

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 POSSIBLE INSTALLATION OF BLUE STAR AND GOLD STAR MEMORIAL MARKERS AT CANOPY PARK.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends engaging with the Miami Beach Garden Club (MBGC) for the installation of the Blue Star and Gold Star Memorial Markers at Canopy Park.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

During the December 11, 2024 Commission meeting, at the request of Commissioner Alex Fernandez, the Mayor and City Commission referred a discussion to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee ("PSNQLC"), to discuss possible installation of Blue Star and Gold Star memorial markers at Canopy Park, at the urging of the Miami Beach Garden Club (MBGC) and Miami Beach Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3599.

ANALYSIS

The Blue Star Memorial Marker Program has been in existence under the auspices of the National Garden Clubs for more than 79 years. The Blue Star Marker Program honors all men and women that serve in the United States Armed Services. The Blue Star and Gold Star were adopted because they had become icons in World War II and were seen on flags and banners in homes, churches and businesses, for sons and daughters away at war and for those who had lost their lives. The Blue Star represents hope and pride, while the Gold Star represents sacrifice.

The marker that the MBGC proposes to install was originally dedicated in Key West in 1949 then gifted to the MBGC. MBGC refurbished and dedicated the Marker at the terminus of the Julia Tuttle Causeway on State Road 907 (Alton Road) in May of 1980 where it served as a Memorial Marker for 39 years. In 2019 it was replaced with a new Blue Star Memorial Marker at the same location and the first Florida marker was decommissioned as a Memorial Marker. MBGC now seeks to designate it as a Historical marker.

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-notice/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

N/A

CONCLUSION

As per Commissioner Alex Fernandez’s referral memorandum, he believes the Blue Star Memorial Marker is an “important piece of Florida’s history should be restored and displayed in a prominent location, and the installation of these markers would inspire patriotic participation by citizens and visitors alike.”

The Parks and Recreation Department has reached out to the MBGC for more information; however, no response has been received as of the time of this memo.

Applicable Area

South Beach

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

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

Yes

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

Parks and Recreation

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Alex Fernandez

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Possible Installation of Blue Star and Gold Star Memorial Markers at Canopy Park (Fernandez)