

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item K
November 14, 2023
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Melissa Castro

Commissioner Ariel Fernandez

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Works Director, Hermes Diaz

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item K – Discussion Items

Mayor Lago: Madam Vice Mayor, anything for the good of the order.

Vice Mayor Anderson: The flyer, Mr. Urquia. Clerk, can you bring it up. Raffi was here speaking earlier, he was referring to the presentation at the Sanctuary of the Arts on December 7, 8, and 9th, famous pianist is going to be performing over at the Sanctuary of the Arts. Some of you get a little more time than I do to go to these functions, so you might enjoy that.

Commissioner Menendez: The music of Lecuona is fantastic. My mom loved it. Excellent. Beautiful.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner.

Commissioner Castro: I really encourage everybody to go to Actor's Playhouse. They had their opening night on Friday. It was phenomenal --- something different that you are used to seeing in Actor's Playhouse which is phenomenal. Also, January 31st is Legally Blond, literally one of my favorite plays. I encourage everyone to buy your tickets beforehand.

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Mayor Lago: Commissioner Menendez.

Commissioner Menendez: Is my image up. There you go. December 2nd – 1978 Star Wars did not win the Best Picture of the Year. Woody Allen’s Annie Hall, one of the greatest comedies of all time – Woody Allen and Diane Keaton won Best Picture. So, it’s showing at the Coral Gables Art Cinema, free tickets, free soda, and free popcorn. A great movie, great time. I encourage everybody to come and spend a couple of hours laughing and enjoying your afternoon.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner Fernandez.

Commissioner Fernandez: This Thursday evening is the Village of Merrick Park’s Tree Lighting ceremony, which will be followed on December 1st with our City Hall Tree Lighting Ceremony. Want to make sure all residents are aware and come out and celebrate with us and just wanted to wish everybody a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Lago: Very quickly. We have our Public Works Director here, so it’s a-pro-po. I don’t know if everybody has noticed, but throughout the city, especially in my neighborhood, they have revamped all the lighting which was controlled by FPL. Mr. Diaz, Director, I think it’s about 400-plus lights by FPL.

Public Works Director Diaz: What?

Mayor Lago: The lights that have been revamped that we’ve been working on for a few years with FPL.

Public Works Director Diaz: So correct. Are we talking about the ones that are going around San Amaro?

Mayor Lago: San Amaro, Camposano, throughout the city.

Public Works Director Diaz: The city entered into some agreements with FPL over 20 years ago, and now the agreements are expiring. So now, it’s time to refresh the lights. These are LEDs. They don’t have, the silver lights are not available. Those lights, by the way, are fiberglass.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

Public Works Director Diaz: So, we are entering into new agreements with FPL. They are replacing the lights. The new lights are slightly taller. I think the mounting height for the silver lights is about ten feet. I think this one, off the top of my head, I want to say is 14, maybe 14 ½ .

Mayor Lago: They are really nice, by the way. Just in my neighborhood alone, the additional lighting is a Godsend. They are really, really well done.

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Public Works Director Diaz: There are about 300, almost 400 that are going to be done on the first push that they are working on right now, and eventually in total, I think we have over 400 in the city. We are doing them as the contract expires, they are being replaced.

Mayor Lago: I just want to congratulate you and your team for working on that. I know we've been working on that for some time, ever since we embarked on the undergrounding and that is forthcoming.

Public Works Director Diaz: It's the same lights that they put on Coco Plum.

Mayor Lago: Yes. It's well done.

Public Works Director Diaz: The same lights.

Mayor Lago: Very clean, very well done and if it's good enough for Coco Plum, it's good enough for our neighborhood. I'll tell you that. Mr. Manager, if you could, not now, I know you're working on it. Your team is working on an update on the White Way lights. We handed that over to you. I wanted to see if potentially you could write us an e-mail and give us an update in regard to where we are with the negotiations with the White Way lights. Not today. Just give us an update. I want to make sure that we don't miss that opportunity. To finish up the day, I want to say thank you to all the employees. I know staff did a wonderful job. Thank you for all your hard work. It's been a long day here. I want to wish everybody a Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas. This is the time to give thanks. We have a lot to give thanks for and one of those is obviously, representing and having the privilege to represent the City Beautiful, to work for the City Beautiful, and to the residents and to the business community. So, thank you for allowing us, the Commission, to serve you. We wish you the best during this holiday season. Please take care of yourselves and your families and enjoy these moments. These are the moments that at the end of the day we're left with, that we will cherish these memories for a lifetime. God bless. Meeting adjourned.