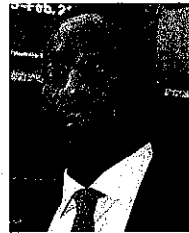


THE INSIDER

A LOT OF HARLEYS: Miami commissioners have backed the city manager's finding of an emergency, waiving competitive sealed bidding procedures and retroactively approving the selection of Rossmeyer Daytona Motorcycles Inc. for the emergency procurement of a 48-month lease of 25 Harley-Davidson motorcycles and associated equipment for the Miami Police Department. The estimated annual cost is \$166,500 for the lease. The cost of related parts will be as needed, and General Administration Services will be responsible for those purchases. City staff was unable to negotiate a lease extension with another dealer when the company demanded an increase in monthly lease amounts and a mileage cap, items not included in original lease in 2014, according to a background memo.

PAMM HITS MILLION VISITOR MARK: The Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) on May 4 welcomed its one-millionth visitor since opening in its Herzog & de Meuron-designed building in December 2013. As a flagship art museum, PAMM serves a multicultural population in one of the fastest growing regions in the country. "After just three years in our home on Biscayne Bay, we are very proud to reach this important milestone and acknowledge the public's continued support of our institution," said PAMM Director **Franklin Sirmans**.



Franklin Sirmans

MILLION-DOLLAR PURCHASE: A new fire station in the heart of downtown Miami is one step closer after commissioners authorized the city manager to buy from AT&T Communications land at 13 NW Sixth St. for \$3.45 million. The land in the shadow of the former Miami Arena site is adjacent to Miami Worldcenter and Miami-Central. The arena site is being redeveloped into the Marriott Marquis Miami Worldcenter Hotel & Expo Center. The purchase is contingent on the city getting two written appraisals confirming that the value at least equals the purchase price. The city plans to assemble the 10,586 square feet and 20,468 square feet it got in a land swap in 2015 to develop a fire station to replace Station 1 at 144 NE Fifth St., the city's oldest firehouse.

NEW BOAT LIFTS: County commissioners gave preliminary approval Tuesday to the director of the Water and Sewer Department for an agreement with Miami Beach Marina Associates Ltd. for any construction or modification work they perform within a 25-foot county-owned easement in the Miami Beach Marina, 300 N Alton Road. The legislation will allow Miami Beach Marina Associates to install new boatlifts and related equipment within the easement area. **Bruno Barreiro** sponsored the resolution that passed the Infrastructure and Utilities Committee.



Bruno Barreiro

MEET THE NEW BOSS: The Miami City Commission has approved the pending transfer of the controlling interest of Bayside

County committee detours planned State Road 836 southwest beltway

BY SUSAN DANSEYAR

Miami-Dade's Government Operations Committee on Tuesday deferred until its June meeting a vote on whether to approve a State Road 836 southwest extension outside the urban development boundary as proposed by the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority.

The request to postpone a vote came from co-sponsors Jose "Pepe" Diaz and Joe Martinez.

The legislation would direct the administration to apply in the May cycle of amendments to the county's comprehensive development master plan to allow the State Road 836 southwest extension outside the urban development boundary.

According to the legislation, all the major traffic corridors between Southwest 137th Avenue and the Homestead Extension to the Florida Turnpike from Southwest Eighth Street to Southwest 152nd Street are currently operating at maximum capacity and high levels of congestion.

These conditions will be aggravated by anticipated population and employment growth in the county, the legislation says.

The State Road 836 southwest extension proposed by the Expressway Authority, which operates five expressways in the county including 836, is planned as a western beltway that would enhance mobility by providing a safe and efficient transportation option for people and goods west of Southwest 137th Avenue from Southwest Eighth Street to Southwest 152nd Street while minimizing impacts on existing residential and environmental areas.

Several residents on Tuesday spoke in favor of the project, saying it would relieve traffic substantially and is long overdue. Representatives of environmental groups spoke against the extension, saying it would lead to more sprawl in the area and would jeopardize water quality.

The SR 836 southwest extension tackles a long overdue transportation improvement for the Southwest Miami-Dade and Kendall areas that would be one of the most transformative infrastructure projects in the county's foreseeable future because it would provide a new transportation link in this broad area, according to a memo from the County Attorney's Office.

"The SR 836 southwest extension will provide a major north-south highway corridor for the underserved population of the Southwest

and Kendall areas of the county that will address the transportation needs of these communities, as well as facilitate employment, commerce and economic development," using the county's assets at Miami Executive Airport and ZooMiami as well as the regional hospitals, healthcare facilities, industrial and warehouse districts and commercial developments, the memo said.

"The SR 836 southwest extension is proposed as a multi-modal facility that would allow transit express bus service on the Xpress technology lanes and would also preserve an envelope for a multi-use path that could include a transit rail line or new innovative modes of mass transit," providing residents with mobility options, the memo said.

"Providing a new beltway for those residents and businesses will not only help alleviate traffic congestion on east-west and north-south arterials but also traffic cutting through neighborhood streets throughout the Southwest, West Kendall and all communities east and west of 137th Avenue," according to the county attorney's office.

The Expressway Authority surveyed 45,000 daily commuters and businesses about where they wanted to invest toll dollars. The number one project identified by those who most frequently use the authority's five local expressways and support the system with their tolls was the 836 southwest extension.



Jose "Pepe" Diaz



Joe Martinez