended effectiveness of the City's towing policy and exacerbate illegal parking occurrences. As such, **parameters should be established, such as the duration of the advance notification period, number of times a resident may be notified, and limiting the advance notification to certain types of parking violations.**

Given these concerns, it is important to thoroughly discuss and define the key parameters of a parking violation advance notification system to ensure such system achieves the intended goals of compliance and minimizes any unintended consequences which may result in increased numbers of parking infractions throughout the City. A thoughtful approach to registration, notification timing, and enforcement policies will be essential to balancing resident convenience with the need for compliance.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

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-notices/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

N/A

CONCLUSION

The implementation of a potential parking violation advance notification system presents an opportunity to reduce unnecessary towing; however, it is essential to define certain key parameters, such as appropriate duration of advance notification period, number of times residents may be notified, and types of parking violations. By developing an efficient registration process, conducting thorough resident outreach, and developing the appropriate automated

notification system, the City can enhance compliance with parking regulations and create a more resident-friendly environment. However, it is equally important to address potential unintended consequences, such as the risk of abuse or exploitation of such system, to ensure that the City's towing policy remains effective in promoting responsible parking and compliance with parking regulations.

Applicable Area

Citywide

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

Yes

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

Parking

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Alex Fernandez

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Notification to Residents of Illegally Parked Vehicles. (Fernandez) PK