

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: February 26, 2025

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE, AT ITS JANUARY 29, 2025 MEETING, DIRECTING ADMINISTRATION WORK WITH THE MIAMI BEACH GARDEN CLUB TO INSTALL BLUE STAR AND GOLD STAR MEMORIAL MARKERS AT CANOPY PARK.

RECOMMENDATION

Accept the recommendation of the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee, at its January 29, 2025 meeting, directing Administration work with the Miami Beach Garden Club to install 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.

During the January 29, 2025 PSNQLC meeting, the item was discussed and the MBGC representatives gave a brief history regarding the Blue Star and Gold Star Memorial Markers in Miami Beach. The Committee agreed with the initiative and the placement within Canopy Park. The fiscal impact is \$15,000 to refurbish and install the Blue Star, Gold Star, and a dedication plaque.

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 who 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 49 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 is seeking to designate it as a Historical marker.

The Blue Star and Gold Star will be placed in Canopy Park with a dedication plaque, making the

Gold Star, representing the fallen while defending our county and freedoms, the first in Miami-Dade County and Monroe County.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The estimated cost to refurbish and install the Blue Star, Gold Star, and a dedication plaque is \$15,000. This expense will be covered by the current FY 2025 Parks and Recreation budget.

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

If applicable, the Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on:

See BIE at: <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/meeting-notices/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Amount: \$15,000.00

Budget Code: 011-0950-000349-28-406-545-00-00-00-

CONCLUSION

The Parks and Recreation Department will work with the MBGC on installing the Blue and Gold Star along with a plaque for dedication in Canopy Park.

Applicable Area

South Beach

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

Parks and Recreation

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Alex Fernandez

Co-sponsor(s)

Commissioner Laura Dominguez
Commissioner Joseph Magazine

Condensed Title

Accept Rec, Install Blue Star/Gold Star Memorial Markers at Canopy Park.
(Fernandez/Dominguez/Magazine) PKS

Previous Action (For City Clerk Use Only)