

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-248**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO LOOK INTO ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS AGAINST FLORIDA POWER AND LIGHT (“FPL”) AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER AND APPROPRIATE STAFF TO CONDUCT THE NECESSARY RESEARCH AND HIRE AN OUTSIDE CONSULTANT TO PRESENT THE CITY COMMISSION WITH UNDERGROUNDING COST AT THE CITY COMMISSION MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2017.

**WHEREAS**, a City Commission meeting set for September 12, 2017 was cancelled due to Mayor Valdes-Fauli declaring a state of emergency through the emergency powers of the Mayor; and

**WHEREAS**, during the City Commission’s meeting, wherein tragedies were discussed, City residents were given the opportunity to speak on same, at which time both, City residents and City Commission, expressed their grave discontent with the minimal services provided by FPL in the days following the storm; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission was deeply saddened upon listening to resident testimony which detailed times where children, ill residents, and the elderly community were suffering extreme hardship in the days following the storm, due to the absence of electrical power for numerous, consecutive days; and

**WHEREAS**, certain City residents found themselves unable to power necessary medical machinery, like that of oxygen tanks, for days following the storm; and

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Valdes-Fauli, while expressing disappointment with the efforts provided by FPL, reference FPLs 23% rate increase and FPL’s reluctance to clear out the electrical lines laying on and/or touching City trees regardless of the increase in resources; and

**WHEREAS**, FPL, during communications with City residents, led residents to believe that their power had not been restored by FPL due to the City’s failure to clear and/or remove City trees, an action that the City has clearly stated that it will not perform; and

**WHEREAS**, the City refuses to clear and/or remove any City trees that contain entangled, and possibly faulty electrical lines due to the extreme danger involved. The City understands and respects that FPL, in their professional capacity, employ specialized crews to perform this exact act; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission understands the gravity of the storm and understands that FPL has numerous cities to tend to. However, the City has also taken into consideration that neighboring cities were at 5% loss of power while at one point, the entire community of Coral Gables was without power. Five (5) days subsequent to the storm, the City remained with 50% of its residents experiencing a loss of power; and

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Valdes-Fauli believes that the FPL has failed to meet the needs and provide the necessary services to City residents and therefore wishes to bring enforcement actions against FPL; and

**WHEREAS**, several Miami-Dade County cities and several Broward County municipalities have already undergrounded their electrical lines; and

**WHEREAS**, City Commission wishes to take action by upgrading City infrastructure, primarily, by looking into underground electrical lines; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES:**

**SECTION 1.** That the foregoing "Whereas" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution upon adoption hereof.

**SECTION 2.** That the City Commission does hereby direct the City Attorney to research available enforcement actions to the City against Florida Power and Light.

**SECTION 3.** That the City Commission does hereby grant the City Manager and appropriate staff the latitude to hire an outside consultant to investigate the possibilities of underground electrical lines in the City.

**SECTION 4.** That this Resolution shall become effective upon the date of its passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS FOURTEENTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, A.D., 2017.

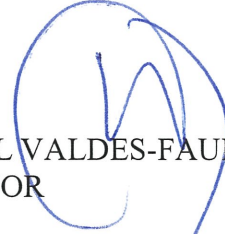
(Moved: Lago / Seconded: Quesada)

(Yeas: Lago, Mena, Quesada, Keon, Valdes-Fauli)

(Unanimous Vote: 5-0 Vote)


(Non-Agenda)

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized letter 'W' enclosed within a circular loop.

RAUL VALDES-FAULI  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W. J. Foeman' in a cursive style.

For WALTER J. FOEMAN  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Craig E. Leen' in a cursive style.

CRAIG E. LEEN  
CITY ATTORNEY