

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-8
January 28, 2020
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Michael Mena
Commissioner Jorge Fors

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
Assistant City Attorney, Stephanie Throckmorton
City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Jacqueline Reynolds
Rick Sasso

Agenda Item G-8 [1:02 p.m.]
Presentation regarding Super Coral Play.
(Sponsored by Vice Mayor Lago)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Let's take G...

Commissioner Mena: What item are we on?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: G-8 first.

Vice Mayor Lago: Alright, fine.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I was asked to take G-8.

Vice Mayor Lago: That's fine. We'll take G-8.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: G-8.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you, Mayor. Are the members of MSC Cruises here? Please come up. Thank you for being here. Good morning, good morning. This is in direct...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Please. Mr. Santamaria...

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Ed, we're in the middle of a meeting. No, you were talking back there and we're in the middle of a meeting.

Vice Mayor Lago: Okay. Should we discuss G-8 and G-6 together, or do you want to handle them differently? Because I mean there's interplay there. Whatever you'd like.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Go ahead, G...

Vice Mayor Lago: Okay.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Please.

Vice Mayor Lago: So, G-8 is -- I'm bringing before the Commission and asking for your support in reference to MSC Cruises, and they're one of the main sponsors and we're happy to have them here. I wanted them to talk a little bit about what they're doing with the Super Bowl and what this wonderful cruise line is doing and how they reached out to me in an effort to come together with the City and find an opportunity to highlight not only our environmental initiatives, which have really given us -- Can we just get one second? Can I just get one second here and give it the necessary attention? We've been working on this for a long time. So, you know, this is important because what we're doing here is we're having -- we have a great opportunity, and the opportunity is to highlight what this Commission and past Commissions have done in regards to our environmental stewardship. And I want MSC Cruises to talk a little bit about the Coral Play, what we're doing as a challenge and how this is going to benefit other communities via the challenge. So, take the floor.

Jacqueline Reynolds: Wonderful.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you.

Ms. Reynolds: Thank you, guys, so very much for having us. We're going to lift the mood today. So, as Vice Mayor Lago said, we have been talking about this initiative, Super Coral Play, for a little while and I want -- the first thing I want to show you is a video that will give you -- will encapsulate what the campaign is all about. We're here to share with you a little bit of background, what's affecting our coral reefs today, the campaign initiative that we have in mind, and what we would love for Coral Gables to embrace along with us. So, please roll the video.

(AUDIOVISUAL PRESENTATION)

Ms. Reynolds: (INAUDIBLE) NFL player influencers all over the country spreading this little movement.

Vice Mayor Lago: So, I just wanted to take a moment to introduce Jacqueline Reynolds, who's the Managing Director for MSC Cruises, and obviously, the chairman of MSC Cruises, Rick Sasso. When they reached out to me, I said this would be a great thing to bring before the Commission, so all our colleagues can partake in this, especially, since what they are trying to do is they're trying to challenge one community to challenge another. And so I said, listen, let's challenge the City of Miami, who obviously is the largest city in Miami-Dade County, in an effort to keep pushing forward resiliency, environmental stewardship, different initiatives that are just in line with what we see as important here in South Florida. So, I wanted them to talk a little bit about what the challenge is and what we're doing. And then this plays directly into Commissioner Keon's G-8 -- excuse me, the fertilizer ordinance, which is an ordinance -- which is a resolution, excuse me...

Commissioner Keon: G-6.

Vice Mayor Lago: G-6, which is a resolution ceasing the regular use of fertilizers by City staff. But I'm going to change it up a little bit and ask for my colleagues' support on a separate resolution.

Ms. Reynolds: Absolutely. And one thing I do want to say is before Super Coral Play was anything else, Coral Gables was a twinkle in our eye because this is the first city that's going to start a global movement, the first city. So, Chairman.

Rick Sasso: Thank you, Jacqueline. Thank you, Mayor, Vice Mayor and Commissioners. I'm the chairman of MSC Cruises USA, and we are a huge private company around the globe. MSC Cruises is a family-owned company and we have a lot of businesses, including cruise ships. So, I'm the chairman of the cruise ship division. We also have an MSC Foundation, which is a family foundation. That foundation does humanitarian work and does, hopefully, sustainability things across, and this is part of that. The family's been in the marine environment -- maritime environment for over 300 years, so we were accustomed to being part of a community, to being part of efforts. And particularly, just on a personal note, my wife graduated from Coral Gables High and I married her 49 years ago in the little -- Church of the Little Flower, so I certainly have

an affinity to Coral Gables. But our company is a family company and we have outreach around the globe. And our goal for sustainability and environmental stewardship is profound and it's not just about responsibility or obligation. Ours is also about goals and about priorities. And I say that in the context because this is a goal and a priority for our foundation and for our global company. If you think about life and business in general, there are usually two disciplines. The first one is probably not the best one, which is passive. The second one is proactive. Passive is a difficult thing, particularly in this environment because passive, when they say, Rick, I'll try and do what I can, or Rick, I'm not sure I can help. That's a passive reply to something like this, and it's not a good one. MSC, and certainly all of us that are proactive, we know that we must do more. It's an obligation for all of us to actually execute more activity. So, in -- when I look at the coral part of this -- and I was not a very big novice about coral. In fact, most novices think coral is rock under the water. And when you get to learn about coral, it becomes an incredibly insensitive thing. Why? Because did you know that coral was over two -- it's a species, a live species that's over 210 million years old. And the scientists have now predicted that within the next two decades it will almost be gone, and we see that happening today. Fifty percent of the coral is already on its way to devastation. Part of that is because obviously the temperature of the water is getting warmer and that kills coral. So, we have come up with some initiatives and you'll hear more from Jacqueline in just a minute. And I'm almost done. We promised to only take 10 minutes for you guys. Thank you. But in this day and age, I think we all have a responsibility to kind of jump on this bandwagon and do more for each of us, and we can all do more. And I think the initiatives that Coral Gables...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: You're preaching to the choir, you know that?

Mr. Sasso: Excuse me?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: You're preaching to the choir.

Mr. Sasso: Yes, of course. That's what I -- that's why we're here. And that choir was -- I think the Vice Mayor even came to the launch of this, and we know that Coral Gables has a lot of already initiatives underway and that's why we thought this was perfect to couple with our Super Coral Play. And the things that we do, I mean MSC Cruises, just as an example because that's why we're aligned, over decades and billions of dollars. We even do things like investing in cruise ships that are burn -- that use liquid natural gas, very billion-dollar cruise ships that use liquid natural gas. We have invested in getting rid of all plastics, all single use plastic, zero tolerance in our organization. We have even done things like going to carbon neutral on our cruise ships starting January 1, carbon neutral. So, that's just some of the things that we do. Our family does a self-test every year. Last year's report was 108 pages long of what we're doing for environmental stewardship. And this is just going to add a few more pages to that. So, in closing, I think what it is, and certainly to your point, Mayor, when you get likeminded people together, like this group, when we aligned with University of Miami Rosenstiel, Nova Southeastern University, the NFL, the Perry Institute, MSC Cruises, get together and engage all these football stars and engage this kind of theme, a lot can be done that wouldn't have been done yesterday. So, the proposal that is before you -- and thank you for putting it on your agenda -- we think this is profound for all of us to do what we can do, and we must do it starting today. So, thank you for attend -- for accepting this proposal. Jacqueline.

Vice Mayor Lago: Go ahead.

Ms. Reynolds: So -- yes, so as you can see, we're really fired up and we know you guys are too. And one of the things that makes this campaign so powerful because there's so many movements out there, but the reality is you need to glom onto something that's going to give you global heft. That's really going to take that message even further. And so MSC has partnered with the Super Bowl Host Committee to put the Super Coral Play initiative together. And just to encapsulate what it is, it's 54 NFL players and influencers spreading the word about doing something to reduce your carbon footprint and save the environment, which then in turn saves coral reefs. By the way, without coral reefs, the oceans are destroyed, and we're looking down the barrel of 20 years' time.

According to the United Nations, if we do nothing, if humans do absolutely nothing today, the coral that we see in the ocean today will be absolutely gone. These guys at MSC are actually breeding super coral and that's what this initiative is all about. That's what Super Coral Play is all about. We have a variety of different aspects to the campaign, from social media to PR to national news coverage, radio, parties, press announcements, the whole nine yards. But one of the engines that's really going to drive this further -- because the Super Bowl will be done. After February 2, everybody will forget about the Super Bowl. They'll be moving on to other things. So, we need municipalities -- and we want to start with Coral Gables -- to spread the message and literally be Super Coral Gables, to really allow the world to see what can be done in an amazing city, the City Beautiful. So, let's talk about that.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Commissioner, you want to make a motion or you want to...

Vice Mayor Lago: They want to -- you want to get it over with already?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We agree with you.

Ms. Reynolds: You want to hear about all this stuff we want to do?

Vice Mayor Lago: They have some great ideas for the City to highlight the City and...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Fine.

Vice Mayor Lago: You know.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Go ahead.

Ms. Reynolds: We're going to make it fast. We know you guys are hungry and so are we. Okay. So, the first thing we want to do is rename the City for one month, and instead of calling it Coral

Gables, call it Super Coral Gables, to really drive home the messaging around the fact that Coral Gables is a super city and it is the first city. The next thing is the resolution that the Vice Mayor is putting before this Commission, which he will talk about but it has to do with the fertilizer use in the city. And so, I'll leave that conversation to him. The next thing is we want to educate residents and show them what it really means to do this initiative. So, we want to drive them to the SuperCoralPlay.org website. Next, we are going to be -- we are actually preparing the press announcement as we speak to release that announcement today, once this meeting takes place and you guys are on board. We are scheduling a press event and one of the things that -- the key components of moving a movement forward is not just you doing it but you challenging other people to do it. And in this case, Vice Mayor Lago is looking to challenge another city to do it, and he can talk about that in a minute. We're involving the newsletter, social media, the website, Coral Gables TV. We're looking to do a sign that is not invasive because we are also very protective of the landmarks in the city. But we want to do a sign that's not invasive that literally sits in front of entering Coral Gables that says "Entering Super Coral Gables" so that residents can really understand that there is this campaign going that you guys are committed to it. One of the most beautiful things that I'm looking forward to is seeing the City Hall, this building that we are honored to be in right now. It's been around for a very long time. It is an icon in the city. We want to see it lit up in the color of coral, bathed in beautiful coral so that residents can as well get awareness of what is actually coming and what you guys have committed to. We want to put signage throughout the City and we've identified a number of different locations. We want that signage to be beautiful. We want people to learn and be educated and come on the bandwagon. Look, the people in this room can take the Super Coral Play right now, but we would like every single resident of the City of Coral Gables to know that the environment is also their responsibility and this is a great way for them to take part in the Super Coral Play challenge. So, we encourage everybody here, all residents of Coral Gables, employees of the City to take the challenge. And I know Vice Mayor Lago is also going to be challenging somebody else.

Vice Mayor Lago: So, very briefly, because I know the Mayor -- we've got other agendas and other issues to take care of today. So, what I wanted to present to my colleagues and to staff, I

know they've been working hard. Solange has been doing a great job at the City Manager's Office, along with Chelsea -- is when MSC Cruises came to the City and had this discussion, it's about a challenge. And it has to be a challenge. It has to be an environmental initiative that's brand new, not something that the City's already doing. You know, we could highlight all the great initiatives that we have, but we had to think about something outside the box. So, I had a conversation with the individuals at MSC and I talked about the resolution that had been going back and forth from Waterkeepers, which was sponsored by Commissioner Keon, which we're going to be hearing later. But after a more in-depth discussion, I thought -- and this is what I bring before you -- that I thought that the City could basically turn that on from one moment to the next. And it wasn't much of a challenge because the City basically has control of about 80.5 acres in the city, which is a total land mass of 0.13. So, the effects, again, while important cause we're making a statement, could be a lot broader. How do we make them broader? So, I had staff breakdown total square footage and acreage in the entire city. When you talk about challenging the residential community during those months of the rainy season, it's a challenge. It's voluntary. We're not making this by any means, you know, we're going to start fining people. It's a challenge through education, through positive press to tell people the effects of having better water quality and how that will affect the corals. Again, we have a living coral outside -- right outside, you know, our doorstep. Not many other countries can say that. There's only a handful in the entire world that can say that. And you see what's happening in Australia with the massive die-out. So, when you look at our residential community, you're talking about over 5.6 square miles, which is a total of almost 3,600 acres is in the residential community. So, if we challenged the residential community via a resolution that I'd love to present today along with what -- along with the other resolution that's being proposed today just for the city, I think it's a great opportunity to challenge not only the residents but also challenge the City of Miami to see what they can come up with that will help the corals and help our community be a more environmentally sustainable.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: What is your proposal?

Vice Mayor Lago: So, our proposal is a simple...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I'm against changing the name of the city.

Vice Mayor Lago: Of course. Well, it's fine. If you don't want to change the name of the city, no problem.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: No, it's not that I don't want it.

Vice Mayor Lago: It's not a big deal.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: It's that I think it'd be...

Vice Mayor Lago: It's ceremonial, ceremonial. You know, the point of my resolution would be residential lawn fertilization is estimated to be the second largest source of household nitrogen in the US. Excess nitrogens -- excess nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorous that come in most fertilizers can pollute waterways and cause environmental problems such as algae blooms affecting our beautiful corals. Algae blooms kill wildlife, are harmful to humans, smother seagrass and turn our beautiful blue water green. Biscayne Bay is already starting to suffer from algae blooms and seagrass die out. Therefore, it is more critical now than ever to reduce land-based pollution. Reducing the use of residential fertilizer can improve our waterways and will help to keep this Biscayne Bay blue. So, it's a voluntary resolution, and I think it's just...

Commissioner Keon: Go ahead, finish. I'm sorry.

Vice Mayor Lago: No, no, it's a voluntary resolution, and it's something that I think along with our other resolution that we're going to discuss today, that will hopefully pass, it will be something that'll kind of promote itself to have people in this community start really understanding about the opportunities voluntarily to push forward the idea of cleaning our bay and having it, you know, in perpetuity for our children and for the future.

Commissioner Keon: I -- we had that resolution -- I mean, that ordinance on first reading. It -- we have planned to bring it back on second reading after we have some data that -- the one that...

Vice Mayor Lago: Perfect.

Commissioner Keon: Commissioner Mena asked for, that I would like to see too. We met with Brook and Matt Anderson, met with Dr. Crawl and Dr. Tiffany Troxler from FIU and they are starting to do -- to measure the nutrient content of the water upstream from us, the other side of -- west of 57th Avenue. So, we know what's already coming into the city and then they have places along the waterway where they will continue to measure the nutrient content at like at UM and Lake Osceola and all of the interconnected waterways in the city as they go out to the bay. So, we -- you know, I -- you can do whatever you want. I would ask that you would, you know, have the consideration for the legislation that I have in process, that you'd let it come back on second reading with the data and let them speak to it and then we'll go forward and I would do it as an ordinance. You know, no one was -- no one's intent really was to, you know, fine people if they didn't do it. It's really an educational campaign, and it's an attempt to talk about and help people to understand where the water in our City goes, and you know, how water drains and how our, you know, storm sewers work. So, you know, thank you for your support on this issue with fertilizers. But if we could wait until we could finish that second reading, I would be grateful.

Vice Mayor Lago: So, just to respond, we both received the same email from Waterkeepers many, many, many, many months ago, just like we received the same email in regards to the glycogen and different things that we obviously did not decide to continue, which came from South Miami. This is not about taking credit for anything.

Commissioner Keon: It isn't about credit.

Vice Mayor Lago: Like I said...

Commissioner Keon: It's about continuing and finishing the legislation that was started.

Vice Mayor Lago: But I'm -- if you would let me finish.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Lago: One second. This is about having consensus and having everybody move forward so you can have something where it can spotlight what the City has done, all the great initiatives like I mentioned, and then challenge the residents. It's not that we're not going to continue doing the necessary research and all the background. It's about challenging in a voluntary way, which I think continues to spread the message of environmental stewardship. That's why I said it's a pocket resolution that everybody can get on board. It's a feel-good resolution. No one's taking credit for anything. And it's -- I think it would be wonderful because like I mentioned, I think on two or three separate occasions while I was building up to your presentation, I said this is to complement, this is in complement of Commissioner Keon's item in regards to only having the City not use fertilizer within a -- for a certain three or four months. Just like Commissioner Fors, who -- when we had a discussion about the downtown area and outdoor seating, he came up with a great idea. We dovetailed on two separate resolutions. Just like when I brought up the issue of adding an additional fee for developers to buy -- to go into a trust to buy public land for parks, Commissioner Mena came up with a great idea about taking a portion of that monies and we negotiated to take -- to go down from 100 percent of acquisition down to 65 and allow 35 to be for the use of actual corrective measures for existing parks or upgrades. So, this is not about taking credit. This is an issue about bringing a great opportunity that's going to highlight all the good things the City's doing and then engage the residents and the City of Coral Gables about potentially voluntarily learning about how does these fertilizers affect our community. What happens when it washes away? And I would love to use an entity like yourself, which has the reach of millions of people, for example, with 54 NFL players over the Super Bowl to get this message out there. If

it's either in the City or if it's in the residence, I think at the end of the day, it's about really helping the environment.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: What is your pleasure? I mean, what...

Vice Mayor Lago: So, it's a simple resolution.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Vice Mayor Lago: Simple resolution saying -- like I mentioned that, again, we respect Commissioner Keon's resolution detailing the hard-stop in regards to the City for those three or four months in regards to fertilizer. And that we advocate on behalf of the residents -- we as a Commission -- that we advocate and we ask the residents to become educated and voluntarily do everything in their power over a certain period of time, which will be the rainy season, to not use fertilizer, which -- and we educate them. We educate them why does that -- why is that move so positive and what are the ramifications of not doing that, and what are we seeing? Like I mentioned before about the algae blooms, about Biscayne Bay, about the coral bleaching, which again, are not going to happen. They are happening because I go in the bay and I spearfish in the bay and I see the quality, you know, falling incredibly.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you make a motion?

Commissioner Mena: So, I'm supportive of what you're saying, and I apologize to both of you. I don't remember the particulars of...

Commissioner Keon: It was that -- it was...

Commissioner Mena: The information you were waiting to come back relates to this?

Commissioner Keon: Well, no, no, no.

City Attorney Ramos: If I can just chime in one second on this.

Commissioner Keon: No, it doesn't.

Commissioner Mena: Yeah, sorry.

City Attorney Ramos: There was a...

Commissioner Keon: No, it doesn't.

City Attorney Ramos: A fertilizer ordinance essentially banning -- and Stephanie could speak more to it. But we received a letter and I had written to all of you a while back about it potentially being a problem with the state preemption that was adopted.

Commissioner Mena: Right.

City Attorney Ramos: So, there are some exceptions that we can grab onto, one of them is related to having the right scientific research, the right findings that say that we're different, we're somehow different than the other...

Commissioner Mena: But that was to actually prohibit it.

City Attorney Ramos: Right. And so, we're...

Commissioner Mena: So what he's saying is this is just to...

Commissioner Keon: But that's fine.

Commissioner Mena: Encourage...

Commissioner Keon: I mean, I don't know.

Vice Mayor Lago: I just...

Commissioner Mena: Okay.

Commissioner Keon: (INAUDIBLE).

Commissioner Mena: I just didn't remember the...

Commissioner Keon: I mean, the reason that we -- the one I have on today is with -- is just the City because we can control that. And it really was to lead by example that, you know, we, as a City, won't do it. So, when we come back with an ordinance that bans it later, once when we have the data and the information so that we can support that legislation, a ban, we have it. So, yeah.

Commissioner Mena: That doesn't sound like this really conflicts with that.

Commissioner Keon: I mean, so that's why the one today -- it's -- no.

Vice Mayor Lago: It doesn't, it doesn't.

Commissioner Keon: It's -- no, we need to lead by example.

Vice Mayor Lago: It doesn't.

Commissioner Keon: And (INAUDIBLE).

City Commission Meeting

January 28, 2020

Agenda Item F-5 - Ordinance of the City Commission of the City of Coral Gables, Florida, approving a Purchase and Sale Agreement with Riviera Presbyterian Church for the purchase of a portion of the surface parking lot at 1325 Sunset Drive, Coral Gables, FL, also referred to as 5275 Sunset Drive, for the purpose of establishing a firehouse and park using State of Florida grant funds for a portion of the purchase. Page 15

Commissioner Mena: Okay.

Vice Mayor Lago: Again, at the end...

Commissioner Mena: Alright, so I'll second the motion.

Commissioner Keon: I don't (INAUDIBLE).

Commissioner Fors: By the way, by when do we expect that -- it's going to be a while, I'm assuming, before we...

Vice Mayor Lago: Yeah.

Commissioner Fors: Go -- okay, okay, okay.

City Attorney Ramos: It will be some...

Commissioner Keon: No.

Commissioner Fors: Because the only thing I would want to avoid is saying, oh, we're doing a challenge.

Vice Mayor Lago: What ended up happening -- if I may.

Commissioner Fors: Just kidding, it's an ordinance.

Vice Mayor Lago: And if I may, I would have loved nothing more than to not have this discussion today. We would have had this resolved in five minutes. I said, "Hey, let's use our electric cars.

Let's use our plastic bag ordinance. Let's use our LEED ordinance." All these ordinances that I've worked on, I've worked on for years. But the problem was it had to be new initiatives, right or wrong. I mean, you were the one that told me we don't want to use anything that's been used before. We want to -- so, the point was we waited till this moment. We waited till this Commission meeting. We didn't say a word at the Super Bowl or anything like that because out of respect for the ordinance to Commissioner Keon. We said we are not -- and staff was very clear, do not mention anything until we vote on it. That's why, if you notice, when I -- before you came up, I said let's take Commissioner Keon's item also because I want to discuss that issue in tandem, in tandem from both issues. So, I don't want to...

Commissioner Keon: You can.

Vice Mayor Lago: Step on -- I don't want to step on anybody's toes, but if we were going to use one of my ordinances, I mean, we could have chosen from dozens of ordinances.

Ms. Reynolds: Yeah. I mean the whole idea behind the Super Coral Play is that we want to encourage people to do -- to take one new action. So, we totally respect and encourage people to do exactly what your proposal suggests, Commissioner Keon. But the reality is Super Bowl is literally down the street. It is literally around the corner. So that is why we want to take advantage of the fact that that is the world largest televised event, more so than any one event for the Olympics, more so than any one event for FIFA World Cup. It truly is a massive platform. Why shouldn't we take advantage of that and get this good word out of not everything -- not only everything that MSC Foundation and Ocean Key Marine Reserve is doing, but everything that Coral Gables is doing. You guys are amazing. You -- we wouldn't be here talking to you guys if we didn't think you already had amazing things going on and we salute you. And that's fantastic.

Vice Mayor Lago: And just to give credence to your statement, I think this is something important. At the Super Bowl kickoff press conference, how many media outlets were there from all over the world?

Ms. Reynolds: Hundreds.

Vice Mayor Lago: Hundreds. Yeah. I didn't take photos with anybody. I didn't get up on a stage. It wasn't for me. But Coral Gables' name was mentioned by Mr. Talbert, by the chairman of the Super Bowl Committee as Coral Gables. Coral Gables will be challenging another municipality. And I thought that that was very appropriate because, again, it puts us before hundreds of millions of people, I would say even a billion people that watch the Super Bowl or people that are listening. So, I think it's a good opportunity always to highlight the great things that this community is doing.

Ms. Reynolds: Absolutely. And look, we present before you a campaign, a campaign that we want to put our arms around Coral Gables and bring you along with us. You know, we leave it to you guys to figure out how to make your Super Coral Play, make it impactful, involve your residents, involve your employees of the City, and really, truly do, you know, the right thing that we all know what it is to do is to save the oceans because it is critical. It is mission critical. So, we appreciate the time before you, and Mr. Sasso, if there's anything else you'd like to add?

Mr. Sasso: No, just quickly, coral is deteriorating. It's almost at 50 percent deterioration already. It's a lot to do with the bleaching and the warming of the oceans. They also act as barrier reefs for us. And Florida has 84 percent of the coral in the United States, 84 percent. The barrier reef is already 50 percent dead and we can't stop it. We can do something to help slow it down. But we -- as I told you earlier, 20 years from now, it will be over. The game will be over. But what we can do today can help slow that down. And the second thing that's most important, what we're doing on Ocean Key, we're going to have a school there. We're going to study coral. We've already identified super coral as the coral species that resists this decline. And we're going to try and fertilize that and created a world effort to create this super coral as the genesis of what's going to change this deterioration. It's very important for us to do.

Vice Mayor Lago: So, I commend you for all your efforts. We're going to make a motion because we've got a lot of business. Thank you for being here. Thank you for being so patient. Thank you for putting Coral Gables first. That's important. I appreciate it.

Ms. Reynolds: Coral Gables is absolutely...

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you.

Ms. Reynolds: The first city.

Vice Mayor Lago: So, I make the motion. If anybody's willing to second it, we'll have something great.

Commissioner Fors: I'll second it.

Commissioner Mena: Second -- go ahead.

Vice Mayor Lago: No, no, go ahead.

Commissioner Fors: No. I was going to second it. And if there's no objection, can we just vote on Commissioner Keon's resolution as well?

Vice Mayor Lago: Yeah, that's why I wanted to bring them both together.

Commissioner Fors: Yeah, let's do it.

Vice Mayor Lago: I'll second that also for...

City Attorney Ramos: We should take one vote at a time.

Commissioner Fors: Alright, one vote at a time.

Commissioner Keon: It takes two votes.

Vice Mayor Lago: Okay, there's a couple speakers for Commissioner Keon's ordinance. So, let's...

Commissioner Fors: Yeah, let's do this one.

Commissioner Mena: Let's just vote on this first.

Commissioner Keon: Vote on this one first.

Vice Mayor Lago: Alright. So, there's a second -- there's a first and a second.

Commissioner Mena: Yes.

Commissioner Fors: Yes.

Commissioner Keon: Yes.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes.

(Vote: 4-0)

(Later...)

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: And Vice Mayor, just to clarify your previous resolution about the Super Coral Play, it will be this same time period, the challenge...

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: To residents. One thing I just also wanted to briefly mention, I don't know if Matt knows the exact dates yet, but City staff has been working with the Coral Gables Museum and Waterkeeper to do some educational components about where our water goes, about the impacts of nitrogen and fertilizer on our waterways. And I think we're working on scheduling those public events.

Senior Sustainability Analyst Anderson: Yeah, we are working on scheduling one with the Coral Gables Museum in April, during our Earth Month activities. We have a number of events that go on during Earth Month, so we're going to be scheduling a community talk and education on that in partnership with FIU. And we have previously worked with Waterkeeper on doing an education campaign, and I think that's something we're going to continue to do annually just to continue to remind our residents and our businesses and really showing the City leading by example as well and doing it on our own facilities.

Vice Mayor Lago: Perfect.

[Later...]

City Manager Iglesias: Mr. Mayor, concerning the Super Coral Play, we have two issues on calling the city Super Coral Gables. I think we could maybe put a sign where the -- where we are exhibiting our coral rock exhibits at the end of Giralda. That may be an area where we could initiate that. And also, concerning the mayoral challenge, how would you want to handle that?

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: So, Mr. Manager, if you don't mind, Mayor and Commissioners. We just wanted to get some clarification after the presentation of Super Coral Play. We had your resolution, Vice Mayor, to challenge our residents, and I believe the City of Miami was also part of that resolution, to adopt a fertilizer ban in the summer months. The presentation that was made to you by Super Coral Play contained a bunch of elements of a campaign, including the renaming of the City signs and social media aspects. We just wanted to

get your feedback about whether or not the City would be involved in those additional aspects besides the challenge since the motion was limited to the challenge to our residents and City of Miami.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: One of our most popular streets -- or the most popular street is Giralda. And the City Manager talked about, which I think is a very good idea, putting a sign in front of both entrances of Giralda saying "Super Coral Gables."

Vice Mayor Lago: Listen, let's all keep this in perspective. This is only for the betterment of the City in an effort to draw attention to what we're doing, which will hopefully help other cities. This is about environmental stewardship, if nothing else behind it. We have the (INAUDIBLE) monitors on Miracle Mile. We obviously take into consideration the fact that we're very careful with branding here in the City. We want to make sure that this is all in good taste and it's done appropriately. So, I have the utmost respect for staff. I know that you only do what's in the best interest of City, so I leave it up to you. Everybody on this Commission and everybody in these chambers is invited to attend any of the events that they invite me to. This is about the City of Coral Gables and this is in benefit of the City of Coral Gables, its residents and pushing the bar forward -- excuse me, the issues forward and raising the bar in regards to the environment in South Florida. So, I look forward to everybody getting involved. You have to show up to the events to get involved, bring forward the information, and hopefully, we will continue to elevate, like Raimundo and his team did at that great event right now that we just got to see. We continue to push the City forward, expose the City to new heights and maybe we can learn from others. That's the purpose of challenging other municipalities and other mayors.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

City Attorney Ramos: Acknowledge that you have it as a direction.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: So, we will take that as direction to the City Manager to in his...

Vice Mayor Lago: If my colleagues so deem appropriate.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: In his discretion to adopt those campaign elements that were presented to you all earlier today.

Commissioner Mena: That's fine by me.

Vice Mayor Lago: But you got to get involved. You got to come to the events; you got to do things. It's open to the public, everybody. So, come out there and...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Don't amend our charter to change our name.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: We won't change it. We won't change the name.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And Commissioners (INAUDIBLE).

Vice Mayor Lago: Do you need a resolution? Do you need anything or no? I just want to make sure you have...

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: We'll take that as direction to staff.

City Attorney Ramos: As long as there's agreement.

Vice Mayor Lago: Okay.

Commissioner Mena: Perfect, good.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: Thank you.

City Commission Meeting

January 28, 2020

Agenda Item F-5 - Ordinance of the City Commission of the City of Coral Gables, Florida, approving a Purchase and Sale Agreement with Riviera Presbyterian Church for the purchase of a portion of the surface parking lot at 1325 Sunset Drive, Coral Gables, FL, also referred to as 5275 Sunset Drive, for the purpose of establishing a firehouse and park using State of Florida grant funds for a portion of the purchase. Page 24