

CORAL GABLES

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

Economic Development Board Meeting Meeting Minutes

Wednesday | March 5, 2025 | 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
	'25	'25	'25	'25	'25	'25	'25	'25	'25	'25	'25	'25	
James Kohnstamm, Vice Chair	X	P	P										Mayor Vince Lago
Timothy Heffernan	X	P	P										Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Derrek Space	X	P	P										Commissioner Kirk R. Menendez
Nguyen Castilla Cabanilla	X	EA	P										Commissioner Melissa Castro
Scott Shuffield	X	P	P										Commissioner Ariel Fernandez
Barbara Perez	X	P	P										Amos Rojas Jr.
Thad Adams, Chair	X	P	X										Chamber of Commerce

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

Staff and Guests:

Belkys Perez, Director, Economic Development Department

Solanch Lopez, Marketing Manager, Economic Development Department

Fernando Ortiz, Business Community Manager, Economic Development Department

Chairman Mr. Thad Adams brought the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

1. French Delegation

Mrs. Belkys Perez updated the Board regarding the Aix-en-Provence Delegation visit which took place February 25-27, 2025, for French Month which is part of the city's centennial celebration. The Centennial activities are an opportunity to highlight the city as an international city. The Department coordinated activations with the Coral Gables Art Cinema, Coral Gables Museum, Books and Books, and had a French Market. Mayor Vince Lago and the Mayor Sophie Joissains of Aix-en-Provence signed and reaffirmed our Sister Cities relationship. Aix-en-Provence has a goal of getting a direct flight between Miami International Airport and Marseille Provence Airport. They would like to create an exchange program through their Cezanne Society. We would like an art exhibition in Aix-en-Provence about Coral Gables' art, culture and artists from this region. They also felt there was a possibility for them to bring some sort of art exhibit to Coral Gables.

2. Feria de Seville

Mrs. Belkys Perez reminded the Board that this Saturday, March 8th, the cultural event will take place on Alhambra Circle between LeJeune Road and Ponce de Leon Boulevard. Delegations from Sevilla and its provinces are in town for the event. As a Sister City, the City will have a gift exchange ceremony which will take place Friday, March 7th, at the Coral Gables Museum. In the past, Feria de Sevilla has taken place in Key Biscayne and attracted approximately 2,500 people. So far, organizers have sold 6,000 tickets.

3. National Business Survey

Mrs. Belkys Perez informed the Board that the Department is conducting a national business survey. There has not been a survey of this kind with benchmarking done in at least the last decade. The key data will be used when applying for the Community of Excellence award. The survey will be statistically significant, and results will be available by the end of May.

4. Business Tax License Report

Mrs. Belkys 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 9:03 a.m.

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