

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item F-4
August 27, 2019
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Michael Mena
Commissioner Jorge Fors

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Planning and Zoning Director, Ramon Trias
Police Chief, Ed Hudak

Public Speaker(s)

Laura Russo
Cliff Kling
Francesca Abreu
Margie Luis
George Fernandez
Faith Read Xenos
Scott Davidson

Agenda Item F-4 [0:00:00 p.m.]

An Ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida, amending Section 2 of Ordinance No. 2011-06, to increase the maximum student enrollment from 1,162 to 1,240 students for Gulliver Academy located at 12595 Red Road, Coral Gables, Florida; all other conditions of approval contained in Ordinance No. 2011-

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06 shall remain in effect; and providing an effective date. (LEGAL DESCRIPTION ON FILE) (07 10 18 PZB recommended approval with conditions, Vote 4-2) (Increase existing Gulliver Academy student enrollment)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And now, we have a time certain, F-4, Gulliver.

City Attorney Ramos: F-4 is an ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida, amending Section 2 of Ordinance No. 2011-06, to increase the maximum student enrollment from 1,162 to 1,240 students for Gulliver Academy located at 12595 Red Road, Coral Gables, Florida; all conditions of approval contained in Ordinance No. 2011-06 shall remain in effect; and providing an effective date. This is a public hearing item. I will ask the Clerk to swear in anyone who will be speaking as well.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Those who wish to speak -- and I have many cards here -- please stand up and be sworn in.

City Clerk Urquia: Please stand and raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony you will offer today is the truth and nothing but the truth?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Mr. Trias.

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: May I have the PowerPoint, please? Thank you very much. The request today is for an amendment of one of the conditions of approval, one of the original conditions of approval that had a specific number of students. That's the only request. As you know, Gulliver is on the southern areas of the city. And it was reviewed some time ago with multiple conditions and multiple issues. We tried to make it compatible with the neighborhood and that was done successfully some years ago. Now, the original number for the number of students is listed in this table as 1162 -- 1,162, back in '98. And the original request was to amend

that number to 1,260. Upon discussion and upon further negotiations with the neighbors, that number came down to 1,240. So, that is the current request. The request is to set a maximum number of students on campus at 1,240. The review timeline included a neighborhood meeting and also Planning and Zoning Board and notice to the neighboring community. The public notifications included three times letters to the property owners, one time a posting of the property, two times of website posting, and two times for the newspaper advertisement. And staff has reviewed the request and it is consistent with the comprehensive plan and satisfies the standards of review and recommends approval and keeping all the other conditions of 1998 the same. I believe the applicant may have a presentation.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes. Russo.

Laura Russo: Good morning, Mr. Mayor, members of the Commission. For the record, Laura Russo, with offices at 2655 LeJeune Road. I am here this morning with co-counsel Melissa Tapanes. And representing Gulliver, I have Mr. Cliff Kling, who is the president, Mr. Charlie Rue, who is the COO. I also have some members of the board, Mr. Scott Davidson, Mr. Frank Steel, head of school, along with our team from David Plummer and Associates, Mr. Tim Plummer. As you heard from Mr. Trias, our request is to increase the enrollment from the 1,162 pact which was established in 1998 to 1,240 to incorporate the Montgomery campus students into the Academy campus. The Academy campus is the one on 125th and Red Road. The Montgomery campus is outside the boundaries of the City of Coral Gables. A little bit of background. We appeared before the Planning and Zoning Board on July 10 of this year. The Board recommended approval with the condition that we meet with the HOA. We met with the HOA president and the representative, who is also a former president of the HOA, on August 2. Our discussions culminated in agreement, which is the proffer that I submitted to all of you in writing on August 23. And that proffer was that the 1,240-student enrollment pact would include not just students enrolled at the Academy, but would include any student who, for whatever reason, would come onto that campus taking one or more classes. It would also -- in the annual enrollment affidavit that is submitted -- break it down so that it breaks it down by grade, by total, but also includes any

student visiting on campus taking one or more classes at the Academy campus. Gulliver agrees that it will not seek an increase in its student enrollment from 1,240 until October 2029, so that's ten years. And there was also a second neighborhood meeting held. We held a neighbors' meeting in April. We held another one October -- I mean, I'm sorry, August 14. And at that meeting, there was discussion regarding a proposed additional queue inside the school campus for the afternoon pickup that was recommended by our traffic consultant. The neighbors who were in attendance at that meeting did not want that queue inside on the southern side of the campus, even though it's within the campus and not on the street. At this point, I'd like to have Cliff Kling, the president of Gulliver, come up and just give you a little bit of history on the background for the request.

Cliff Kling: Mr. Mayor and Mr. Vice Mayor, members of the Commission, good morning. My name is Cliff Kling. I reside at 8780 Southwest 64th Court, Pinecrest, and I serve as the president of Gulliver. We are asking for an increase of 78 students to 1,240. And the sole purpose of the increase is to bring the approximate 100 students enrolled in our Montgomery Drive campus to our Academy campus full-time. We've historically been under our maximum enrollment cap, so the 78-student increase will accommodate the 100 Montgomery Drive campus students. Our Academy campus serves students in grades Pre-K-3 through 8. Our Montgomery Drive campus serves students in grades 5-8, middle school students, who require additional learning support, primarily in areas of executive function, organization and time management. We offer smaller class sizes and direct instruction in study skills as well as foundational skills for reading, writing and math. Gulliver began this program over 25 years ago, truly unique in South Florida at the time. And at that time, the best practice for programs like this was that they be pulled out and separate from the main student population. Twenty-five years later, what we now know as a best practice in education is that these students should receive the learning supports they need, but they should receive them within the context of the main campus and to be integrated as much as possible within the main campus. Our Montgomery Drive campus students come to the Academy campus every day for lunch and for afternoon electives, and they are dismissed -- they're picked up by their parents from this campus today and that's been going on for over 20 years. Unfortunately, a stigma sometimes develops with this program and the students who are enrolled in the program

because they start their day at a separate campus and later join the rest of the student population on the Academy campus. With this enrollment cap increase, we can continue to offer this meaningful, important learning support program and can do so by removing the stigma associated with it. We believe more students will be able to be served by this program. We know and recognize that traffic is the sole concern and consideration. As a reminder, as I mentioned earlier, afternoon dismissal and pickup will be unchanged as these students are already dismissed from the Academy campus. So, morning drop-off will be the portion of traffic that's affected, and that's what our traffic engineers have studied primarily. It is important to note that of last year's enrollment of the 102 students enrolled at the Montgomery Drive campus, 42 of those students had siblings at our Academy campus. So, we're not talking about another 100 trips to this campus. It's more like 60. And our historical numbers have been anywhere between 30 and 40 percent have siblings, so between 30 and 40 students. However, our traffic engineers analyzed this on the full delta of 100 additional students and potentially 100 additional trips, even though the reality is there will not be that many additional trips. Again, we respectfully request approval of our application. We believe and know that this request is in the best interest of our students. And both the current and future students of our school will be served well by this change. And at this time, it is truly my privilege to introduce one of our students to the Commission, Francesca Abreu, who is an eighth-grade student at our Montgomery Drive campus, who'd like to come and tell you -- she actually asked to do this. We did not ask her to do this. She asked to do this. She wanted to speak to the Commission. And so, at this time, Francesca, if you would come.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Good morning.

Francesca Abreu: My name is Francesca Abreu, and I live at 5865 Southwest 119th Street, Coral Gables 33156. I would like to start off by thanking you for the opportunity to share with you my thoughts on having Montgomery Drive campus incorporated into the Academy campus. Whatever is decided here today won't directly affect me since this is my last year at Montgomery Drive. But I hope I can make a difference for the students to come. I hope that some insight from a Montgomery student can help you understand the isolation with having Montgomery separated

from the Academy. I am currently an eighth-grade student at Gulliver. I started at Gulliver in 6th grade and spent that year at the Academy. I established my friend group, and socially, I was happy and stress-free. Academics were a real struggle for me that year. I was failing math almost every quarter. And as for my other subjects, I was barely passing. At the end of the sixth grade, I was encouraged to attend Montgomery Drive for seventh grade as it seemed it might be a better fit for me. Even though it was extremely hard for me to leave my friends, I accepted the suggestion. This is my second year at Montgomery and my grades have improved drastically. I make it work and I have flourished in this environment, but I have to overcome the separation from my friends and the stigma that comes along with it. It's unfortunate that just because we are in a separate campus and have smaller classes, people assume our intelligence is inferior. If Montgomery were to be integrated into the Academy, I believe we would all feel more included and empowered to succeed. I wouldn't feel like I was missing out on something new at the Academy every single day. The stigma might not disappear completely, but I can assure you that it would diminish. A Montgomery student wouldn't feel as isolated, but instead, would feel much more included. Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Thank you very much.

(APPLAUSE)

Ms. Russo: In conclusion, we respectfully request that you approve the student enrollment cap, along with the proffer of conditions that we submitted to you. And I know there are a lot of people here in support. Not everyone will be speaking, but there are a handful who will be speaking, including the president of the homeowners' association.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay. And I have...

Ms. Russo: We're available to answer any questions.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I have a list here of people that wish to speak. I will give you two minutes. I mean, a very thorough presentation, including one by a student has been made. And Margie Luis, two minutes. Margie Luis, two minutes.

Margie Luis: Good morning. My name is Margie Luis, and my address is 4520 Santa Maria Street, Coral Gables, Florida 33146. I want to clarify I did not ask to speak, but I'm happy to.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I have your card here.

Ms. Luis: Okay. Well, I would appreciate the opportunity to help. My family is a Gulliver lifer, meaning our two children started at Pre-K-3 and they're now seventh and ninth graders. And as I clearly wrote on the card, we're fortunate to have an institution that is so committed to both academics and athletics. And in everything that Gulliver does, it means well. It means well for our students and it means well for our community. And we see on a daily basis how well they work to work with the neighborhood using police and being considerate of those around. Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you, ma'am. Rafael Villoldo. Rafael?

Ms. Russo: He's going to waive his two minutes. I think as you call the names, most of them will pass. They just want you to know that they...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Ms. Russo: Are, in fact, in support.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And he is in support.

Ms. Russo: The goal here is not to make this a marathon, but have you understand that there are numerous people here...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay, good.

Ms. Russo: Who are in support.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: So, he's in support, yes. George Fernandez.

Ms. Russo: He will speak. He is the president of the HOA.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Good morning, sir.

George Fernandez: Good morning. George Fernandez. My business address is 9300 South Dadeland Boulevard, in Miami.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: George, can you...

Mr. Fernandez: I've never been accused of being soft-spoken before. This is my first time. I am the president of the Gables by the Sea and Pinecrest by the Sea Homeowners' Association. We had the pleasure of working with Mr. Kling, Ms. Russo and other members of the Gulliver team to try to resolve the differences that we had with Gulliver. And they really stem mainly from one issue regarding the classification of visiting students as not being regularly enrolled students, which necessarily we felt violated the cap that was imposed by the ordinance and restricted covenants. The new leadership led by Mr. Kling -- and he's been a pleasure to work with -- he understands our frustrations. And he understands that what we want more than anything is we want for -- to have accountability in terms of the students that are enrolled. And what we have reached, we believe, is a very favorable resolution for all parties involved, which caps the number at 1,240 instead of 1,260. And importantly for us, removes this definition of visiting student as

not being a regularly enrolled student, which we thought violated the spirit of the ordinance and the cap. They listened, and they agreed. Also, there's not going to be an increase for ten years, as Ms. Russo indicated, and Gulliver's going to be providing affidavits every year signed, I believe, by Mr. Kling attesting to the number of students that are going to be enrolled, including visiting students. Under the circumstances, we thought this was a fair resolution of the issues, as long as we can trust but verify as we're doing. And we look forward to having a meaningful and positive relationship with Gulliver for years to come. One of the issues that I heard that may arise today is whether or not the issue about the queuing the students in the afternoon, which is one of the issues that Mr. Plummer came up with to try to alleviate traffic in the afternoon is going to be necessary. I understand that your Chief may speak in favor of requiring that queuing. I'll tell you that some of the residents in my community that live along that street have reservations about that because of the obtrusiveness of having all of the vehicles pulling up across the street from their homes. I don't know if the Chief knows this, but as Ms. Russo pointed out, last year, in 2018, their number was actually 1,138 of enrolled students and 98 of visiting students, for a number of 1,236, essentially, the same number that we're talking about now. So, the truth is, in the afternoon, nothing is really changing. And so I just wanted to point that out to the board.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you, sir.

Mr. Fernandez: Thank you...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you...

Mr. Fernandez: Very much.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Very much, sir. Thank you. Maria Carla Novara. You don't wish to speak? But you're a proponent, right. Zeinab Ramos. You don't wish to speak, but you're also a proponent, yes. Susan Bannon. And you're also a proponent. I have it here. Helena Figueroa. Okay, and I have it here as a proponent. And if you're not a proponent, let me know because you

did mark proponent so -- yeah, all of you have. Daneez Khan. She -- okay, and she's also a proponent. Faith Read Xenos, please. The floor is yours. You have two minutes.

Faith Read Xenos: Good morning, Mr. Mayor and esteemed members of the Commission. I speak today as a parent of a seventh grade Gulliver student. I reside at 6920 Sunrise Place, in Sunset Harbor in Coral Gables. I am also a businessowner of some 20-plus years in Coral Gables. And like many of my fellow parents, we make our life, our school and our community in Coral Gables as voters and active participants. My son attends Gulliver Academy now, but recently, the past two years, attended Montgomery campus. I'd like to say that as a seventh-grade student, it's a big year for acceptance, as you may all remember back to you middle school years.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: That's hard to do for me.

(LAUGHTER)

Commissioner Keon: That was a long stretch.

Ms. Read Xenos: Mayor, you're as young as ever. I'd like to state that acceptance, as one of our students pointed out, is one of the key things going on in society for students today. Peer acceptance, social acceptance -- many -- you could go down the list. Frequently, my son and his friends would say I attend Montgomery. I would say, no, you're a Gulliver student. No, but I attend Montgomery. So, there is a lot of othering that goes on for these students. Othering is very tough for them. In conclusion, what I'd like to say is even though my son is now at the Academy, the past two years were tough for him. They don't know exactly where they fit in the school community. So, this is an opportunity for your all to prove that you put students first, and I really appreciate the time you've given to our issue.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you, ma'am.

Ms. Read Xenos: Thank you, sir.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much. Alexandra Barroso. She's a proponent, perfect. And Donna Fong-Yee, another proponent. Wish to speak? But you're also a proponent. Jennifer Warren Medwin.

(COMMENTS MADE OFF THE RECORD)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Good. And Amy Abreu/Francesca Abreu. Wish to speak.

Commissioner Keon: That was -- isn't that the little girl who spoke?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Huh, what?

Commissioner Keon: That was the young girl that...

Unidentified Speaker: Francesca is Amy's daughter.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Oh, oh, okay.

Commissioner Keon: The girl who spoke.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: That was very nice. And Pablo Luis.

(COMMENTS MADE OFF THE RECORD)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Colin Potter, proponent.

(COMMENTS MADE OFF THE RECORD)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And oh my gosh, Scott Davidson. He's not a current student.

Unidentified Speaker: I don't think you need to hear from me.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Come up here and be recognized.

Scott Davidson: Great to see you, Mr. Mayor. Hello, everybody.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Come here, come here. How is the soccer field going along?

Mr. Davidson: You tell me. No, I'm kidding. I think it's going great. We should...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: He's the owner of the Ocean Bank building here across the street from us.

Mr. Davidson: I think that we should -- starting our permit process. We're getting final plans in next week or the following week. And three, four months later, we should start. And I guess...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Very good.

Mr. Davidson: We're going to see -- I think September 10 because we have another piece of art that we're going to -- as we talked about.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Mr. Davidson: Put in front of our building as part of the Art Basel process as well.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And you're on the Gulliver board.

Mr. Davidson: I am. I think I'm -- and...

Unidentified Speaker: And a Gulliver lifer.

Mr. Davidson: And a Gulliver lifer. That's very scary.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much, sir.

Mr. Davidson: You're welcome.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Mr. Davidson: And nice seeing you all as always.

Vice Mayor Lago: Mayor, if I...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Lago: May. I want to commend you also on your artwork that you have in the lobby. Not many people know that the work that you have in the lobby is world-class, and that people should take a moment to really visit the bank. It's pretty spectacular what you have up there right now.

Mr. Davidson: Thanks.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you.

Mr. Davidson: We're always trying. Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright. Any -- nobody else wishes to speak? Thank you very much. The public hearing is closed. And final comments, Madam Russo.

Ms. Russo: No. We're just here to answer any questions that may come up. Thank you., Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Commissioner Mena: Is there any...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Question?

Commissioner Mena: Is there any need to discuss this issue of the queuing or what's the status of that?

Ms. Russo: Well, we proffered, based on our meeting with the neighbors, not to put it into effect. But we also agreed at that same meeting with the neighbors -- which Mr. Fernandez and others attended -- that if we saw that it became a problem, the recommendation being in the afternoon, that we would have a meeting with the neighborhood, particularly, the neighborhood on the south side, Campamento, which is the street that borders the south side of the campus, and we would work with them before just implementing a queue on the south side.

Commissioner Mena: My -- remind me. The houses that border that street where the queuing would occur, it's the back of the houses, obviously, just...

Ms. Russo: It's the back of the house...

Commissioner Mena: An internal street.

Ms. Russo: It's the back of the house of Gulliver. Way back when, in 2009 and '10, there was actually an entrance off of Campamento. So, back as part of the master plan program and approval back in 2010 and '11, that was closed off and there was a sort of a parallel drive to Bernal Street created internally. And that leads to a faculty-only parking lot and it also is the access road for UPS, FedEx and for the food delivery. So, it is behind gates and landscaping so it's not visual.

Commissioner Mena: That was my question. Is there a landscaping buffer there?

Ms. Russo: There is a landscaping buffer there. But the neighbors felt that -- they didn't want what they felt was the spirit of the agreement, which was trying to not have a lot of activity going on the southern part of campus to sort of creep up on them. So...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: It is...

Ms. Russo: But they did agree that if we saw that it was a problem and it was necessary, if we met with them, we would all try to come up with a solution.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. This has been a very impressive presentation. I mean, the homeowner's association, the neighbors, I commend you. I commend Gulliver for what they have done in reaching an agreement with the neighbors that yet satisfies their need and the need for integration. I think it's a wonderful process and I wish that every single petition that came before us was handled in this way and with the unanimity and the spirit that this has been handled. Do I hear a motion?

Commissioner Keon: Could I...

Vice Mayor Lago: I just wanted to make one...

Commissioner Keon: I have one question.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Please.

Commissioner Keon: With the Montgomery campus, do you retain the Montgomery campus?

Ms. Russo: No. The plan would be for this to be implemented the following school year, and that is currently a leased property, so that lease would not be extended.

Commissioner Keon: It wouldn't be renewed. So, you would be just moving all of these children onto...

Ms. Russo: The main campus.

Commissioner Keon: The Academy campus?

Ms. Russo: Correct.

Commissioner Keon: You would still serve the same children, the same numbers of children and...

Ms. Russo: Yes. As was said...

Commissioner Keon: As was said and everything else.

Ms. Russo: Those children come at lunchtime...

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Ms. Russo: And some come after lunchtime, so they're all there at dismissal time.

Commissioner Keon: That's okay. You know what, as a city, we have been big proponents of inclusion throughout the city and throughout all of our parks, our recreation and the programs within our city. So, a -- I think that, you know, this only further -- and that spirit of inclusion, which I think is so important. I don't remember middle school, but I have grandchildren now that are in third and fourth -- third grade anyway. So, I do know from them how important it is to have somebody to play with and somebody to have lunch with. So, I was -- I sat on the Planning and Zoning Board in 2010 when this was heard in 2010. And I think it stretched over like three meetings and it was -- four meetings. It was an exceedingly contentious issue. So, like the Mayor said, I really applaud, you know, the way that you have worked together to work this out. And I do think it's wonderful that you will move these children onto the campus, so they can all be together.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Vice Mayor...

Commissioner Mena: I think Chief Hudak wanted to...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: You want to say something?

Vice Mayor Lago: Yeah, I would like to.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Let's be brief.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you, Mayor, for recognizing me. First off, as a Gulliver graduate, I'm very proud to have this moment and see so many parents here. My brother is also a Gulliver graduate. The time that I spent at Gulliver was a very important part of my youth and really formed

me into the person who I am today, not only in academics but also in sports. And I also want to commend the young lady who came up here because not many people know, but I mention it all the time when I have the opportunity to mentor students and when I speak to students. I know that Commissioner Mena has helped me on multiple occasions when we've gone to Carver and we've -- when we've really done works with the school and we've helped the students and we've donated our time and we've donated also money to help in regards to their needs. But I was one of those students that had a learning disability. I had dyslexia. And to this day, I still consider that I have it, and it's something that sets me apart from most people. I never had the privilege of going to Montgomery, but I went to Vanguard. I went to a school for three years that prepared me for the rigorous schooling that Gulliver provided. And it's something that I want to commend the school and all the parents that are here today because I know what you go through. I know the efforts. All these children are incredibly special. They will be tomorrow's leaders. A lot of people that we deal with on a day-to-day basis -- not many people, for some reason, mention their learning disability, but it's something that I wear as a badge of honor. It gives me a lot of insight on my day-to-day in business or when I deal with residents or I deal with business. It's something that I am very proud to mention. I graduated Gulliver doing extremely well. I moved on to college and I went on to grad school. So, this is something that I'm super excited about not only as a Gulliver graduate, but I always -- when I was -- spent three years at the school that I was at, I always missed my friends. I always missed the baseball team. I always missed my ability to spend time with my friends who were in a different school. So, when I saw that young lady speak, you know, it really hit home because I know what she was yearning for. I understood. And I think a lot of my colleagues on this Commission know -- not I think, I know that all of my colleagues on this Commission felt the same way. So, this is a great addition to the City.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Do you want to make a motion?

Vice Mayor Lago: As Commissioner Keon mentioned, we take great pride in being an inclusive city that does everything in our power to ensure that we protect the disabled, that we protect people

who have learning disabilities, that we protect the elderly. So, I'm proud and if the Commission would allow me to, I'm proud to make a motion today.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Do we have a second?

(APPLAUSE)

(COMMENTS MADE OFF THE RECORD)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you call the roll, Mr. City Clerk?

City Clerk Urquia: I'm sorry. Who seconded?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Commissioner Mena.

Commissioner Mena: I think just -- I see Chief Hudak back there and he's like to say something.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah, the Chief wishes to...

Vice Mayor Lago: Chief, you killed my moment, man.

Commissioner Mena: Yeah. He killed the momentum here, man.

Police Chief Hudak: Sorry to kill the momentum, but...

Vice Mayor Lago: Going to bring some levity here.

Police Chief Hudak: We do not support the covenant that they want to enter into with the neighborhood for safety reasons.

Commissioner Mena: Covenant being?

Police Chief Hudak: Being not -- to refuse to allow them to queue on campus. We're not saying it has to be done. However, if there's lightning, students are not dismissed. Therefore, traffic on Red Road and Old Cutler comes to a standstill because everyone is queued up on the street. The Police Department believes we still have to have the ability, like we would on any other school, to queue on private property. We have no say on anything else, but if that is allowed, then we will create gridlock which could be a life safety issue because we do know that we have, with our cameras, gridlock in front of Station 3 because it goes all the way up to that bridge. And that's not necessarily all because of Gulliver. That's with the current number it is now. So, it's irrelevant of whether it goes more or not, but to prevent us from allowing to queue on a private school property, if the police department who does coordinate the traffic there is prohibited from doing that, it could be bigger issues for the day-to-day traffic going on.

Vice Mayor Lago: But Chief, just a quick question. And I think we're ready to make a motion on this unless my colleagues have another comment to make. The number of students is not going up from what the...

Police Chief Hudak: Well, right now, we're allowed to queue in there. There is no prohibitive. What all we're saying is what you're taking is that now we will never be allowed to direct traffic in there off of the main thoroughfare because of this motion. I'm not saying we're opposed to the motion. We, the police department, we have not been involved in the negotiations. We haven't talked to the homeowners' association. We haven't talked to the school. I found out about it today. We would oppose being prohibited from queuing those students on that property under the conditions once we do our evaluation, and we are responsible for that flow.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay. Let me...

Vice Mayor Lago: We could always amend it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Let me make a suggestion.

Commissioner Keon: I think they're...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: What?

Commissioner Keon: I think they're going to proffer...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: What?

Vice Mayor Lago: Proffer.

Commissioner Keon: I think they're going to proffer that.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay, go ahead.

Ms. Russo: I think we have a suggestion. Our queuing had only to do with one particular component of Mr. Plummer's traffic report. And I just spoke with the president of the homeowners. We would never agree to put anybody's life in jeopardy or allow the traffic to become a health safety issue. So, as some of you may or may not know, those of you who were remember from back in 2010, we have five police officers who are directing traffic both in the morning and in the evening at 120th and 128th. They work on changing the traffic signals. And three other officers are spread along Old Cutler and Red Road. So, I think the school and I think the neighborhood association would be okay based on the decision made by the police officers there on a day-to-day basis.

Police Chief Hudak: With all due respect, that's not what -- that's not -- the proffer coming forward was that...

Unidentified Speaker: No.

Police Chief Hudak: We would never queue on their campus.

Vice Mayor Lago: What do you feel comfortable with, Chief?

Ms. Russo: We withdraw that as a covenant and state that we would not implement Mr. Plummer's....

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Ms. Russo: Plan, but would allow the City to make decisions on queuing.

Vice Mayor Lago: Does that satisfy you?

Commissioner Keon: Right. Is that what you're asking for?

Police Chief Hudak: That's -- we just don't want anything to restrict us from saying they have to...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay, the motion...

Police Chief Hudak: To queue on-site.

Vice Mayor Lago: Does that proffer...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Was made...

Vice Mayor Lago: Satisfy you?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: With -- and it will be...

Police Chief Hudak: Amended.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Voted on with that modification.

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: Mayor, this is the first reading. I think that there's plenty of time to...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: Have the Chief review this prior to second reading making sure that it's appropriately done.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay. Let's vote it on first reading, and then it'll come back to us. Mr. City Clerk, will you call the roll, please?

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Mena: Yes.

Commissioner Fors: Yes.

Commissioner Keon: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes.

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much, everybody.

Commissioner Mena: Just -- Chief.

(APPLAUSE)

Commissioner Mena: Obviously, just please meet with them in the interim before second reading. Come back and let us know what you and your department are comfortable with as far as the queuing is concerned and...

Police Chief Hudak: We will.

Commissioner Mena: And we'll deal with it.

Commissioner Keon: And you can amend.

Vice Mayor Lago: You should be able to...

Police Chief Hudak: Yeah.

Vice Mayor Lago: Should be able to amend this and just iron out any details in regards to traffic.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you...

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you, all.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Everybody.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Let's take a five-minute break.

Vice Mayor Lago: Okay.