

City of Coral Gables
Special City Commission Meeting
May 6, 2025
City Hall Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Melissa Castro (Absent)

Commissioner Ariel Fernandez

Commissioner Richard D. Lara

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez

City Manager, Alberto Parjus

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item [11:11 a.m.]

Discussion Items

Mayor Lago: Moving forward. Anything for the good of the order, Madam Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Just to reminder for residents that we are having the septic to sewer meetings and basin by basin bases and that it's a general information meeting at this point and I hope you all have a wonderful week.

City Manager Parjus: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Yes sir.

City Manager Parjus: I want to remind everyone about the picnic, the employee's picnic that is going to take place is it this Saturday or when.

Staff Person: May 18th.

Mayor Lago: Thank you, sir. Commissioner Lara.

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Commissioner Lara: No comments.

Mayor Lago: You want to tell people about your open office hours, maybe. I don't mean to talk for you, but I think it's an opportunity for people to get to know you.

Commissioner Lara: Well, I thought I may have spoken a bit more than I thought I would on this first day, but yes. I'll say that, that I do hold office hours from 8:30 to 11:30 (a.m.) every Monday morning here in City Hall, on the second floor, by appointment. So please get a hold of my office, let everybody know you would like to come by, have a cup of coffee, and talk a little bit about city business or whatever you'd like.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner Fernandez.

Commissioner Fernandez: There is nothing wrong with speaking more than you thought you were because your opinion is valued, so we appreciate that. I just want to thank residents for being here today. I see a lot of fresh faces in the room, folks who haven't been here in a while, thank you for being here. We all feel the support that you give our community and our Commission. To my colleagues, I look forward to continuing to serve with all of you in the coming months and have a great day.

Commissioner Lara: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Yes sir.

Commissioner Lara: If I can, just add a little codicil there back of my comments. I just want to say from the bottom of my heart, it has been an extraordinary journey from when I appeared before this body, in February of 2024, to announce that I was running to finding myself now sitting here on the dais. It is with eternal thanks and gratitude to the residents who have supported me and to my fellow colleagues on the Commission, I pledge to you that I will do my very best to always put forth with great energy and strength the will and the end game of having transparency, civility, respect, and above all else, collegiality reign and rule over this dais, as we do the work of the people.

Mayor Lago: Thank you. So, before we adjourn, three points; number one, I welcome Commissioner Lara once again. It's a breath of fresh air. I welcome our Vice Mayor back, thank you for running again. The city made a very clear statement in your election.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Thank you for running.

Mayor Lago: Number two, this is the way meetings will run from now on. It is 11:15 (a.m.) We are finishing a meeting, we tackled many important issues and the Vice Mayor and I, along with Commissioner Lara, have been talking about for the last two years and it's come to fruition, the

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will of the people; and number three, as you can attest, City Hall is safe. Every meeting moving forward will be held here at City Hall, as we had with two licensed structural engineers, City Hall has always been safe. The politics is over. The grandstanding has come to an end. The city belongs to the residents and to the business community and we move forward. God bless you. God bless the City of Coral Gables and God bless the United States of America. See you May 20th. Thank you.

[Applause]