

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item C-3
July 10, 2018
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

**Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Vince Lago
Commissioner Michael Mena**

City Staff

**City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia**

Public Speaker(s)

**Laura Russo
Maria Cruz**

Agenda Item C-3 [1:40:41 p.m.]

School use in the downtown area

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We have a quorum and I will take first C-3, school use in the downtown area – Laura and Ramon.

Ms. Russo: Good afternoon Mr. Mayor, Commissioners, members of the Commission, for the record, Laura Russo with offices at 2655 LeJeune Road. I am here this afternoon because I am representing Dr. Linda Eads and Dr. Eads some of you may or may not know, but was the originator of Mast Academy when it was first developed in our public school system; and she is looking at creating a school in Coral Gables and we have been looking everywhere for a piece of property and so we are here to request that the Zoning Code be amended to allow schools in a commercial district. So it would be to allow schools, not as an as-of-right, although I would love that, but as a conditional use which would still allow the Planning and Zoning Board and the City Commission the ability to review the particular location and to review, all the little concerns that

usually come up when a school is in a neighborhood, but right now a school is not an allowed use not even as a conditional use in a commercial district. So, we know that the City is very keen on education and making sure that its residents have as many educational opportunities and choices and I can tell you that Dr. Eads has some very exciting work that she's planning for this school of hers, just like she was out in the forefront with Mast Academy, she would be with this one, but all we are asking for is the enabling legislation and then we will come back before you with the actual request for the school and the proposal. But I'm happy to answer any questions, as is Dr. Eads who is here.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. And we have had here where the Mercedes Benz dealer is now, we had Dearborn Academy, which was a very, very fine school in Coral Gables, we have Northwestern University's Graduate School of Business here in our midst in the Hyatt Hotel and I think it is a wonderful thing for us to have. I don't know why commercial that would not include school. There are no parking issues; no traffic issues and I think it would be wonderful for us to have it.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Love the idea. It's the kind of thing I didn't realize was something that was included in the code there, so I'm very much in favor it. Thank you for bringing this up Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Great. Maria you wanted to say something, be very brief. This is not a public hearing, so I'm doing this as a courtesy to you.

Ms. Cruz: Coming from...from Mast Academy first graduating class, completely support.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Ms. Cruz: If Dr. Eads is going to do something, go for it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Alright, do I hear a motion to suggest, direct staff to...

City Attorney Ramos: Direct staff to draft an ordinance.

Vice Mayor Quesada: So moved.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Second?

Commissioner Keon: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you call the roll please?

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Commissioner Mena: Out of the room

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes

(Vote: 3-0)

[End: 1:44:12 p.m.]