

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item F-1
March 10, 2026
Public Safety Building, CMR
2151 Salzedo Street, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago
Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Commissioner Melissa Castro
Commissioner Ariel Fernandez
Commissioner Richard D. Lara

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez
City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item F-1 [Start: 12:08 p.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission expressing support for Senate Bill 302, relating to Coastal Resiliency and Aquatic Preserves, sponsored by Senator Ileana Garcia and co-introduced by Senator Bryan Ávila and Senator Barbara Sharief; and Senate Bill 1422, relating to Coral Reef Protection and the designation of coral reefs as critical natural infrastructure, sponsored by Senator Ileana Garcia and co-sponsored by Senator Shevrin Jones; affirming that such legislation is consistent with and incorporated into the City's 2026 Legislative Priorities; authorizing advocacy for passage during the 2026 Legislative Session; and providing for an effective date. (Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

Mayor Lago: Let's hear F-1 and then we'll take a five-minute break after.

City Attorney Suarez: F-1 is a resolution of the City Commission expressing support for Senate Bill 302 relating to coastal resiliency and aquatic preserves sponsored by Senator Ilana Garcia and co-introduced by Senator Brian Avila and Senator Barbara Sheriff and Senate Bill 1422 relating to coral reef protection and the designation of coral reefs as critical natural infrastructure sponsored

City Commission Meeting

by Senator Ilana Garcia and co-sponsored by Senator Shevrin Jones affirming that such legislation is consistent with and incorporated into the city's 2026 legislative priorities, authorizing advocacy for passage during the 2026 Legislative Session providing for an effective date.

Mayor Lago: Good afternoon to the both of you first and foremost. Thank you for working on both pieces of legislation. I'm a sponsor and to me these are incredibly important. I know that you've been working hand in hand on pushing a bunch of different items forward at the state legislature you know to address issues that are environmentally sensitive to us. So, thank you in advance to both of you. Thank you.

Governmental Affairs Director: Thank you, Mayor, Vice Mayor and Commissioners, my name is Chelsea Granell and I'm the Government Affairs Director for the city. On February 24th the City Commission directed staff to draft a resolution in support of Senate Bill 302 and Senate Bill 1422, sponsored by Senator Ileana Garcia. Our resolution of support affirms that the City of Coral Gables is in support for coastal resiliency, environmental protection and sustainable infrastructure and as the city encompasses over 40 miles of waterways and is directly connected to the Biscayne Bay. We are going to add this resolution of support to our legislative priorities, but not just for this year, but years moving forward. Just wanted to give you an update that Senate Bill 302 passed yesterday, so this would pretty much set the tone for our legislative priorities moving forward and if Matt you would like to add anything to that.

Sustainability Director: Yeah. I'll just add that SB 302 does recognize nature's infrastructure and looks at solutions like mangroves, seagrasses, living shorelines and hybrid approaches that can strengthen our coastal resilience and that is something that aligns with what you all have passed previously in the Commission, and I've been advocating for.

Mayor Lago: Thank you, Matt and I really appreciate you really grinding down on that and working hard and setting an example and also I know Chelsea's met with all our state senators and our state legislators over the last two weeks, really pushing forth, not only in our priorities but also pushing forth on items like this that are critically important to us. So, thank you for that hard work.

Governmental Affairs Director: Thank you and just to uh segue into legislative session really quickly. Just want to let you know that they're wrapping up the policy part of things between today and tomorrow, so as far as our policies are concerned everything in that end is wrapped up with regard to Special Session we're going to probably go into a Special Session for property taxes and I sent you all the update as to what is happening with regards to our week 8 legislative update.

Mayor Lago: Thank you. Thank you very much. I'll entertain a motion.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I'll move it.

Commissioner Lara: Second.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk, do you have any public comment?

City Clerk Urquia: No, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lago: All right.

Commissioner Castro: Yes

Commissioner Fernandez: Yes

Commissioner Lara: Yes

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes. Thank you very much.