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Posted on Wed, Apr. 27, 2005

Beach's Fifth Street to get parking garage

The Miami Beach City Commission has given preliminary approval to invest \$9.5 million to create hundreds of city-owned parking spaces within a high-profile shopping center development.

The Fifth & Alton Shopping Center, which will straddle a city block at the foot of the MacArthur Causeway, will include a public transit facility, 179,000 square feet of retail, a supermarket and 1,081 parking spaces.

According to the agreement with the developers -- Jeff Berkowitz and brothers Alan and Robert Potamkin -- the city would partially operate the parking garage and own just under half of its spaces.

"Not only will the project revitalize Fifth Street, there will be more than 1,000 spaces available for weekends," said Wayne Pathman, the lawyer representing the development. "Without city participation would not be as much parking in the project."

The agreement, approved at the City Commission's April 20 meeting, will be considered for a second time at the commission's next meeting.

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