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**From:** bresaro@aol.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2008 4:42 PM  
**To:** saulfrances@miamibeachfl.gov  
**Cc:** ACWeinstein@miamibeachfl.gov; jerry@miamibeachfl.gov; deede@miamibeachfl.gov; jonah@miamibeachfl.gov; richard@miamibeachfl.gov; citymanager@miamibeachfl.gov; mayorbower@miamibeachfl.gov; ed@miamibeachfl.gov; saul@miamibeachfl.gov  
**Subject:** hang tags

Dear Saul:

I understand why the City Commission voted to eliminate the 6 month and yearly hang tags because they haven't had the pleasure of using scratch offs themselves. My concern is that I have personally observed, on many occasions, a single scratch-off used for days at a time and parking either doesn't catch it or chooses not to enforce it. I know one person who lost their hang tag, couldn't get a replacement, and used a single scratch off tag for several months. He just hung it, never scratched a date and was NEVER caught. By giving 10 scratch offs per month, you are potentially giving each person 10 hang tags, a much bigger abuse than is currently happening. How do you propose to deal with this? With tinted windshields, it is hard to read the scratched off date without practically putting your nose to the window. I don't think your staff will do that. They don't now. What if parking monitoring gets outsourced, a plan currently under consideration?

I do not feel the proper research was done before you and the City Commission made this decision and unless you change the monitoring system and the effectiveness of that monitoring both with ticketing and towing, you are compromising the residential zone parking system that all zones desperately need and count on.

Many owners come for the season and many others jet set back and forth. It may be last minute and they don't have time to get permits by mail or fax. Currently, their hang tag would be in their home waiting with no restriction other than an expiration date. I've had to wait in the lines at the Parking Department and that is not how someone should begin their stay in Miami Beach. Contrary to what you might believe, they don't all live in big high rise buildings with valet parking and they don't all bring cars that can have a decal. Do you honestly expect them to remember to change their tag each day? I know I wouldn't be able to remember that. How many times have you forgotten to take a daily pill? No big deal to miss one day. Right? Forget to change your scratch off tag and your car could be towed or at the very least, cost you a \$28 a ticket. Forget the grief and aggravation factor that compounds the issue. That is the way the system is designed. This does not help or welcome our transient community, only the full time residents who have decals. You are treating second home owners who occasionally rent cars as second class citizens. Can this issue be rethought? Is there a way to treat a transient home or condo owner differently from a tenant? Remember, they do pay property taxes and shouldn't have to go through what you are now suggesting.

Lastly, you have not considered the family who has 2 cars and uses the hang tag for that second car, or maybe you have and this is your way to force them to sell their second car just because they can't afford Miami Beach Real Estate that comes with off street parking. How sad.

I have always said you can't complain about something unless you have a solution.

My suggestion would be to keep the cost of the decal the same and just increase the fee for a hang tag to say \$75 for six months or \$140 per year. That will cut down on misuse but will not inconvenience users to remember to take the time to buy 10 scratch offs per month which is \$120 per year. Surely when you think of the cost of the scratch offs plus the parking department's time and expense to sort and mail them 4 to 12 times a year or the personal trips to the parking department by residents to deal with your personnel directly, this is a far better choice and your

enforcement staff won't have to look for date. The color of the pass tells them if the permit is valid from 10 feet away. Your department will make more revenue for the city without aggravating the residents. A win for everyone.

In simpler words don't change anything, just increase the fees for the hang tag. Dealing with the parking department once a year is quite enough and I'm sure most residents would agree.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ray Breslin  
305-772-5665