

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item – Public Comment
June 28, 2022
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Michael Mena

Commissioner Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Attorney, Miriam Ramos

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Deputy City Attorney, Cristina Suarez

Public Speaker(s)

Maria Cruz

Jessica Keller

Agenda Item [Start: 1:09 p.m.]

Public Comment

Mayor Lago: Any public comment, just want to make sure. If you would be so kind, if your item hasn't come up. What is it you'd like to speak about?

Ms. Cruz: Maria Cruz, 1447 Miller Road. I can talk fast.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

Ms. Cruz: Okay. This has to do with sanitation.

Mayor Lago: Okay.

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Ms. Cruz: Okay. I have done research and the trash routes require a crane operator, two trash trucks, and one ground person, okay. That's done. As of now, some routes have no ground person. I sent you a picture that I got from several residents that now they help rake because the people that come do not have a person assigned to raking. So, that's an issue. Anytime, this is what I've researched, anytime there is a shortage of workers for garbage, they remove somebody from the trash, so they end up minus one and that creates a problem. If you remember, maybe last year, 18 months ago, two years ago, there was an accident, I remember clearly, around Columbus when the trash people were picking up and because there were several trucks one next to the other, one behind the other. There was no ground person and the guy tried to cross in between and there was an accident, and he was hurt. The crew has to have the number of people that they have to have, or we are open for big issues, okay. And now, also very fast. It hurts me when I see the garbage people, the sanitation people picking up not even having a raincoat, because the city doesn't issue raincoats and sometime, I have seen that the rakes they have are not up to par. I couldn't use them in my house, how could they use them. That's it.

Mayor Lago: Ms. Cruz, thank you very much. Just to address your points. I will be meeting with the City Manager. I know that the city gives sufficient clothing to employees. If we do not have raincoats, please let's make it a priority. If we have some issue with a rake and they don't have the appropriate rake, please make sure that it gets taken care of, Mr. Manager, I know that was not an intention of staff. And the final point, please provide to the Commission an answer in regard to whether we are short-staffed that somebody has to jump in from sanitation to address the issue, okay, from garbage.

City Manager Iglesias: We will do that Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Thank you Mr. Manager, I appreciate it.

City Clerk Urquia: Next speaker, Mr. Mayor is on Zoom and its Ms. Jessica Keller.

Mayor Lago: Ms. Keller, good afternoon, the floor is yours.

Ms. Keller: Good afternoon. Is everyone able to hear me?

Mayor Lago: Yes.

Ms. Keller: Lovely. I'm Jessica Keller, Vice Chair of Bike Walk Coral Gables and of course a resident of Coral Gables. I'm really sorry I'm not able to be there. Debbie Swain, Chairwoman and John Swain, Treasurer of Bike Walk Coral Gables are present in person there today. Our entire board, Secretary David Henderson, Elvis Fuentes, Kenneth Garcia, Chris Rupp, Rick Smit, Tom Snook and Maria Fleites needed to address an e-mail we sent to the Commission last week regarding our position on South Alhambra Circle Bicycle Infrastructure requirement. One Commissioner acknowledged our concern, Commissioner Anderson. Bike Walk Coral Gables envisions a community that values the safety of all people using public right-of-way. Cycling, walking are healthy and sustainable forms of transportation and recreation. Bike Walk Coral Gables also advocates for the accessibility of streets and trails for bicycle riders and pedestrians

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so they may enjoy our city's beautiful and lush canopy. We assert that the city is responsible for ensuring that all users of the right-of-way have infrastructure that allows them to walk, ride or drive safely. We continue to support...of facilities in the right-of-way that give passage for all users of those rights-of-way. We support installation of infrastructure on South Alhambra Circle, and we commend you. We object to the concurrence of adjacent property owners as a prerequisite for the installation of bicycle infrastructure on the right-of-way, as its inconsistent with existing policies and past practice. In recognition of the importance of providing safe bicycling infrastructure, the city has never required concurrency for installation of the existing bicycle lanes, including Galiano Street in this past year, Sevilla Avenue in 2014, Segovia in 2012, and Alhambra Circle over 20 years ago. We recommend the city adopt a policy for the installation of bike infrastructure on the right-of-way that's consistent with city policy for other public works projects. Installing bicycle infrastructure is aligned with existing policy and regulation and I'm sure you're all familiar with the existing policy. Ordinance 2010-09, which was passed unanimously is the Coral Gables Comprehensive Plan that among other things says, the city shall require private and public development projects to adhere the city's Citywide Bicycle Master Plan. Shall – the city shall promote, not deter, the safe movement of bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Resolution 2017-151, is the active design policy sponsored by Mayor Lago, passed unanimously to encourage design and policy strategies for healthier communities. Resolution 2018-80, adopted unanimously is a sustainable complete streets resolution which states, among other things, is that Coral Gables strives to – I'm going over my time, but I'm sure you can give me some leeway.

Mayor Lago: Take your time. Take your time.

Ms. Keller: Thank you. The City of Coral Gables strives to develop a safe, reliable, efficient, integrated, connected, and livable multi-modal transportation system that best enables access, mobility, economic development, aesthetics, health, and well being for people of all ages and abilities and supports enhancement and sustainability of environment. Resolution 2018-142 adopted unanimously is the age-friendly resolution encouraging, among other things, safe and affordable modes of private and public transportation. Complete Streets – types of initiatives. Ordinance 2020 passed unanimously which is the 2020 Strategic Plan that identifies a number of adopted objectives, amongst which is to improve mobility and transportation safety. We also want to highlight our concern how this procedure will impact Resolution 2020-156, sponsored by Mayor Lago. A Resolution accepting funds to rehabilitate the...of Commodore Trail on Edgewater Drive. Right now, the trail exists only in name on Edgewater Drive. Will we be requiring two-thirds concurrence to rehabilitate this segment of regional trail making improvements that make it safe for our families. Today we also heard about the Mayor's Strategic Priorities Plan and the importance of environmental stewardship, to create a more sustainable city, reduce our carbon footprint, reduce energy savings, and educate the community on the importance of caring for the environment. We'd like to remind you that transportation continues to be the greatest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. We recommend the city adopt a resolution for installing bicycle infrastructure as consistent with the procedure with other Public Works improvements and does not require the concurrence of adjacent property owners. Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Thank you. Have a wonderful summer. Is that the end of the public comment?

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City Clerk Urquia: Yes sir.

Mayor Lago: Alright. Perfect.