



**Presentations & Awards/City Commission Meeting
City Hall, Commission Chambers, 3rd Floor, 1700 Convention Center Drive
January 27, 2015**

Mayor Philip Levine
Vice-Mayor Joy Malakoff
Commissioner Michael Grieco
Commissioner Micky Steinberg
Commissioner Edward L. Tobin
Commissioner Deede Weithorn
Commissioner Jonah Wolfson

City Manager Jimmy L. Morales
City Attorney Raul Aguila
City Clerk Rafael E. Granado

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In order to ensure adequate public consideration, if necessary, the Mayor and City Commission may move any agenda item to an alternate meeting date. In addition, the Mayor and City Commission may, at their discretion, adjourn the Commission Meeting without reaching all agenda items.

Meeting called to order at 5:03:10 p.m.

Announcement: Mayor Levine announced that today is 70th Anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp, and the wanted to commemorate this date.

ADDENDUM MATERIAL 1:
R9B R9C

ADDENDUM MATERIAL 2:
C4D

ADDENDUM AGENDA**5:04:18 p.m.**

ACTION: Motion made by Vice Mayor Malakoff to add items C4D, R9B and R9C to the Commission Agenda as emergency items; seconded by Commissioner Tobin; Voice-vote: 6-0; Absent: Commissioner Wolfson.

Presentations and Awards**05:38:05 p.m.**

PA1 Certificates Of Completion To Be Presented To The City Of Miami Beach Neighborhood Leadership Academy Graduates For Fall 2014.

(City Manager's Office)

ACTION: Certificates presented to: Stephanie Giraldo, Avery Roth, Jinger Santos, Wendi Rosen, Luis Chavarria, Manuel Meland, Heather Davis, Brian Bosserman, Michael Davalos, Irma Larancuente, Michael DeFilippi, Avery Roth, Simon Dalexy, Zoel Daschuta, Leif Bertrand, Stephen Goyette, James Sikes, David Yopez, Beatriz Sosa, Christopher Odige, Gail Frank, Adele Coble, Gabriel Kafati, Jackie Fernandes, Mayela Mueller, Eduardo Escobar, Gabriel Lopez Kafati, Orlando Garcia-Piedra, Anthony Michael Mederos, Valeria Mejia, Johnda Pagan, William Rivera, Pricha E. Lord and Susanna Maroder-Rivera.

Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager, stated that this is a special moment. Mr. Morales added that what makes this City special are its people. One of the great programs in the City is the Leadership Academy; designed to give residents and business owners an insider look at how the City's government works. In turn, it empowers the alumni of the Leadership Academy to educate others in the community about their municipal government. The fall 2014 class was the 28th session of the Leadership Academy. Since its inception, nearly 1,000 graduates from the Leadership Academy have transitioned into community-based projects, such as membership in City boards/committees and assisting the Procurement Department in selection committees. In fact, approximately 40% of the City boards/committees consist of former graduates of the Leadership Academy. Some Leadership Academy alumni have even gone into politics, as is the case with State Representative David Richardson. City Manager Morales recognized Caroline DeFreze for her role as the City's liaison to the Leadership Academy, and encouraged future students to participate. Mr. Morales read the names of the graduates of the 28th Leadership Academy into the record.

Heather Davis, on behalf of the 28th graduating Miami Beach Leadership Academy class, thanked Mayor Levine and the City Commission for allowing them to participate. She thanked Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk, for all the information provided during their first class. The class appreciated the dedication to the Leadership Academy shown by the department heads that spoke and taught them. She thanked City Manager Morales for having such an amazing staff that was willing to speak to them, after normal business hours, about the different departments. The class learned about the operations of numerous City Departments, including City Clerk, City Manager, Fire, Police, Parks and Recreation, Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development, Finance, Budget, Building, and Code. Ms. Davis thinks that many of the 28th Leadership Academy graduates will participate in the Leadership Advance classes, as well as being part of the Alumni Association. The current class looks forward to working on City boards/committees and being more involved in their City.

Kristen Rosen Gonzalez, President of the Leadership Academy Alumni Association, stated that this program is special because it is about education. Now is the time for the current graduating class to take what they have learned and use their knowledge for the betterment of their community. The Alumni Association is a wonderful inclusive body, and she hopes that all the members of the new graduating class get involved. Ms. Gonzalez congratulated the graduates.

Luis Chavarria thanked his wife for referring him to the Leadership Academy, and gave a special thanks to Caroline DeFreze.

05:23:52 p.m.

PA2 Introduction Of Newly Appointed Support Services Fire Division Chief Darryl Bell.
(Fire)

ACTION: Introduction made.

Fire Chief Virgil Fernandez stated that in June of last year he had the honor to introduce to this Commission the first female Firefighter to ascend to the position of Division Chief from within the Department. Today, he is equally honored and proud to present the first African-American Firefighter from within the Department to come up through the ranks to the position of Division Chief. Chief Darryl Bell joined the Miami Beach Fire Department in July 1999, and was recently the Captain at Fire Station No. 3. Chief Bell will be in charge of Support Services and responsible for the state of readiness of the emergency vehicles, the facilities and emergency response equipment.

Fire Division Chief Darryl Bell stated that he has worked for the City for 16 years and is looking forward to continuing working in a Class I Fire Department.

Handouts or Reference Materials:

1. Speech from Fire Chief Fernandez introducing Fire Division Chief Bell to the City Commission.

05:33:57 p.m.

PA3 Certificates Of Appreciation To Be Presented To Maria Maquieira And Octavio Rodriguez, Employees Of Walgreens In Miami Beach, Who Donated Over 500 Toys To The Miami Beach Fire Department's Annual Toy Drive.
(Requested by Commissioner Micky Steinberg)

ACTION: Certificates presented.

Commissioner Steinberg stated that every year several City departments and organizations work together during the Toy Drive. Commissioner Steinberg had the pleasure of attending the Miami Beach Fire Department Toy Drive. The Fire Department does a spectacular job; providing the children three gifts each. She found out that Maria Maquieira and Octavio Rodriguez, employees of Walgreens in Miami Beach, are the ones that help make the Fire Department Toy Drive such a success, and she commended Ms. Maquieira and Mr. Rodriguez for their generosity.

Michelle Viera, Firefighter I, thanked the Walgreens on 41st Street; they are always there to help during these events. Firefighter Viera presented, in addition to the Certificates presented by Commissioner Steinberg, plaques on behalf of the Fire Department to Mr. Rodriguez and Ms. Maquieira, whom she referred to as her "Christmas Angel." Firefighter Viera thanked Walgreens and Ms. Maquieira and Mr. Rodriguez for their generosity and commitment to the community.

Octavio Rodriguez thanked the Fire Department and stated they are proud to work with the City and be part of the community. They look forward to next year's Toy Drive.

Jeff Bialczak, District Manager for Walgreens, recognized both Octavio Rodriguez and Maria Maquieira for the job they do. Mr. Bialczak stated that Mr. Rodriguez and Ms. Maquieira take this task upon themselves, and they exemplify what Walgreens stands for.

05:26:44 p.m.

- PA4 Proclamation To Be Presented To Gary Gerson, And The Firm Gerson, Preston, Robinson And Co., PA, For Their Many Years Of Service In The City Of Miami Beach.
(Requested by Vice-Mayor Joy Malakoff)

ACTION: Proclamation presented by Vice-Mayor Malakoff. Vice-Mayor Malakoff read the proclamation into the record and proclaimed January 27, 2015 "Gary Gerson & Gerson, Preston, Robinson & Co., PA Day," in the City of Miami Beach.

Gary Gerson recognized his partners Alan Lips, Stuart Rohatiner, David Steinberg, his daughter Melisse N. Burstein, Edward D. Deppman, Richard C. Preston and Steven A. Moses. Mr. Gerson stated that he has a great affiliation with the City - he attended school in Miami Beach and spent many years in the City; then he left for Gainesville and the Navy, but he has always come back to Miami Beach. Miami Beach is a great place to live, and he hopes it builds a new Convention Center soon. Mr. Gerson commented that it is a privilege to receive this honor on behalf of his partners.

- PA5 Certificate Of Recognition To Be Presented To George Castell From Code Compliance For Going Above And Beyond To Help A Resident.
(Requested by Commissioner Micky Steinberg)

ACTION: Item deferred.

Handout or Reference Material:

Email from Hernan Cardeno dated January 27, 2015 RE: Presentation and Award Meeting.

5:18:36 p.m.

- PA6 Proclamation Presented To The Miami Beach Fire Department For Their Efforts In Helping The Fight Against Muscular Dystrophy And Assisting MDA.
(Requested by Mayor Philip Levine)

ACTION: Proclamation presented.

Tina Dietrich, Executive Director of the Muscular Dystrophy Association for South Florida, stated that for more than 60 years the Miami Beach Fire Department has been very supportive of the Muscular Dystrophy Association with their "Fill the Boot" fundraiser that raises money for South Florida children who struggle with this disease. The work that the Firefighters do every day on the field and their efforts helping patients makes a difference. She helps 1,500 children with Muscular Dystrophy and 500 adults with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). The Firefighters' support is greatly appreciated. The Firefighters' backing throughout the years has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars that go toward research with hopes of finding a cure. Ms. Dietrich stated that researchers are confident that they will find a cure for Muscular Dystrophy within her lifetime.

Mayor Levine thanked Ms. Dietrich and the Fire Department for their efforts. He presented Fire Chief Virgilio Fernandez the proclamation, which proclaims November 2014 and November 2015 as Fire Rescue Fire Appreciation Months.

5:05:10 p.m.

PA7 Proclamation Presented To The Miami Beach Police Department For National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

(Requested by Mayor Philip Levine)

ACTION: Certificates presented. Heard in conjunction with PA8. See comments with PA8.

5:05:10 p.m.

PA8 Certificates Of Recognition To Be Presented To Miami Beach Police: Crime Analyst Clifford Sparks, Detective Juan Sampedro, Detective Robert Lanier, Detective Martin Garcia, Detective Grant Reid, Detective Andy Lozano, Detective Wayne Holbrook, Sergeant Steven Feldman; And Deputy U.S. Marshal Ron Filo, City Of Miami Police Sergeant Roman Sarria, And City Of Miami Police Detective Alberto Tejeida, For Their Investigation And Ultimate Conviction In The "Miami Beach Brass Knuckle Robbery."

(Requested by Commissioner Michael Grieco)

ACTION: Certificates presented. Item heard in conjunction with PA7.

Commissioner Grieco explained that a Miami Beach resident was mugged and savagely beaten in the early morning hours. Commissioner Grieco stated that he was extremely impressed with the work of the Police Department in this case. Within three business days, Police Officers were able to catch all three criminals that committed this crime. The Police Officers recognized that this case required special attention and acted upon it. Commissioner Grieco read the names of those involved in solving the case: Crime Analyst Clifford Sparks, Detective Juan Sam Pedro, Detective Robert Lanier, Detective Martin Garcia, Detective Andy Lozano, Detective Grant Reid, Detective Wayne Holbrook, Sergeant Feldman, Deputy U.S. Marshal Ron Filo, and from the City of Miami Police Department Sergeant Roman Soria, and Detective Alberto Tejada. This was a team effort, and as a former prosecutor, he is impressed with the level of professionalism displayed.

Erin Hendricks, the victim's neighbor, expressed her gratitude to the Miami Beach Police Department on behalf of the victim's family.

Police Chief Oates thanked Commissioner Grieco and the rest of the Commission for taking the time to recognize these Officers. This type of crime is rare, and he is glad that they were successful in apprehending the culprits. This is the type of work Police Officers do every day. He introduced Captain John Buhrmaster who was in charge of this case.

Commissioner Grieco added that after the arrests had taken place, the media followed up on the story and informed the community that the alleged culprits had been apprehended; which is something that is not customarily done by the media.

Mayor Levine presented the proclamation in recognition of Law Enforcement agencies. He read the proclamation into the record, and proclaimed January 9, 2015 "National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day" in the City of Miami Beach.

Monica Salinas, Miami Beach resident, recognized the Miami Beach Police and Fire Departments for their quick response after a car accident involving her son. The Fire Department provided immediate medical attention to her son and the Police promptly investigated the case.

CONSENT AGENDA

5:04:18 p.m.

ACTION: Motion made by Commissioner Weithorn; seconded by Vice-Mayor Malakoff to approve the Consent Agenda; Voice-vote: 6-0; Absent: Commissioner Wolfson.

C4 - Commission Committee Assignments

C4A Referral To The Sustainability And Resiliency Committee Regarding Use Of Benches And Other Outdoor Furniture Created From Recycled Materials.
(Requested By Commissioner Michael Grieco)

ACTION: Item referred. Elizabeth Wheaton to place on the committee agenda. **Elizabeth Wheaton, Eric Carpenter and John Rebar to handle.**

C4B Referral To The Sustainability And Resiliency Committee Regarding Sanitation Street Teams, Schedules And Overall Approach To Street Litter Collection.
(Requested By Commissioner Michael Grieco)

ACTION: Item referred. Elizabeth Wheaton to place on the committee agenda. **Eric Carpenter and Alberto Zamora to handle.**

C4C Referral To The Sustainability And Resiliency Committee To Consider Alternative Trash Receptacles In High-Traffic Areas.
(Requested by Commissioner Michael Grieco)

ACTION: Item referred. Elizabeth Wheaton to place on the committee agenda. **Eric Carpenter and Alberto Zamora to handle.**

ADDENDUM MATERIAL 2:

C4D Referral To The Finance And Citywide Projects Committee To Discuss The Issuance Of Bonds To Finance The Miami Beach Convention Center Project And For Additional Stormwater Revenue Bonds.
(Finance)

ACTION: Item referred. **Patricia Walker to place on the committee agenda and handle.**

REGULAR AGENDA

R2 - Competitive Bid Reports

5:55:43 p.m.

R2C Request For Approval To Award A Contract Pursuant To Invitation To Bid (ITB) No. 2014-236-YG For Miami Beach Convention Center Bus Duct Replacement.
(Procurement)

ACTION: Request awarded. Motion made by Commissioner Grieco to approve the City Manager's recommendation; seconded by Commissioner Tobin; Voice-vote: 6-0; Absent: Commissioner Wolfson. **Alex Denis and Max Sklar to handle.**

Max Sklar, Tourism, Culture & Economic Development Director, explained that the bus duct essentially supplies electric power to portions of the Convention Center. The building has had problems with the bus duct for a number of years. Staffers did an analysis during the last year, and identified a portion of the bus duct that needs to be replaced because it is failing. This needs to be replaced prior to the Convention Center renovations, because otherwise, it will not be able to support any events. The Capital Budget is funding the replacement. This is the only major capital improvement that is being done to the building prior to the overhaul.

Raul J. Aguila, City Attorney, stated that they received a bid protest from Fisk Electric Company. The issue was that Fisk Electric Company was declared non-responsive because it did not meet the minimum requirements of the ITB. If a proposal is declared non-responsive, the proposal does not receive further consideration. City Attorney Aguila added that the City Commission does not have jurisdiction to consider the bid protest, but they can hear what the gentleman present in the Chambers has to say.

Bill Riley, representing Fisk Electric Company, stated that the staff's analysis does not accurately represent the facts in this matter. Fisk Electric and Ed Helms Electric have many years of experience in bus duct installations. He named a few of the current projects Fisk is working on to demonstrate the qualifications they have for this project. He added that they were the lowest and best bidder, and would save the City \$30,000 if selected for the project. Mr. Riley asked staffers to revisit the qualifications of the contractors.

Mayor Levine asked City Manager Morales what the issue was, since he has worked with the Ed Helms Company before, and they work very well.

City Manager Morales stated that they need to act quickly on this matter because if the power goes out in the Convention Center a week from now, it will badly affect the upcoming events. City Manager Morales clarified that Ed Helms was not the bidder, but the subcontractor for the bidder. The ITB required a principal to submit three examples of similar work that was done. Fisk Electric did not do that, and they cannot supplement their submittal after the fact. It is a procedural issue. When it was reviewed, staffers found Fisk Electric non-responsive.

Discussion continued.

Bill Riley, Fisk Electric Company, stated that Fisk Electric did submit the qualifications, and asked staffers to revisit and give them an opportunity.

Alex Denis, Procurement Director, reiterated that the bid required the principal to have specific experience in bus duct replacement. Fisk Electric did not submit that, instead the bidder submitted experience for Ed Helms, the subcontractor.

Commissioner Tobin stated that from what he has heard, he would like to put the bid out again and save the City \$30,000, but since the City needs to move forward fast, because it is an emergency repair, they must move on this as is.

Motion made by Commissioner Grieco to follow the City Manager's discretion on the matter. Seconded by Commissioner Tobin. Voice Vote: 6-0; Absent Commissioner Wolfson.

Handouts and Reference Materials:

1. Email to James Muhl JMuhl@fiskcorp.com dated January 27, 2015, from City Manager Jimmy Morales, RE: Protest Filed Pursuant to Award Recommendation on Invitation to Bid 2014-236-YG Miami Beach Convention Center Bus Duct Replacement (the "ITB").
2. Letter to the Department of Procurement dated January 27, 2015, from James S. Muhl, Executive Vice President, Fisk Electric Company, RE: ITB 2014-236-YG.

R9 - New Business and Commission Requests

R9A Board And Committee Appointments - City Commission Appointments.
(Office of the City Clerk)

ACTION: Item deferred.

Handouts or Reference Materials:

1. Letter from Laura Lavernia, Executive Director, Dade Heritage Trust, dated January 23, 2015 RE: Dade Heritage Trust Nomination for the City of Miami Beach Historical Preservation Board.
2. Letter from Miami Design Preservation League dated January 14, 2015 RE: Updated Nomination List for Historic Preservation Board Appointment.
3. Letter from Grisette Roque-Marcos, Executive Director, Miami Beach Visitor and Convention Authority dated January 21, 2015, RE: Reappointment of Margaret "Peggy" Benua and Aaron Perry.

05:46:17 p.m.

ADDENDUM MATERIAL 1:

R9B Update On Discussion Regarding Base Flood And Freeboard Requirements For The Collins Park Parking Garage.

(Capital Improvement Projects)

ACTION: Discussion held. **Resolution No. 2015-28908 adopted.** Motion made by Commissioner Grieco to approve the resolution passed by the Blue Ribbon Panel on Flooding and Sea Rise, which read: "To approve the Collins Park Garage as originally designed, as long as critical systems are elevated up to 20 feet or as high as reasonably possible, and building slabs are designed to accommodate a future increase in ground floor elevation."; seconded by Commissioner Weithorn; Voice-vote: 6-0; Absent: Commissioner Wolfson. **Joe Jimenez, Eric Carpenter and David Martinez to handle.**

TO DO:

Reach out to County Commissioners to sponsor an amendment to the County Code to enable to comply with the new standards, which are required due to sea level rise. **Joe Jimenez to handle.**

Joe Jimenez, Assistant City Manager, stated that Eric Carpenter, Public Works Director; David Martinez, CIP Director; Humberto Cabanas, Divisional Director of CIP, and himself met with the County Public Works Department along with Russell Benford, County Deputy Mayor. The County representatives stated that they would not do this project because the encroachment violates the County Code as per R.A. Cuevas, Jr., County Attorney, who is a Charter officer and does not report to the County Manager. The item was discussed again at the Blue Ribbon Panel on Flooding and Sea Rise, and they are supportive of the request to prepare the Collins Park Parking Garage for the eventual lifting of the retail space to a new base flood elevation. The Blue Ribbon Panel on Flooding and Sea Rise is asking for approval of the redesign. This is the only option at this moment.

Commissioner Tobin proposed reaching out to a County Commissioner who would sponsor an amendment to the County Code.

Discussion held regarding amending the County Code.

Mayor Levine suggested moving forward because there is urgency on the matter, but he wishes to discuss further, later, amending the County Code.

Vice-Mayor Malakoff attended the Blue Ribbon Panel on Flooding and Sea Rise meeting and believes they must go forward with the base flood elevation proposal now before the Commission.

David Martinez, CIP Director, read into the record the motion of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Flooding and Sea Rise. "To approve the Collins Park Garage as originally designed, as long as critical systems are elevated up to 20 feet or as high as reasonably possible, and building slabs are designed to accommodate a future increase in ground floor elevation."

Mayor Levine agrees with Commissioner Tobin that the City Commission needs a County Commissioner to sponsor an amendment to the County Code to enable the City to comply with the new standards required as a result of sea level rise. If no such amendment to the County Code is adopted, the City Commission will have the same trouble every time a similar issue occurs.

Commissioner Grieco informed the Commission that it does not have to be a County Commissioner that represents Miami Beach that proposes/sponsors the change; it could be any County Commissioner who is interested in championing and combating the effects of sea level rise.

Discussion continued.

Commissioner Weithorn stated that they should be asking the County to give municipalities local control to determine how they wish to address these issues. That would probably be the best way to get things done.

06:03:21 p.m.

ADDENDUM MATERIAL 1:

R9C Discussion Regarding The Creation Of A Traffic Division Within The Miami Beach Police Department.

(Requested by Mayor Philip Levine)

ACTION: Discussion held. **Office of the City Manager, Jose Gonzalez and Police Chief Dan Oates to handle.**

DIRECTION 1: Bring a comprehensive plan, coordinated with cameras and signalization, to manage the City's traffic. The plan needs to be comprehensive. **Office of the City Manager, Jose Gonzalez and Police Chief Dan Oates to handle.**

DIRECTION 2: Bring an RFP for an intelligent transportation and parking management system, which entails cameras at intersections, and blue tooth devices for travel time delays. **Jose Gonzalez and Alex Denis to handle.**

Mayor Levine stated this issue has been brought up for discussion several times, due to the City's traffic problems. There are many reasons for traffic congestion in the City, whether it is construction, trucks stopping on the roads, poor drivers, etc. He asked Police Chief Oates if a Traffic Department could be created under the Police Department. He commended the efforts of the Police Officers who have helped relieve traffic in just two weeks.

Police Chief Oates detailed the Police Department's traffic efforts. There are nine full-time Motor Officers, three Officers who are Traffic Investigators, two civilians and an Officer who manages the Red Light Camera program. That is 15 staff members or roughly four percent of Police Department staff members are dedicated to traffic issues. When Chief Oates became the City's Police Chief, he quickly realized his Department was 20 positions understaffed. The process of filling a vacancy takes approximately one year, because there is a great deal of time and effort that goes into the selection and training of a new Police Officer. If the City Commission wants to have more Police Officers involved in the traffic initiative that is a policy decision, but it will take time to fill the vacancies.

Mayor Levine asked if they could do a division within the Police Department that does not necessarily involve sworn officers, but perhaps experienced traffic personnel or a Traffic Czar.

Commissioner Grieco agreed that the intra-City traffic is heavy, which is a problem that residents currently have to tolerate. However, it goes beyond what law enforcement can do to help the situation. A new City department needs to be created where different groups can communicate within a hub. He added that this City is only seven square miles, but at any given time it may have 300,000 people. That is a tough task to handle, and law enforcement cannot handle it by itself, it requires the assistance of many departments.

Mayor Levine believes there is something missing from the current Transportation Department; and that is why he wants a traffic subdivision created within the Police Department.

City Manager Morales added that they have prohibited City trucks and vehicles from blocking roads, except for emergencies, during rush hour and it is seriously discouraged during non-rush hour. The Administration tried getting the TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) Grant to perform the mass signalization study, but unfortunately, it fell through. The Manager's team is currently identifying other grants that can help expand this program.

Jose Gonzalez, Transportation Director, spoke on what is currently being done to ease traffic in the City.

Mayor Levine stated that they need to look at the signalization program Citywide, even if they cannot rely on grants. Miami Beach is not the same City of 10 or even 5 years ago. It has expanded greatly, and it generates big revenues and the City Commission needs to invest in the necessary traffic and transportation programs and technology.

Vice-Mayor Malakoff believes that the lack of traffic management is causing problems with public safety. People are driving while irate. She will meet with Police Chief Oates to discuss what things should be addressed. At the top of her list is a Traffic Division. People are blocking road intersections, not stopping at stop signs, and committing other traffic infractions without getting fined/cited. There are too many traffic problems, and it is not only on the main roads. The City is in traffic gridlock.

Mayor Levine asked City Manager Morales to bring a comprehensive plan, coordinated with cameras, signalization, and manage our traffic like no other City in the world. The plan needs to be fast and big. **Office of the City Manager and Jose Gonzalez to handle.**

Commissioner Steinberg stated that this is an effort that will take the cooperation of many City departments.

Commissioner Weithorn added that she is concerned that some Police Officers are putting their lives at risk in some areas of the City trying to ease traffic. There needs to be a thoughtful plan that does not put lives at risk.

Police Chief Oates explained that traffic engineering involves many things, including cameras and City planning, but if they had more Police Officers dedicated to traffic enforcement, it would be easier. Unfortunately, the City does not have enough Police Officers where it can dedicate a certain number of them to full-time traffic responsibility. Chief Oates does not suggest having current Police Officers focus full-time on the traffic initiative, because there will be a trade-off that he does not recommend.

Commissioner Tobin stated that there is a Transportation Master Plan and there will be a Commission Workshop coming up on traffic, and the Commission will need to decide what type of transportation they want to focus on. Should Miami Beach be more pedestrian, bicycle, rapid transit, or automotive oriented? Commissioner Tobin stated that this was also a Planning and Land Use issue.

Discussion continued.

Police Chief Oates went through the Police Department's efforts in improving traffic. He stated Miami Beach has approximately 5,600 traffic accidents a year, which is very high for a City of its size. Last year there were 49,000 tickets issued, 19,000 of which were Red Light Camera tickets.

Jose Gonzalez, Transportation Director, will bring an RFP for an intelligent transportation and parking management system, which entails cameras at intersections, and blue tooth devices to measure travel time delays. **Jose Gonzalez and Alex Denis to handle.** The signalization component will take place at a later phase, because the City needs to work with the County as it applies to the Home Rule Charter. The City cannot act independently on traffic signals. **Jose Gonzalez to handle.**

Discussion continued.

Mayor Levine stated that they have to take control of the traffic issue.

City Manager Morales recommended discussing the traffic issue with the County Commission, and see if they will be willing to let the City do a signalization study. He will discuss this with County Commissioner Barreiro. **City Manager Morales to handle.**

Mayor Levine requested staff to come up with a Traffic Department and a traffic improvement program, as traffic is negatively affecting our economy and way of life. **Office of the City Manager and Jose Gonzalez to handle.**

Discussion continued.

Commissioner Weithorn stated that if a Police Department subdivision for traffic is created, it must be comprehensive. If a position is created, the person in charge must have adequate funds, and access to information, because otherwise the traffic problem will persist without a solution.

Discussion held.

City Manager Morales suggested putting together a proposal, listing the financial implications, and compare what other cities in the country have done, including big items, land use issues and the impact major events have on traffic. The Administration will come back with a robust proposal. City Manager Morales added that there is a Miami Beach application that is available to residents that allows them to see road closures, etc. and that will be online shortly.

Commissioner Tobin clarified that the Commission still needs to hold the Traffic Workshop, and what the Commission is discussing at this meeting is a different initiative. Commissioner Tobin wants equal responsibility regarding traffic. He does not want Police Officers actively enforcing traffic laws, and yet the City not taking effective steps to improve traffic.

Discussion continued.

Announcement:

Commissioner Weithorn announced that there would be 900 bicycle riders coming through Miami Beach during the Dolphin Cycle taking place on February 7-8, 2015.

Meeting adjourned at 6:29:47 p.m.

End of Agenda