



City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

MAYOR'S 41st STREET COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, June 20, 2024 - 5:00 p.m.

First Horizon Bank 400 Arthur Godfrey Rd, Ste 210, Miami Beach, FL 33140

Minutes

Committee Members:

Yechiel Ciment, Chair (P)
Bonnie Crabtree, Vice Chair (P)
Rana Florida (P) *Via Zoom*
Jerri Hertzberg Bassuk (A)
Betty Behar (P)
Michael Burnstine (A)
Seth Gadinsky (P) *Via Zoom*
Eric Hankin (P)
Robin Jacobs (P) *Via Zoom*
Charlotte Tomic (P)
Jeremy Wachtel (P) *Via Zoom*

P = Present; A = Absent, E = Excused

Commission/City Staff:

Steven Meiner, Mayor *Via Zoom*
Daniel Sommer, Senior Policy Advisor to the Mayor
Otniel Rodriguez, Assistant Director, Transportation and Mobility Department *Via Zoom*
Diana Fontani Martinez, Redevelopment Specialist/Committee Liaison, Economic Development Department

Public Attendance:

Michael Goldberg
Amy Mehu, Executive Director, 41st Street Business Improvement District

Chair Yechiel Ciment opened the meeting at 5:08 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- 1. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER** – Yechiel Ciment introduced the newest member of the Mayor's 41st Street Committee, Rana Florida. Rana Florida shared that she is a fifteen (15) year Miami Beach resident and utilizes 41st Street all the time. She stated that her main concern for 41st Street is the horrendous traffic. She is worried about the traffic being diverted to the nearby neighborhoods by the proposed pilot program on Royal Palm and Sheridan Avenues.
- 2. APRIL MINUTES – Review and approval of the** April meeting minutes was postponed due to lack of

quorum.

3. CITY UPDATES

- A. TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY UPDATE - Otniel Rodriguez, Assistant Director of Transportation and Mobility Department, gave an update on a potential pilot program which is a one-way conversion of Sheridan Avenue and Royal Palm Avenue from 37th Street to 44th Street and restricts turning movements, particularly left turns, onto 41st Street. For example, allowing north-south travel only during weekday afternoon peak periods. Otniel shared that during the March 30, 2024, Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee (“Committee” or “PSNQLC”) meeting, the Committee discussed the item and recommended that the Administration schedule a community charrette to obtain feedback on a program and return to the June 5, 2024 PSNQLC meeting with an update.

Pursuant to the Committee’s recommendation, on May 7, 2024, the Administration conducted a hybrid community charrette to obtain community input on the potential pilot program. The community charrette was well-attended, with 41 participants attending in person and 73 participants attending virtually via Zoom. During the community charrette, the Administration presented two (2) potential options to the community. Both pilot options are intended to facilitate northbound-southbound vehicular traffic flow through the 41st Street intersection during the weekday afternoon peak hours of 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The following two (2) options were presented at the community charette:

- 1) Option 1 will create a one-way pair with Sheridan Avenue (two travel lanes) operating in the northbound direction and Royal Palm Avenue (two travel lanes) operating in the southbound direction. No turns (left or right) onto 41st Street would be allowed from either Sheridan Avenue or Royal Palm Avenue during the pilot. This option will require Police Dept. resources to be deployed at the six (6) intersections effected along both avenues between 40th Street and 42nd Street. On-street parking would be temporarily prohibited along the west side of Sheridan Avenue and the east side of Royal Palm Avenue during the pilot so that vehicles do not park facing the opposite direction of vehicular traffic flow. No northbound left turns will be permitted from Sheridan Avenue onto 40th Street during the Pilot Program.
- 2) Option 2 will maintain the existing two-way traffic flow on Sheridan Avenue and Royal Palm Avenue. No left turns would be allowed onto 41st Street from Sheridan Avenue and Royal Palm Avenue during the pilot. This option will require Police Dept. resources to be deployed at two (2) intersections only (Sheridan Avenue and 41st Street and Royal Palm Avenue and 41st Street). In addition, this option does not affect on-street parking and reduces the impact to the neighborhood as compared to Option 1. It is worth noting that, pursuant to recent discussions with Miami Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) regarding the pilot program, Option 2 would not require DTPW review and approval. During the community charrette, most participants did not support a pilot program.

Additionally, following the community charrette, the Administration conducted a two (2) week online survey from May 9 through May 23, 2024. The purpose of the survey was to obtain feedback from the community on the two (2) options for a potential pilot program.

Otniel shared that 343 responses were received. Based on the general community feedback received, 34.69% of respondents supported Option 1; 34.11% of respondents supported Option 2; and 31.20% of respondents did not support the implementation of a pilot program. At the June 5, 2024, PSNQLC meeting, the Administration provided an update on the community charrette and the results of the community online survey. The PSNQLC recommended that the Administration implement Option 2 of the proposed pilot program maintaining the two-way traffic configuration on Sheridan Avenue and Royal Palm Avenue from 40th Street to 41st Street and prohibiting northbound and southbound left-turns onto 41st Street during weekday afternoon peak periods, from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., for a duration not to exceed six (6) months. The Committee recommended that the pilot commence when school is back in session to allow the Administration an opportunity to collect data prior to implementation for post-implementation evaluation. This item will be heard at the June 26th commission meeting. The Committee's questions/comments are listed below regarding the proposed pilot program:

- 1) If the vote was so close, why not go back to the drawing board instead of choosing an option. Otniel stated that the option came from the Committee and any other option would require County approval that would take a long time.
- 2) Mid-Beach residents do not want the traffic to flow into the neighborhoods with this proposed pilot program and they do not believe this pilot program is the answer. Committee. They feel that solutions should consist of water taxis, bike lanes and carpools. Otniel Rodriguez stated that the intent of the pilot program is not to direct traffic to the neighborhoods.
- 3) Is there any city effect to address the traffic before it gets to 41st Street? - Otniel stated that there will be advanced warning signs before you are on Sheridan and Royal Palm Avenues,
- 4) Are we guaranteed that this is a pilot program? Yes, it is up to six (6) months according to the resolution. The Transportation and Mobility Department will be monitoring traffic conditions during the pilot program.
- 5) What ever happened to the two dedicated lanes on Sheridan and Royal Palm Avenues that were they before the built outs? Diana Fontani to follow up with Transportation and Mobility Department.

4. **41ST STREET BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID) UPDATE** - Amy Mehu, Executive Director of the BID, gave an update on the BID and stated that they are working on the finalized vision plan. They are focusing on attracting high end restaurants to 41st Street. The BID is hoping to start a vacant store pop-up program and a centralized parking program. Yechiel Ciment stated that now that the BID is officially working on specific projects, the BID and the 41st Street should align forces to ensure that the process of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Mixed-Use Development for City Owned Parking Lots near 41st Street move forward. Yechiel Ciment is hopefully that Commissioner Joe Magazine will push this initiative forward. The Committee asked Amy Mehu if she had a status on the renovation of the *Forge* and Amy Mehu stated that they are set to open for the first quarter of 2025. Amy Mehu shared that *Bagel Time* will be opening a new space on 41st Street and a new biomedical office will also open soon. Betty Behar also shared that the old *Roosters and Toasters* will be converted to a *UPS Store*.

5. **CHAIR UPDATE** – Bonnie Crabtree asked for an update on the construction work near the 41st Street bridge and Indian Creek Drive. Diana Fontani to provide an update at the next meeting. Yechiel Ciment

has been working closely with the BID members and making that become a reality, so he is thankful to the members of the BID. Yechiel Ciment stated that the 41st Street Committee should try to champion the RFP for the Mixed-Use Development for City Owned Parking Lots near 41st Street. It is non-binding and just to see what ideas the development community has for 41st Street that make sense. Yechiel Ciment instructed the 41st Street Committee members to reach out personally to the Mayor and Commission on this issue. Diana Fontani mentioned that Mt Sinai is currently looking for workforce housing for their doctors and nurses with the area of 41st Street. Seth Gadinsky shared that the City issued an RFP for the parking lot on 13th Street and Washington Avenue for workforce housing. Yechiel Ciment reminded everyone that summer recess will occur in July and August, so the next meeting is set for September 12, 2024.

- 6. PUBLIC COMMENT** – No public comment.
- 7. MEETING ADJOURNED:** 5:52 p.m.
- 8. NEXT MEETING DATE:** Thursday, September 12, 2024