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## Battery Explosion Destroys Andante Cycles Shoppe

### Battery Explodes - Fire Department Organizes Benefit Bike Ride - Mayor Presents Check

Battery Explosion Destroys Andante Cycles Shoppe in Cutler Bay 1/2 hour after closing, that's the good news, there was no one in the Andante Cycle Shoppe who could be injured. But the intense heat generated by an exploding electric bicycle battery that had been left on charge unattended either melted or set on fire everything in the shoppe. Only nut, bolts and axles were spared, although covered with black soot and chemical residue. Lithium Ion Batteries can enter a self heating state. Exploding e-bike lithium ion batteries can set a room ablaze in seconds. There's a general understanding about e-bike batteries: they're safe until and unless they're not, and they're not when they're damaged or defective. The New York Fire Department says lithium ion batteries can enter an uncontrollable, self-heating state, and fire extinguishers do not work on them. Fortunately, there was enough space in the parking lot behind the building to set up tents and park a trailer to remain in business while new quarters could be readied, and new bikes and parts could be ordered. In addition, a Benefit Bike Ride was organized by the fire department and the Town of Cutler Bay. Over \$15,000 was contributed by riders and Cutler Bay to help rebuild the Andante Cycle Shoppe business. Mayor Tim Meerbot himself presented the check!



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