

Date: July 23, 2021

To: Honorable Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor



Subject: Report on Feasibility of Installing and Maintaining Cell Phone Charging Stations at Certain County Facilities; and Requiring a Report - Directive No. 210368

On April 20, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approved Resolution No. R-353-21, sponsored by Senator René García directing the County Mayor or County Mayor’s designee to prepare a report to the Board on determining the feasibility of installing and maintaining cell phone charging stations at certain County facilities, including parks to:

- Examine the possibility of partnering with a corporate entity to cover all of the cost of installing and maintaining such charging stations, and;
- Submit a written report to the Board within 90 days of the effective date of the resolution.

Recommendation

The installation of cell phone charging stations at County park facilities is feasible, has already been implemented and provides a benefit to park users. Park facilities at which cell phone charging stations could be considered for expansion include recreation and community centers, marinas, as well as sport and activity areas. Cell phone charging stations could be integrated features in park hardscapes and amenities.

PROS has already explored the possibility of partnering with a corporate entity to cover the cost of installing and maintaining such charging stations at County parks. Corporate entities that have partnered with local public agencies to provide cell phone charging stations in parks and outdoor open spaces include AT&T, UnitedHealthcare, and goCharge.

- AT&T and New York City partnered to provide “AT&T Street Charge” units in parks, beaches, and outdoor gathering spots.
- UnitedHealthcare and goCharge partnered to implement cell phone charging stations in the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in an effort to make it easier to charge phones using solar-powered charging stations.

PROS staff has reached out to goCharge, a cell phone charging station provider, and is currently pursuing a dialogue regarding the feasibility of partnering with UnitedHealthcare or T-Mobile for the installation of cell phone charging stations within County parks. Additionally, PROS staff has reached out to New York City and the City of Milwaukee to gather further information on their initiatives and partnerships, as well as lessons learned.

PROS has entered into agreements with Florida Power and Light (FPL) for a charging station at Tropical Park consisting of a curved steel column with solar panels affixed on top, referred to as a “solar tree” and a solar picnic shelter at Zoo Miami as part of one of their SolarNow solar energy

demonstration program. FPL paid for all costs in providing these items. A solar bench was also installed at Briar Bay Park that had cell phone charging ports for public use.

Considerations for the Installation of Cell Phone Charging Stations Within Parks

- Article 7 of the Home Rule Charter and Amendment restricts private commercial advertising erected in a public park. An entity partnering with Miami-Dade County to install and maintain cell phone charging stations at County parks could include a logo and statement of sponsorship on a sign or plaque, at a scale appropriate to the size of the cell phone charging station.
- Amenities and hardscapes that contain integrated cell phone charging capabilities should be consistent with and contribute to the character of the parks in which they are being installed.
- Cell phone charging stations installed as part of an outdoor amenity should include landscaping as part of the improvement.

In accordance with Ordinance No. 14-65, this memorandum will be placed on the next available Board meeting agenda. If additional information is needed, please contact Maria I. Nardi, Director, Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department at 305-755-7903.

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