

**TO: Mayor Linda Hudson
Commissioner Rufus Alexander
Commissioner Eddie Becht
Commissioner Tom Perona
Commissioner Reggie Sessions**

**FROM: Carole L. Mushier, President, South Beach Association
DATE: January 21, 2016
RE: Action plan for additional Parking spaces on South Beach**

The South Beach Association Board of Directors wishes to express our concern, and the concern of many of our beach residents and visitors, regarding the lack of any visible City action plan to solve the parking problem on South Beach.

It is our understanding that the City Parking Committee was tasked, almost a year ago, to come up with plans for *both* immediate short-term and long term solutions to the obvious problem – the short term to be in place for the 2016 “season”. The Committee report on October 12, 2015 contained no specific short term plans and the long term plans were primarily in the investigate, consider, examine stage with only two ideas on South Beach.

We are now in the 2016 “season”. There is no City plan of any type that we can see or that we have been told about. The continuing parking situation cannot simply be ignored hoping it will go away. The Beach and certain of its parks and businesses have become a destination. The associated parking problem is no longer just a “good” problem – it has become a hazard and a detriment to those who wish to enjoy the area. There are many vacant properties on Seaway and S. Ocean Drives that could be used on a temporary basis if the City would take some action *Now*.

We ask that the City Commission set a deadline as to when it intends to create additional parking spaces on South Beach. We hope that the Commission will task staff to create an *action* plan to be in place and executed by December 15, 2016. We assume that the reconfiguration of the City owned, vacant, unpaved space that is open to the public adjacent to Jetty Park would be included in this plan.

We are disappointed in what appears to be a lack of focus of staff time or interest or concern in creating additional parking spaces on South Beach for the 2016 season. If the City Commission cannot do it, then please allow the private sector more latitude in solving the problem.

Cc: Nick Mimms