



MIAMIBEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: **Neighborhoods/Community Affairs Committee**

Vice-Mayor Edward L. Tobin, Chairperson
Commissioner Jerry Libbin, Vice-Chairperson
Commissioner Deede Weithorn, Member
Commissioner Michael Góngora, Alternate

FROM:

Jorge M. Gonzalez
Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: September 1, 2011

SUBJECT: MEETING OF THE NEIGHBORHOODS/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (NCAC)
ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2011.

A meeting of the Neighborhoods/Community Affairs Committee has been scheduled for Thursday, September 1, 2011 at 2:30 p.m., in the City Manager's Large Conference Room, 4th Floor, at City Hall.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

OLD BUSINESS

1. STATUS REPORT OF SUNRISE PLAZA.

(Returning, as requested, from the May 5, 2011 NCAC meeting for a status report; originally referred at April 14, 2011 Commission, Item C4C, Requested by Commissioner Tobin).

Fred Beckmann, Public Works Department Director

2. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE INTERIM TRAFFIC CALMING PLAN FOR LA GORCE AND PINETREE DRIVES.

(Referred at May 11, 2011 Commission, Item C4C, Requested by Commissioner Jorge R. Exposito)

Fred Beckmann, Public Works Department Director

3. DISCUSSION REGARDING AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE III, DIVISION 26, SECTIONS 2-190.107 AND SECTION 2-190.110 OF THE CITY CODE, ESTABLISHING THE CITY'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, TO AMEND THE CITY AFFILIATION REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE; PROVIDING FOR REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

(Returning from the June 3, 2011 NCAC meeting; originally referred at April 13, 2011 Commission Item R5H, Requested by Commissioner Weithorn)

Anna Parekh, Real Estate, Housing, and Community Development Director

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c: Mayor and Members of the City Commission
Duncan Ballantyne, Assistant City Manager
Hilda M. Fernandez, Assistant City Manager
Jorge Gomez, Assistant City Manager
Jose Smith, City Attorney
Robert Parcher, City Clerk
Kristin Tigner, Building Department Assistant Director
Robert Santos-Alborná, Code Compliance Division Director
Barbara Hawayek, Customer Service Manager
Dolores Mejia, Special Projects Administrator

MEETINGS REMAINING FOR 2011

October 6, 2011 (Thursday)
November 10, 2011 (Thursday)
December 8, 2011 (Thursday)

Neighborhoods/Community Affairs Committee Meeting
September 1, 2011

STATUS REPORT OF SUNRISE PLAZA.

(Returning, as requested, from the May 5, 2011 NCAC meeting for a status report; originally referred at April 14, 2011 Commission, Item C4C, Requested by Commissioner Tobin).

Fred Beckmann, Public Works Department Director

ITEM #1

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MIAMI BEACH

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

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Neighborhoods / Community Affairs Committee

FROM: Jorge M. González, City Manager

DATE: September 1, 2011

SUBJECT: Discussion Regarding the Status of Sunrise Plaza (Sunrise Pedestrian Connection)

BACKGROUND

At the May 5, 2011 Neighborhoods / Community Affairs Committee (NCAC), the Committee moved to authorize advancement of the funds for "permitting only" for the Sunrise Plaza (Sunrise Pedestrian Connection).

City Administration has retained Coastal Systems International, Inc (CSI) to complete the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL) permitting for this project. The CCCL permit was submitted to FDEP on May 20, 2011. FDEP and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) issued their Request for Additional Information (RAI) on June 16, 2011 and June 27, 2011 respectively. On July 22, 2011, CSI issued a partial response to the FDEP seeking to classify the pedestrian connection as a minor structure not the proposed FDEP classification as a non-habitable major structure. The City has permitted multiple segments of the Beachwalk with FDEP, and none of these segments were considered major structures. Staff is working aggressively with its consultant and FDEP to classify this structure as minor since classifying it as a major structure would negatively affect the review process. On August 10, 2011, a formal response addressing FWC's marine turtle impact review letter was submitted.

The six months from May 20, 2011 we estimated it would take to obtain the FDEP permit, still appears to be on track. After the FDEP permit is received, the City will solicit a proposal for construction from one of the JOC contractors. It is anticipated that Sunrise Plaza will be operational between 13 to 15 months after submittal of the FDEP permit application, or June to August 2012.

CONCLUSION

The above status report is provided for discussion to the Committee.


DRB/FHB/HDC/RWS/ESW

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Neighborhoods/Community Affairs Committee Meeting
September 1, 2011

**DISCUSSION REGARDING THE INTERIM TRAFFIC CALMING PLAN FOR LA GORCE AND
PINETREE DRIVES.**

(Referred at May 11, 2011 Commission, Item C4C, Requested by Commissioner Jorge R. Exposito)

Fred Beckmann, Public Works Department Director

ITEM #2

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COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: September 1, 2011

SUBJECT: **INTERIM TRAFFIC CALMING FOR LA GORCE AND PINE TREE DRIVES**

Pine Tree Drive and La Gorce Drive are Miami-Dade County (County) roadways. The County is installing the following safety improvements as an interim measure to improve the safety of both corridors. These include:

- Installing speed cushions
- Adding traffic signs
- Restriping both corridors

BACKGROUND

The La Gorce Pine Tree Homeowners Association (HOA) submitted a request to Miami-Dade County Public Works to convert Pine Tree Drive and La Gorce Drive from one-way to two-way traffic flow between 52nd Street and 61st Street. The HOA requested the conversion in the belief that it would improve traffic conditions and operational safety, reduce the number of accidents and reduce speeding along the corridors.

The County conducted a study (Attachment 1) to evaluate this request. The study includes an analysis of the vehicular volume, speed, and accident data along both corridors. Based upon the results of the study, it was determined that in order to implement the two-way conversion, approximately two (2) to four (4) of the medians would need to be removed, removal of existing pavement markings, and a roundabout would need to be installed at the intersection of Pine Tree Drive, La Gorce Drive and 51st Street.

The County originally estimated the construction cost to be approximately \$700,000. The County later determined the pavement has to be re-graded due to the existing condition of the pavement, which increases the construction cost to \$1,490,881. Due to funding issues, the County cannot implement the two-way conversion at this time.

The County then developed another concept to address both safety and traffic calming concerns, that converts the left lane to a left turn only and the right lane to a through lane only. According to the County, the advantages to this concept include no requirement for any resurfacing of the road, a roundabout will not be needed at Pine Tree Drive and 51st Street, and the use of tubular delineators for a test phase that would prohibit straight movement from the left lane and to reinforce the no-U-turn from the right lane just beyond each island. This concept would address the traffic calming concerns within the neighborhood.

The County and the City met with the Homeowners' Association (HOA) on April 21, 2011 to discuss the County's Interim plan with the left turn only on the left through lane. The City received a letter from the HOA on April 26, 2011 endorsing the County's proposed interim traffic plan for Pine Tree

N/CAC- La Gorce and Pine Tree Drives Interim Improvements
September 1, 2011
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and La Gorce Drive (Attachment 2). On May 15, 2011 a meeting was held with the residents and the Homeowners' Association. The County presented its interim plan and the City's interim plan was also discussed at this meeting.

However, City staff expressed serious reservations about this concept because of the loss of a through lane and the impact it would have to the capacity of the roads. Further, the City staff believes that there might not be sufficient space between the islands for vehicles attempting to get from the through lane to the left turn lane and the vehicles exiting the side street to cross onto the through lane. As a result, City staff worked with the County to develop alternatives that would not reduce the number of travel lanes but would address the safety concern on both corridors.

On July 5, 2011, the County presented to the City a new interim plan that would improve the safety of both corridors by installing sequential sets of speed cushions with associated traffic signs, as well as restriping of both corridors. City staff will review the design plans upon completion. At the Mayor on the Move meeting held July 26, 2011, the County presented this proposed plan for Pine Tree and La Gorce Drive to City residents and multiple HOA's.

Commissioner Sally Heyman has dedicated a maximum of \$500,000 of Transit Surtax Funds (Construction) for the construction of the safety improvements on Pine Tree Drive and La Gorce Drive, from west 51st Street to west 63rd Street. Currently, the County and the City are negotiating the terms of a Joint Participation Agreement (JPA). The JPA is required by the County for the City to receive County funds for the construction of the safety improvements. Once the JPA has been approved by the City Commission and the Board of County Commissioners, the City plans to implement the proposed safety improvements using a City JOC Contractor. The project is estimated to begin January 2012.

CONCLUSION

The above information is provided for discussion by members of the N/CAC.

Attachments

1. La Gorce and Pine Tree Drives Traffic Study Synopsis
2. Letter from the HOA


DRB//FHB/RWS/DF

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PINE TREE AND LA GORCE DRIVES

TRAFFIC ANALYSIS SYNOPSIS

1. TRAFFIC COUNTS

Mechanical traffic counts were collected at 58 Street and La Gorce Drive/Pine Tree Drive and 53 Street at La Gorce Drive/Pine Tree Drive. The counts were collected for a continuous 24-hour period extending from Wednesday, May 19, 2010 through Thursday, May 20, 2010. Table 1 and Table 2 summarize the results of the mechanical traffic counts.

Table 1 – Summary of Mechanical Traffic Counts

At 53rd Street

May 19, 2010 – May 20, 2010

NORTHBOUND (Pine Tree Drive)	SOUTHBOUND (La Gorce Drive)
5,755	5,572

Table 2 – Summary of Mechanical Traffic Counts

At 58th Street

May 19, 2010 – May 20, 2010

NORTHBOUND (Pine Tree Drive)	SOUTHBOUND (La Gorce Drive)
6,043	5,484

2. SPEED STUDY

The speed study was performed at 53rd Street at Pine Tree Drive/La Gorce Drive and 58th Street at Pine Tree Drive/La Gorce during a 24 hour period on a typical weekday. Table 3 and Table 4 summarize the speed data collected from the field:

Table 3- Summary of Speed Data

24 Hour Period at 53rd Street

Location	Posted Speed Limit	85 th Percentile Speed	Average Speed	10 MPH Pace
La Gorce Drive at 53 rd Street (SB)	30	33	28	26-35
Pine Tree Drive at 53 rd Street (NB)	30	33	28	26-35

The statistical analysis for the SB speed data shows that the 85th percentile speeds (33 mph) is approximately 3 mph higher than the posted speed on La Gorce Drive. The NB speed data shows that the 85th percentile speeds (33 mph) is approximately 3 mph over the posted speed limit. The SB and NB upper limit of the 10 MPH pace is also about 5 mph higher than the posted speed limit. These results indicate that vehicles traveling SB and NB on La Gorce Drive/Pine Tree Drive travel at a moderately higher speed than the posted speed limit. Compliance with posted speed limit is relatively good.

Table 4- Summary of Speed Data
24 Hour Period at 58th Street

Location	Posted Speed Limit	85 th Percentile Speed	Average Speed	10 MPH Pace
La Gorce Drive at 58 th Street (SB)	30	30	26	21-30
Pine Tree Drive at 58 th Street (NB)	30	35	30	26-35

The statistical analysis for the SB speed data shows that the 85th percentile speeds (30 mph) is not higher than the posted speed limit on La Gorce Drive. The NB speed data shows that the 85th percentile speeds (35 mph) is approximately 5 mph over the posted speed limit. The SB and NB upper limit of the 10 MPH pace is also about 5 mph higher than the posted speed limit. These results indicate that vehicles traveling NB on La Pine Tree Drive travel at a moderately higher speed than the posted speed limit. Compliance with posted speed limit is relatively good.

3. CRASH ANALYSIS

Crash data for the five-year period January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2010 were obtained from County. The data collected was used to prepare Crash Summary Table for the location (Table 5).

The crash statistics for the intersection are summarized in Table 5. The data shows a total of ninety-five crashes occurring at the location during the five-year period. Twenty-two crashes were recorded in 2006, twenty-three in 2007, eighteen in 2008, twenty-two in 2009, and ten in 2010. No fatalities were recorded for the five-year period.

U-Turn collisions were the leading type of crashes at the location, accounting for fifty-five

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(57.8%), experienced during the five-year period. This percentage is very high being that La Gorce and Pine Tree Drive are one-way pairs and there should be no U-turn collisions occurring on a one-way street. Improper lane change were the second leading type of crashes, accounting for fifteen (15.7%), experienced during the study period. There were no pedestrian collisions reported during the five-year period. Most of the crashes occurred during daytime (79%).

Table 5
5 Year Crash Summary

Pine Tree Drive/La Gorce Drive from 51st Street to 63rd Street

CRASH TYPE	TYPE OF CRASH	NUMBER OF CRASHES					5 YEAR TOTAL CRASHES	PERCENT OF TOTAL	MEAN CRASHES PER YEAR
		YEAR							
		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010			
	Rear End	1	1	4	3	0	9	9.47%	1.80
	Angle	0	1	1	2	0	4	4.21%	0.80
	Fixed Object above ground	1	0	0	0	2	3	3.16%	0.60
	Sign (Post)	2	1	0	0	0	3	3.16%	0.60
	Guard Rail	0	0	0	1	0	1	1.05%	0.20
	U-Turn	14	15	9	10	7	55	57.89%	11.00
	Improper lane change	3	3	4	4	1	15	15.79%	3.00
	Tree/Shrub	1	0	0	0	0	1	1.05%	0.20
	Collision w/ parked vehicle	0	1	0	1	0	2	2.11%	0.40
	Backed into	0	1	0	1	0	2	2.11%	0.40
	TOTAL CRASHES	22	23	18	22	10	95	100.00%	19.00

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LaGorce/Pinetree
Homeowners' Association
Miami Beach, Florida
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Fred
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April 23, 2011

Jorge Gomez
Assistant City Manager
1700 Convention Center Drive
Miami Beach Fl, 33139

Dear Assistant City Manager Gomez:

On April 21, 2011 the Board of Directors of the LaGorce/Pinetree Homeowners' Association unanimously endorsed the County's proposed interim traffic calming plan for LaGorce and Pinetree Drives. Due to the several deaths (both of pedestrians hit by cars and drivers hit by other drivers), the almost daily traffic accidents and the 260 recent traffic citations issued by the City of Miami Beach Police Department, the Board implores the City Commission and Administration to support and work with the County to immediately implement the interim plan and request that you place this item on the next available City Commission Agenda for discussion and approval.

Thanking you for your continued support and cooperation in this matter of great public safety, we remain,

Donna Bloom

The LaGorce/Pinetree Homeowners' Assoc.
Donna Bloom, President

c/o 5959 La Gorce Drive
Miami Beach, Florida 33140

305.868.9597

Neighborhoods/Community Affairs Committee Meeting
September 1, 2011

DISCUSSION REGARDING AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE III, DIVISION 26, SECTIONS 2-190.107 AND SECTION 2-190.110 OF THE CITY CODE, ESTABLISHING THE CITY'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, TO AMEND THE CITY AFFILIATION REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE; PROVIDING FOR REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

(Returning from the June 3, 2011 NCAC meeting; originally referred at April 13, 2011 Commission Item R5H, Requested by Commissioner Weithorn)

Anna Parekh, Real Estate, Housing, and Community Development Director

ITEM #3

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Attachment(s) will be delivered under
separate cover.