

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-12
May 23, 2023
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 Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-12

Discussion on City Meetings during summer months.

(Sponsored by Commissioner Menendez)

Mayor Lago: So, we are moving onto G-12.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Mr. Menendez.

Commissioner Menendez: G-12. I recall, I think it was last summer, the summer before, I think its probably last summer that we started scheduling or rescheduling some workshops and Town Hall meetings, Sunshine meetings and as I get feedback from residents over the summer months as to frustration that we were scheduling things, I don't want to say last minute, but with a few weeks' notice, when families have already planned their summer time away, their family vacations, going out of town, and a lot of residents said, you know, it felt like it was almost being done on purpose. It wasn't, it was just a scheduling issue, but they prefer that we try not to schedule things in that manner when families are normally not in town, because they want to be part of the process. My suggestion to us as a body is, our Commission meetings, our Budget Workshop, those types of things are already scheduled a year in advance, its on the city's calendar, and I think with all the events that we've had, June, July and August, we try not to add additional Town Halls, additional

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workshops, so that families can feel that they can get, take time off during those precious months and not have to be looking over their shoulder to see if we scheduled something, maybe dear to them that they can't participate. I think it just makes and I think also for staff that people look for June, July and August to be able to be with their family, take that time to sort of reenergize and also for the community to participate. So, I don't know if it's something that you would consider maybe agreeing to not June, July have additional things added to the calendar, and just obviously keep the things that we already have. I think it's fair to everyone.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I have a question for you. You want to wait to do the Sunshine on the Mobility Hub until...

Commissioner Menendez: That's the only one, because of this discussion, the only one I figure, to me what's the urgency.

Commissioner Fernandez: The Mayor said we could hold off on that. We still have to hear word back from Gensler, so that really won't happen probably until after Budget anyway in September.

City Manager Iglesias: I do believe we have a little bit of time, because of the construction issues that we have now, and we have a little bit of time to get it just right.

Commissioner Menendez: So that can be held off and I think everything else, we just go based on what the schedule's already out there. We have a June meeting, we have a July, we have a late August, so that way people can stick to their plans, folks have plans to visit their grandparents and stuff like that, let people be people.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Is that a motion?

Commissioner Menendez: Yes. I'll make the motion to agree collectively to not add additional Town Halls and Workshops during the summer months. What we have scheduled, we have scheduled.

Commissioner Fernandez: So, this would be going forward.

Commissioner Menendez: Going forward.

Commissioner Fernandez: June, July and August.

Commissioner Menendez: And August.

Commissioner Fernandez: Every year.

Commissioner Menendez: Let's start with this year. We'll do it this year.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Your thoughts.

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Commissioner Menendez: I made the motion.

Commissioner Castro: I'll second it.

City Clerk Urquia: All in favor.

All: Aye.