

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee Members

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: February 21, 2025

TITLE: DISCUSS A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCY COMMITTEE, AT ITS APRIL 19, 2024 MEETING, TO ACCEPT THE CITY ADMINISTRATION'S UPDATE ON THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH PARKING DEPARTMENT ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

RECOMMENDATION

The City Administration ("Administration") recommends that the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee ("FERC" or "Committee") discuss the item and recommend that the Mayor and City Commission ("City Commission") adopt the Resolution.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

On January 31, 2024, at the request of Commissioner Joseph Magazine, the City Commission referred agenda Item C4 X (Attachment A) to the FERC to discuss a comprehensive review of City of Miami Beach ("City") parking enforcement efforts. The review was to include License Plate Recognition ("LPR") vehicles and equipment, freight and commercial loading zones, alley loading and residential parking permit zones. The referral further requested that the Administration submit relevant data in advance to the FERC showing parking violations over a one (1), three (3), five (5), and (ten) 10-year period.

The item was deferred at the March 22, 2024 FERC meeting. At the April 19, 2024 FERC meeting, the Committee heard the item entitled "Discuss a Comprehensive Review of The City's Parking Enforcement Efforts" in conjunction with another agenda item entitled "Discussion on The Potential Reinstitution of Residential Parking Permit Decals In Lieu Of The Current System Which Validates Residential Parking Zone Permits Based Solely Upon License Plate Scans". During the discussion, the Parking Department stated that the two (2) items had been bifurcated and City staff provided an update on departmental staffing levels. The parking enforcement statistics were included as part of the Committee memorandum (Attachment B). Commissioner Alex Fernandez made a motion, passed by the Committee, to accept the report provided by the Administration and move both items to the City Commission.

During the June 26, 2024 City Commission meeting, at the request of Commissioner Joseph Magazine, the item was separated from the consent agenda and was not reached.

At the July 24, 2024 City Commission meeting, at the request of Commissioner Joseph Magazine, the item was referred back to the FERC for an update.

At the September 20, 2024, October 18, 2024, and November 8, 2024 FERC meetings, this item was not reached.

This item was discussed during the December 20, 2024 FERC meeting. During the discussion, the Committee recommended that the item remain open, that the Administration provide an

update to the FERC within two (2) months, and that the Administration provide a monthly Letter to Commission (LTC) moving forward.

ANALYSIS

License Plate Recognition (“LPR”) Vehicles

The Parking Department previously owned three (3) vehicles with mounted mobile LPR equipment. Two (2) of the LPR systems became inoperative before the COVID-19 pandemic. At that time, the Parking Department was informed by the LPR manufacturer that the devices were no longer supported and were deemed obsolete.

In mid-2024, **the City executed an agreement with Vetted Solutions, LLC to purchase three (3) new mobile LPR systems. The new mobile LPR units were deployed into service in January 2025.** The total expenditure for these devices, including purchase, delivery and installation, was approximately \$50,000. This advanced technology introduces automation in parking enforcement. By scanning vehicle license plates in real time, the LPR systems allow Parking Enforcement Specialists (“PES”) to automatically identify vehicles in violation of parking regulations, eliminating the need for manual “walk-through” checks. The LPRs provide fast and accurate license plate recognition, streamlining the enforcement process. As of February 5, 2025, the Parking Department has successfully scanned approximately 45,000 license plates using the new LPR technology. **Given the efficiency of this technology as compared to manual enforcement, the Parking Department has identified funds to purchase additional LPR units this fiscal year.**

Integrated Parking Enforcement Solution

Historically, the City has been party to an Interlocal Agreement with the Miami-Dade County Clerk of Courts (“County”) for the provision of electronic hand-held devices for issuance of citations and the maintenance of a Uniform Digital Parking Citation Issuing System (“System”). Until November 30, 2024, the County had a contract with a vendor to provide services to participating municipalities in Miami-Dade, including the City, in connection with the maintenance and support of the countywide System. However, the contract expired on November 30, 2024; and the County notified all participating municipalities and parking agencies to make their own necessary arrangements for the continuity of these services. As such, the Parking Department initiated a procurement for an integrated parking enforcement solution, and, on August 13, 2024, **the City entered into an agreement with Blinky USA LLC (“Blinky”), for the provision of an iOS-based parking enforcement solution which integrates seamlessly with both the City’s software and the County’s parking citation issuance system, enabling PES to use a single hand-held device rather than two (2) separate hand-held devices** (a County-issued Android device for issuing citations and a City-issued iPad for scanning license plates and verifying payment) as had been required for several years.

The Parking Department initiated a testing phase for the new Blinky handheld equipment on November 18, 2024, and successfully transitioned to **full deployment on December 1, 2024, thereby streamlining parking enforcement operations and enhancing efficiency.**

Freight, Commercial and Alley Loading Zones

The City designates areas for on-street loading and delivery operations; and permits are issued to purveyors based on the type of vehicle and delivery performed. To accommodate freight vehicles weighing over 10,000 pounds, the City has established and designated freight loading zones (“FLZ”) on or adjacent to major roadway corridors which are in effect during specific times of the day, each with a 30-minute time limit, to meet customers’ delivery needs and allow permitted purveyors to safely perform their loading/unloading operations. However, purveyors sometimes exceed their permitted time limit if their drivers are performing multiple deliveries in the proximate

area. The Parking Department strictly enforces FLZs and routinely evaluates FLZ locations, sizes, and time restrictions, taking into consideration input from the affected purveyors, to ensure the proper operation and overall effectiveness of the City’s FLZ program. An interactive map on the City’s website allows freight delivery companies to see the location and characteristics of each existing FLZ in the City. For occasional deliveries, purveyors may pay parking meters in lieu of obtaining an FLZ permit, provided delivery vehicle requirements are met.

In addition, Alley Loading (“AL”) permits are issued by the City to purveyors who utilize smaller vehicles for deliveries in the City’s alleyways. These permits are also restricted to a 30-minute time limit, and vehicles are not permitted to block an alleyway at any time. Finally, commercial loading zones are located primarily on-street and serve to accommodate quick deliveries with a 15 to 30-minute time limit, at no charge to users.

Enforcement of designated loading/delivery zones throughout the City is crucial to ensuring the success of the program and minimizing impacts to traffic flow as well as to the community. Below are some relevant statistics:

	FLZ Permits	AL Permits	FLZ Citations	ROW Violations	FLZ Tows
FY 2023	256	72	7,241	767	4,646
FY 2024	258	149	9,461	1,562	4,576

- FY 2024 FLZ permit revenue: approximately \$139,000;
- FY 2024 AL permit revenue: approximately \$27,000;
- FY 2024 Right-Of-Way (“ROW”) violation revenue from FLZ citations issued: approximately \$651,000;
- FY 2023 ROW violation revenue from FLZ citations: approximately \$380,000; and
- FY 2022 ROW violation revenue from FLZ citations: approximately \$130,000.

It is important to note that the increase in the number of citations issued and revenue generated from FLZ violations from FY 2022 to FY 2024 is attributed to enhanced parking enforcement efforts, including the addition of tow trucks accompanying PES. **Furthermore, to enhance enforcement of FLZ, the Parking Department allocates \$100,000 annually to the Police Department to augment staffing resources through additional towing of unauthorized vehicles parked in FLZ.**

The Parking Department remains steadfast in its ongoing efforts to enforce regulations surrounding Freight Loading Zones (FLZ). **In the month of January 2025, a total of 585 parking citations were issued in connection with FLZ violations**, underscoring the Parking Department’s commitment to ensuring compliance and maintaining orderly traffic flow in these designated areas. The enforcement activities aim to promote efficient use of FLZ and minimize disruptions to traffic flow caused by trucks blocking travel lanes.

Restricted Residential Parking Permit (“RRPP”) Zones

An RRPP Zone is a defined residential area of the City where on-street and/or off-street parking is restricted for residential use only, with boundaries and enforceable time periods established in City Code. Residents are required to obtain a permit(s) to park in the RRPP zone where they reside. RRPPs facilitate enforcement as Parking Enforcement Specialists can scan license plates and/or verify residential permit decals on vehicles to ascertain if a vehicle is registered and permitted to park in the neighborhood during the established RRPP hours. Below are some relevant statistics:

- Currently, there are 20 designated RRPP Zones in the City and approximately 9,000 residential permit holders citywide;
- Approximately 22,000 RRPP zone violations were issued in FY 2024; and
- Over 5,000 vehicles were towed in RRPP zones citywide in FY 2024.

On July 24, 2024, the City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2024-33222 approving the creation of a unified North Beach RRPP Zone 26, for a 12-month pilot program, at no cost to residents. **The pilot program successfully launched on November 1, 2024 with a two (2) month educational period wherein only warnings (no citations) were issued; and enforcement (citations only, no towing) commenced on January 2, 2025. As of February 1, 2025, a total of 7,000 permits have been issued to residents in Zone 26; and a total of 1,000 citations have been issued.**

Through targeted enforcement, the Parking Department aims to ensure that local residents have access to parking spaces intended for their use, thereby reducing the unauthorized use of parking spaces by non-residents and improving quality-of-life for North Beach residents. Furthermore, to mitigate the impacts to businesses and preserve parking for business patrons after 6 p.m. when the restricted residential parking begins, the City Commission adopted an ordinance which authorized the Administration to extend the enforceable meter hours at on-street metered parking spaces and metered parking lots in proximity to businesses and along commercial corridors within Zone 26. The implementation of RRPP Zone 26 is a testament to the City's and the Parking Department's commitment to supporting the local community while prioritizing residents' parking needs. **It is important to note that the Parking Department has received generally positive feedback from North Beach residents since the implementation of the RRPP Zone 26 pilot program.**

Parking Revenues, Citations, and Departmental Enforcement Staffing Over a 1, 3, 5, and 10 Fiscal Year Period

	Citation Revenue	# of Citations Issued	Budgeted Positions Full-Time (FT)/Part-Time (PT)
FY 2013	\$3,519,248	325,488	28 FT/21 PT
FY 2018	\$2,596,982	273,272	33 FT/23 PT
FY 2020	\$2,661,733	120,567	28 FT/27 PT*
FY 2023	\$4,198,069	207,843	25 FT/25 PT
FY 2024	\$4,970,265	239,929	30 FT/20 PT

Notes:

- In 2014, the ParkMobile application was introduced resulting in an increase in payment compliance;
- Beginning in 2019, the revenue per citation increased due to a county-wide increase in citation fees (as reflected in the FY 2020 statistics);
- *Budgeted positions (as per adopted FY 2019/2020 Budget) and does not reflect the reduction to nine (9) FT PES mid-fiscal year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Citations and revenue were also significantly impacted.

Parking Enforcement Specialist (PES) Schedules/Assignments/Duties

Currently, all full-time PES positions are filled, and only one (1) part-time PES position is vacant. The PES schedules consist of four (4) staggered yet overlapping shifts. Below is a breakdown of the scheduled shifts, along with the total number of PES assigned to each shift, daily assignment, and duties.

PES Schedules

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Shift 1: 11:00pm - 7:30am	5	3	3	5	6	7	5
Shift 2: 7:00am - 3:30pm	13	11	11	14	14	15	12
Shift 3: 3:00pm - 11:30pm	8	7	8	9	9	10	8
Shift 4: 6:00pm - 2:30am	4	4	4	5	5	4	4
Total PES Per Day	30	25	26	33	34	36	29

PES Daily Assignments

FLZ Enforcement	3-5 PES
North	1 PES
Middle	1 PES
South Wide	4-6 PES
South of 5th	1-2 PES

Duties

The duties of a day shift and night shift PES are similar, with both shifts being tasked with enforcing metered parking hours, restricted residential zones, no parking zones, disabled parking spaces, and blocking of the right-of-way. This includes, but is not limited to, violations related to obstructing bicycle lanes, bus stops, fire hydrants, fire lanes, sidewalks and crosswalks. Both shifts also handle valet violations, respond to complaints, manage parking lot openings and closures, and enforce FLZ and AL regulations. However, the day shift is additionally responsible for enforcing school zone restrictions, which only apply during daytime hours.

Citywide Residential Parking Permit Decal Program

On June 26, 2024, the City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2024-33156 approving the implementation of a residential parking permit decal pilot program, for a 12-month duration. This pilot program is in addition to the continuation of the current virtual residential parking permit program which is solely based on vehicle license plates. The Parking Department has received the proof decal from a vendor and is currently conducting a thorough review to ensure the decal meets all quality and design standards. **The pilot program is anticipated to launch in April 2025 once all decals are produced and mailed to all registered residents.**

Automated Parking Enforcement System

The Parking Department is currently in negotiations with PAVE Mobility for the deployment of an automated parking enforcement pilot program, for a 12-month period, at four (4) surface parking lots throughout the City. The pilot program, endorsed by the FERC, is intended to streamline parking enforcement, increase violation detection, increase payment compliance for parking sessions and citations, and better allocate staff resources to areas that require manual enforcement (i.e. residential zones, freight-loading zones, etc.). **The pilot program will consist of the use of camera/LPR systems to scan the license plates of vehicles entering and exiting the selected parking lots, verify payments, and detect violations.** Violators would receive a citation via U.S. mail. A fully-negotiated agreement with PAVE Mobility will be presented to the City Commission for approval at an upcoming City Commission meeting.

Automated Curb Space Management and Optimization

The significant increase in ride sharing, deliveries, and micromobility over the past few years has placed a strain on the limited curb space in the City. Currently, the City does not employ any technology or automated solutions to enforce, optimize, and more efficiently manage the use and demand on our limited curb space. Many highly urbanized cities, however, are implementing sensors and CCTV cameras, along with automated citation issuance systems, to more efficiently and effectively manage and enforce competing demands for curb space, offering real-time insights to optimize parking, loading zones, and traffic flow. As such, **the Administration is**

exploring innovative/automated curb management strategies to optimize the City's limited curb space and help mitigate the impact of loading and deliveries on traffic flow.

The Parking Department is currently engaged in discussions with several vendors to review and assess their products. These meetings are aimed at allowing vendors to showcase the innovative features and benefits of their products and services in order to inform the Parking Department's decision-making.

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

The Parking Department has been working diligently on multiple fronts to enhance its enforcement efforts, including the deployment of automated parking enforcement solutions. Key examples of meeting critical milestones and ongoing enforcement-related initiatives include:

- Filled all vacant full-time PES positions and currently only one (1) vacant part-time PES position (i.e. 49 out of 50 PES positions filled);
- Successfully launched three (3) new mobile LPR systems on January 20, 2025, with additional LPR units to be procured this fiscal year;
- Successfully deployed new handheld parking enforcement solutions on December 1, 2024.
- Launched a unified North Beach RRPP Zone 26 pilot program on November 1, 2024, for a 12-month duration, and, following a two (2)-month educational period, commenced enforcement (citations only) on January 2, 2025, as approved by the City Commission on July 24, 2024;
- Deploying a citywide residential parking permit decal pilot program, for a 12-month duration, by April 2025, as approved by the City Commission on June 26, 2024, in addition to the current virtual permit system;
- Working with PAVE Mobility on a pilot program using LPR/camera systems at selected parking lots to streamline parking enforcement, increase violation detection, increase payment compliance for parking sessions and citations, and better allocate staff resources to areas that require manual enforcement. A fully-negotiated agreement with PAVE Mobility will be presented to the City Commission for approval at an upcoming City Commission meeting.
- Exploring innovative/automated curb management strategies to optimize the City's limited curb space and help mitigate the impact of loading and deliveries on traffic flow.

The above actions and ongoing initiatives are anticipated to have a positive impact on the Parking Department's enforcement operations. The integration of automated enforcement systems is expected to enhance efficiency, improve reporting accuracy, and contribute to overall operational success of the Parking Department.

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

Parking

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Joseph Magazine

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Accept Parking Enforcement Efforts Report. (Magazine) PK