

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Items F-5 and F-6
September 25, 2025
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 Richard D. Lara

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez
City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item F-5 and F-6 [Start: 1:14 p.m.]

F-5: A Resolution of the City Commission establishing a Senior Relief Grant Fund for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and directing City staff to identify a source of funding. (Sponsored by Commissioner Fernandez)

F-6: A Resolution of the City Commission establishing a Veterans with Disabilities Relief Grant Fund for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and directing City staff to identify a source of funding. (Sponsored by Commissioner Fernandez)

Mayor Lago: F-5 and F-6 and then we'll go to lunch. Mr. Fernandez?

City Attorney Suarez: F-5, Mr. Mayor, if I can read it in.

Mayor Lago: Yes, of course.

City Attorney Suarez: F-5 is a resolution of the City Commission establishing a Senior Relief Grant Fund for fiscal year 2024 to 2025 and directing city staff to identify a source of funding. And F-6 is a resolution of the City Commission establishing a Veterans with Disabilities Relief Grant Fund for fiscal year 2024 to 2025 and directing city staff to identify a source of funding.

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*Agenda Items F-5 and F-6 – Resolution establishing a Senior Relief Grant Fund for Fiscal Year 2024-2025
And establishing a Veterans with Disabilities Relief Grant Fund for Fiscal Year 2024-2025*

Commissioner Fernandez: Thank you very much. I don't know if anybody from staff is here to prepare to discuss the dollar amount.

City Manager Iglesias: I can discuss it, Commissioner.

Commissioner Fernandez: Go for it.

City Manager Iglesias: Okay. Thank you. Through the Mr. Mayor. Item number five is approximately 235 residents, and the proposed amount was \$150. So, it's about \$35,000. And item F-6, it's about 53 residents at \$150, the proposed \$150. It's about \$8,000. About 43, that data is from last year. So, it's about \$43,000. So, we estimate to be under \$45,000 for item five and six.

Commissioner Fernandez: Thank you. So, we have historically been giving the \$100 the last couple of years. However, the county has now eliminated their programs. So, I suggested we raise it to \$150 to try to supplement some of what the county is no longer giving these individuals who have been historically receiving this check since even before Coral Gables was providing them with this relief. And I had a question about Fiscal Year 2024-2025. This program generally comes from the end of year funding that we have prior to the new fiscal year. That is why we do it in September. And this comes from current surplus funds from the current fiscal year. So, I'm open to discussion and humbly ask for your support.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Through the Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I mean, this is consistent with, you know, how I think that we should be giving residents relief on taxes is really from the bottom up. Why I propose the Homestead exemption and supporting that with the state. And I hope that we can provide more relief in the future for those who need it the most. And I think I applaud doing this and especially in a year when a county has fallen short. Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Anything else from my colleagues?

Commissioner Fernandez: I'll move it.

Mayor Lago: I'm in favor.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Second.

Mayor Lago: I think this is a great way to help those who are most in need in our community. They qualify and it's an opportunity to help.

City Attorney Suarez: So just to clarify that it's on F-5, the first motion.

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Mayor Lago: Yeah, of course.

City Clerk Urquia: Commissioner Fernandez.

Mayor Lago: We don't have any public comment, right?

City Clerk Urquia: No, sir.

Mayor Lago: Okay, just wanted to make sure.

Commissioner Fernandez: Yes.

Commissioner Lara: Yes.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes.

Commissioner Castro: Yes.

Mayor Lago: Yes. Moving on to F-6

City Attorney Suarez: So, we need to vote on F-6.

Commissioner Fernandez: You need to read it; you already read it?

City Attorney Suarez: I did. I did. Okay, got it.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Second.

Commissioner Lara: Yes.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes.

Commissioner Castro: Yes.

Commissioner Fernandez: Yes.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

(Vote: 5-0)