

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item I-5
January 25, 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

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Attorney, Miriam Ramos

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Assistant Police Chief, Hajir Nuriddin

Krizia McGraw

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item I-5 [Start: 3:26 p.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission authorizing the acceptance and execution of grant funds in the amount of \$400,000 allocated to the Coral Gables Police Department from the 2021 BJA FY 21 Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program to Support Law Enforcement Agencies; and authorizing an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Annual Budget to recognize the \$400,000 in grant funds as revenue and to appropriate such funds to cover the grant expenditures.

Mayor Lago: I-5.

City Attorney Ramos: I-5 is A Resolution of the City Commission authorizing the acceptance and execution of grant funds in the amount of \$400,000 allocated to the Coral Gables Police Department from the 2021 BJA FY 21 Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program to Support Law Enforcement Agencies; and authorizing an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Annual Budget to recognize the \$400,000 in grant funds.

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Agenda Item I-5 – Resolution authorizing the acceptance and execution of
Grant funds in the amount of \$400,000 allocated to Coral Gables Police Department

[Date]

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Assistant Police Chief Nuriddin: Hello, good afternoon, Honorable Mayor and Honorable Commissioners and City Attorney and City Manager. If you have any questions, I'm here to answer those for you.

Mayor Lago: Any questions, any issues?

Commissioner Fors: No, just one observation that I found interesting is that we think that \$400,000 pretty much gets us everything we need for this program, right. I thought it was much more expensive, it would be much more expensive.

Assistant Police Chief Nuriddin: Well, the overall Body-Worn camera, that's one of the challenges is that it's a costly program, but I think it also outweighs the value that it brings to any community that implements it, because its an amazing officer safety tool, because with it you're going to improve compliance with certain individuals that may want to violate the law. It is also one that improves, its an audio and video recording between all the members of our community. So if you have an officer that does something inappropriate, you'd have something that supports the community member's complaint, if there is one, but we know throughout the country when body-worn cameras first were implemented that there's been a reduction of use of force, because when certain individuals again, see that the officer is wearing a body-worn camera, that there is going to be more compliance, that citizens also gain more trust with members of the community because of the fact that it improves our legitimacy. A lot of the members of the community don't recognize or realize what officers are doing in the field every single day. So, it assists in that. So, this particular grant helps us offset the overall cost of a body-worn camera program. It is \$400,000, as you know, but it is a matching grant that will assist us in moving forward as we prepare to go forth to implement it.

City Manager Iglesias: Chief Hudak and his staff were very diligent in looking at different options to go, actually at a level I thought was actually cheaper than what we expected. However, we have to understand that this is going to require a lot of work, a lot of internal work, because if you have an altercation, there are five police officers there may be hours of video that has to be provided, but I do think that other agencies have gone through this and due to the diligence of our Chief and our Police Department, we were able to get, I think what we believe is a good cost on this item.

Assistant Police Chief Nuriddin: Absolutely. And I believe Krizia was going to add something to the fact that the \$400,000 offsets the additional costs that will be coming.

Krizia McGraw: Good afternoon, Krizia McGraw from the Police Department. The \$400,000 was based on a formula that the grant required which was a maximum of \$1,250 per unit, which means per camera. So based on the three years and the projected cost of the program, that's what we were allowed to ask for as our maximum.

Mayor Lago: Just a quick question. I'm in favor of the cameras. Obviously, its initial across the board of accountability and I think if it brings more trust, we support the police wholeheartedly

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and we are blessed to have an exceptional police force that is always looking to resolve the issue before engaging in any type of activity, physical or God forbid having to draw their weapon. My question is, I've never had the technology like Worn, but it seems kind of bulky. The officers are already wearing significant amount of, from a gun to a belt, to handcuffs, to a baton. Is the technology becoming more and more streamlined?

Assistant Police Chief Nuriddin: Yes.

Mayor Lago:...is to have an officer having to wear all this. Again, I know the data is what's important and obviously the statement that you're sending by being accountable, but you want something that's streamlined, that's light, that doesn't get in the way of a police officer having to do their duty.

Assistant Police Chief Nuriddin: Absolutely. If you look at the research, Body-Worn cameras came in effect back in 2013, when they took off and became very popular across the country with a lot of departments. At that time, they were kind of bulky, but the technology has increased dramatically. For some agencies they actually have them on glasses, you can apply it there. The average ones are attached to the chest, but they are very light. Some of the ones that we've seen that are out there right now are very light, easy to use, not challenging, and it doesn't impact the officers doing their line of work and their duties and responsibilities. So, its dramatically improved.

Mayor Lago: Thank you. Thank you for that.

Assistant Police Chief Nuriddin: Thank you.

Commissioner Anderson: Thank you.

Commissioner Fors: Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Great work, by the way. Thank you to both of you. Thank you Chief. Moving onto I-6.

City Manager Iglesias: A resolution.

City Attorney Ramos: We have to vote on I-5.

City Manager Iglesias: A resolution for I-5.

Commissioner Anderson: I'll move it.

Vice Mayor Mena: Second

Commissioner Fors: Yes
Vice Mayor Mena: Yes
Commissioner Menendez: Absent
Commissioner Anderson: Yes
Mayor Lago: Yes
(Vote: 4-0)