

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item F-10
January 13, 2026
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 Richard D. Lara

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez
City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Assistant City Manager, Carolina Vester

Public Speaker(s)

Eules Cleckley, CEO of Friends of the Underline

Agenda Item F-10

A Resolution of the City Commission accepting a donation from Friends of the Underline, Inc. and authorizing the City Manager and City Attorney to negotiate and execute funding and sponsorship agreement with Friends of the Underline, Inc. regarding the Underline Dog Park and naming the park “Chewy Bark Park” for a certain period of time. (Sponsored by Vice Mayor Anderson)

Mayor Lago: Thank you very much. All right, moving on to F-10. There are a few items left on the agenda.

City Attorney Cristina Suarez: F-10 is a resolution of the City Commission accepting a donation from Friends of the Underline Inc. and authorizing the City Manager and City Attorney to negotiate and execute funding and sponsorship agreement with Friends of the Underline Inc.

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regarding the Underline dog park and naming the park Chewy Bark Park for a certain period of time. The Assistant City Manager will present the item.

Assistant City Manager Vester: Good evening, Mayor, Vice Mayor, members of the Commission, City Attorney, and City Clerk. The item before you have three basic points. There is a waiver of the park naming policy within this item. It's also allowing the City Manager and City Attorney to directly negotiate with the Underline. And it's also still pending a separate approval for the naming with the county which the Underline is working towards. So, this would be a temporary naming of conditionally up to three to five years for a sponsor that would allocate funding towards maintenance of the park as well as maintenance from the Underline. We do have a representative of the Underline here as well so I'm not sure if you would like to come up.

Mayor Lago: Thank you. Sir, good to see you again. Thank you for being here.

Mr. Cleckley: Good evening, Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Manager and members of the Commission. I'm Eules Cleckley, CEO of Friends of the Underline and we truly appreciate the opportunity to work with the City of Coral Gables as well as with the county to bring this fantastic asset to the community here for Coral Gables. This dog park is something that's of extreme interest to the community that folks ask every single day when it's going to open. And at the same time, what we've done over the past several months is identify a fantastic corporate sponsor that will not only provide fantastic programming for the community but also will be able to chip in to cover some of the operations and maintenance of the park. So, it's at no cost, no cost to the city, and it's emblematic of the partnership that we have here at the Friends of the Underline with the city and the county, and we look forward to moving forward with this item and ask for your approval tonight.

Mayor Lago: Thank you. May I have a motion?

Vice Mayor Anderson: I'll move it.

Commissioner Castro: I'll second.

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

City Clerk Urquia: No, Mr. Mayor. And I apologize, who seconded?

Commissioner Castro: I did.

City Clerk Urquia: Thank you, ma'am.

Mayor Lago: Okay, no public comment. Do my colleagues have any other comments they'd like to make?

Commissioner Castro: No.

Mayor Lago: It's exciting to see this finally come to fruition. I've been working on this project for years, years, and I want to thank the Vice Mayor for really stepping up on this front. It's all hands on deck right now. So, send my best to everybody in the Underline. Thank you so much. And this is going to be, again, another beautiful amenity for the City of Coral Gables. We've got a lot of work to do, but those are things that we'll talk on another day. We're taking small steps. We're here. Finally, the Underline is about to open up. Anything else, Madam Vice Mayor?

Vice Mayor Anderson: I think the time the ribbon cutting has been set by staff.

Assistant City Manager Vester: So, we are coordinating together with the Underline and the County to have a collaborative opening event of the Bark Park. Right now, it is scheduled for January 31st. It is a Saturday and for 10 a.m. So, you will be receiving a save the date and a formal invite as soon as we all meet, all three parties, to do a joint announcement of the invite.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Beautiful. Thank you. Thank you, staff, for your hard work on this one. I know there's a lot more detail in this than appears on this two-page document. So, thank you.

Mayor Lago: Thank you. We have a motion and a second.

City Clerk Urquia: Yes, sir.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes.

Commissioner Castro: Yes.

Commissioner Fernandez: Yes.

Commissioner Lara: Yes.

Mayor Lago: Yes.