

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Virtual Meeting
Agenda Items G-11
July 14, 2020
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

**Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Michael Mena**

City Staff

**City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Police Chief, Ed Hudak**

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-11

A discussion regarding neighborly efforts to replace privately-owned orchids after petty theft incident. (Sponsored by Commissioner Fors, Jr.)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Your next item Commissioner Fors, G-11.

Commissioner Fors: Yes. I'll make it very brief. Really, I just wanted to give the account now since it recently happened. But on Country Club Prado, probably about a year ago, maybe more, the neighbors had gotten together in a certain area led by Ray Corral of 1822 Country Club Prado, to install orchids on the trees on the swales in front of the houses. All the neighbors got into it. Did it. It was great. They looked beautiful. And then about a month ago somebody showed up in the early hours of the morning and stole them all from the trees. So immediately thereafter, Ray Corral again, organized the residents of Country Club Prado and even invested some of his own funds, significant funds, to reinstall almost all of the orchids again, and I wanted to commend him publicly for doing so, and to propose

*City Commission Meeting
July 14, 2020*

that we give him some kind of certificate of appreciation at the next in-person meeting. I'd like to invite him down to City Hall, so we can all thank him personally.

Vice Mayor Lago: That's great.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Great idea and we will take you up on it. That's great.

Commissioner Fors: And I think Chief Hudak wanted to say something.

Chief Hudak: Yes sir. Along the lines of the orchid theft, Major Medina and the detectives have identified the individual who is responsible for stealing all of the orchids. The total is about \$6,000 worth of orchids. We are not ready to identify who they are, because we don't have them in custody yet, but we do have the person that's responsible, one because of video surveillances in the area, as well as some of the witness statements that we have from the people in the neighborhood. So, not only does this individual that you are recognizing today have some kudos coming their way, but all the residents up there, kind of took place. I don't know if we'll be able to replace them, but we do have a dollar amount and the detectives are actively working to pick the individual up and I'll update you all through the Manager's office at that time.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Very good Chief. And being an orchid lover myself, the thief should be shot. Thank you.