

CORAL GABLES

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

Economic Development Board Meeting Meeting Minutes

Wednesday | February 4, 2026 | 8:00 a.m.
Location: Zoom and Economic Development Department
2506 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Coral Gables, FL 33134

EDB MEMBERS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	APPOINTING ENTITY
	'26	'26	'26	'26	'26	'26	'26	'26	'26	'26	'26	'26	
James Kohnstamm, Vice Chair	P	P											Mayor Vince Lago
Timothy Heffernan	E	P											Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Ivette Arango O'Doski	P	E											Commissioner Richard D. Lara
Nguyen Castilla Cabanilla	A	P											Commissioner Melissa Castro
Scott Shuffield	P	P											Commissioner Ariel Fernandez
Aron Aizenstat	P	P											City Manager Peter J. Iglesias
Thad Adams, Chair	P	P											Chamber of Commerce

A=Absent E=Excused Absence P=Present X=No Meeting PZ=Present by Zoom - =Former Board Member

Staff and Guests:

Belkys Perez, Director, Economic Development Department
 Solanch Lopez, Business Community Manager, Economic Development Department
 Leticia Perez, International Business Development Coordinator, Economic Development Department
 Yenis Gomez, Administrative Assistant, Economic Development Department
 Brad Segal, President & Founding Partner, Progressive Urban Management Associates, Inc. (PUMA)
 Amanda Kannard, Vice President & Managing Partner, Progressive Urban Management Associates, Inc. (PUMA)

Chairman Mr. Thad Adams brought the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

- Review and approval of November 5, 2025, Economic Development Board Meeting Minutes. Mr. Heffernan made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, and Mr. Eizenstat seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** There was no discussion regarding the minutes.
- Community of Excellence Award**
 Mrs. Perez informed the Board that the City of Coral Gables has been working on the Community of Excellence program for about 5 years now which is part of the Baldrige awards. The City of Coral Gables is in partnership with Baptist Health, Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce and Coral Gables Community Foundation. We have been audited for many years now where specific pillars are looked at such as safety, economic development, quality of life, health and education. The city is benchmarked against other cities. Last year, Coral Gables won Silver Recognition. This year, after

a rigorous auditing process, the city received Gold Recognition. As the only city to achieve Gold recognition, Coral Gables is in line to receive National Recognition as a Community of Excellence in 2027 at the White House.

3. Economic Development Updates

a) Guatemala Delegation

Mrs. Perez informed the Board that there was a delegation from La Antigua, Guatemala that came to visit from January 16-20, 2026, to meet with Mayor Lago and learn best practices from the City of Coral Gables. La Antigua is one of our Sister Cities. The delegation consisted of the Mayor of La Antigua along with four of his council members. The delegation closed on Tuesday, January 20th, with a Sister Cities Agreement signing ceremony.

b) Downtown Partnership

Ms. Lopez introduced Brad Segal, President & Founding Partner and Amanda Kannard, Vice President & Managing Partner from Progressive Urban Management Associates, Inc. (PUMA) to the Board for a presentation. Mr. Segal and Ms. Kannard are in town to meet with property owners and stakeholders and exploring the feasibility of establishing a special assessment district for downtown. They mentioned there is a live survey and encouraged everyone to give their feedback. As a result of the numerous meetings and their findings, PUMA has identified key focus areas for a potential district which include marketing and communications, business support, events and programming, public realm enhancements, parking and mobility management, and enhanced cleaning services. PUMA created three options for a potential assessment district and was sharing the options this week in a series of meetings with property owners and other stakeholders to get their feedback. Mr. Segal shared a preliminary map with assessment zones and rates due to different intensities and frequencies of service. He presented three options for the assessment budget and examples of how the budget could be used based on the district's priorities. Mr. Segal noted that most cities may provide holiday décor and lighting in downtowns, but it is unusual to see the level of investment that Coral Gables has made in programming and beyond. Board members had several questions which Mr. Segal and Ms. Kannard answered.

4. Business Tax License Report

Mrs. Perez updated the Board on the new and soon-to-come businesses in Coral Gables.

5. Open Discussion

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Yenisis Gomez, Administrative Assistant, Economic Development Department.