

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC)
Sister Cities Committee

Workshop Zoom Meeting of February 8, 2021

ONLINE PARTICIPATION

Members:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Commissioners
Lourdes Cuzán	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli
Claudio Pastor	P	E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Alma Kadragic	E	E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Comm. Patricia Keon
Vacant	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Comm. Jorge L. Fors, Jr.
Volker Anding	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Comm. Michael Mena
Alejandra Collarte	E	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Peter Iglesias, City Manager
Rafael Gavarrete	P	E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Council-at-Large Appointment

SUMMARY:

Chairperson, Ms. Lourdes Cuzán called the “Workshop” meeting via zoom to order at 3:15 p.m. A quorum was not achieved due to lack of physical presence. Additionally, no decisions were made during this workshop; however, discussions took place:

- Chairwoman, Ms. Cuzán echoed members’ comments regarding pending initiatives and the closure of countries which has left the committee and its Sister Cities on standby due to the pandemic.
- Ms. Collarte reported that the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce (GMCC) held their first meeting of the year on the first week of February and there is no official action. She further informed that the International Trade Consortium board is reorganizing itself after the Miami-Dade County mayoral election. No action there either.
- Mr. Anding inquired about the previously announced Miami-Dade County Sister Cities meeting. Ms. Collarte explained that until the committee reconvenes, there are no follow-up reports.
- Ms. Cuzán informed the members of an article found in the travel section of the Miami Herald titled, “How to Pretend You’re in Cartagena Today” in which the City of Cartagena, Colombia is being promoted as a beautiful place to visit. She briefly addressed the Hay Festival Cartagena de Indias, which promotes culture and social responsibility. They have a website if you would like to know more about it.
- Ms. Cuzán reported on a letter received from Mayor Roberto José d'Aubuisson Munguía where he expressed his gratitude for the donation of a firetruck to the City of Santa Tecla. Mr. Anding inquired about any publicity addressing the goodwill efforts of the City of Coral Gables.
- Ms. Cuzán reported that Commissioner Fors selected a new appointee to the board. She stated that the newly appointed member will oversee initiatives specific to Quito, Ecuador.

- Ms. Cuzán reported on her phone conversation with Dunia Miranda-Mauri who is back at the Consulate General of Guatemala in Coral Gables. Ms. Miranda-Mauri expressed her interest in creating an initiative between Coral Gables and its Sister City La Antigua, Guatemala when the situation is more appropriate.
- Ms. Collarte suggested to establish other connections through people not currently involved with the Sister Cities Committee.
- Members discussed obstacles faced by foreign countries including our Sister Cities due to the pandemic.
- Mr. Anding inquired about members term expiration and/or reappointments from upcoming commissioners. Information will be provided to members during the next scheduled meeting.

REMINDER:

Due to the upcoming elections no meetings will be held on the month of April.

Respectfully submitted,
Beba Luzarraga
Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council
And Jessenia Monge-Fletes
Intern, Mayor's Office