

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item L – Discussion Items
August 27, 2019
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
Fire Chief, Marcos de la Rosa
Assistant to the City Manager, Solanch Lopez**

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item L – Discussion Items [3:55:35 p.m.]

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Anything else?

Vice Mayor Lago: I have two items, Commissioner Keon first.

Commissioner Keon: No. I'm fine. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Lago: I have two items. One of them is I want to put a picture up on the screen, but before I load it up. We are having the continued issued, I don't know if you've gotten phone calls and e-mails, but I saw it yesterday for the first time in person on Miracle Mile, the scooter drivers, they are taking up two and three spaces on Miracle Mile. What they are doing is Uber-Eats, they just park and when they get phone calls that's an example right here. That was just one case. Again,
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this is probably 10:30 (a.m.), and what you are seeing here is, they are taking up legit, this is not valet, this is legit parking.

Commissioner Keon: I spoke to the Police Chief and sent him an e-mail about that. He responded.

Vice Mayor Lago: So, the issue here is – so this is going on and I've seen them also parking in alleys. I would love to see...

Commissioner Keon: They are parking on 10 Aragon too.

Vice Mayor Lago: What I would love to see if maybe we could find a designated area, somewhere where we can have them on a surface parking lot, have like a hub.

Commissioner Keon: That's why I asked them to look at that. So, I don't know if they responded to that.

Chief Hudak: And I attended a meeting the City Attorney had along with Parking, so I'll defer to the City Attorney.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: I'm not sure if the Chief has an additional update, but I know we have an internal meeting scheduled, if not this week, next.

Vice Mayor Lago: I don't want to get rid of them, they serve a purpose. I just don't want them to be in a position where, again, they are taking up parking spaces or they are a nuisance to someone.

City Attorney Ramos: We did have a meeting and its my recollection of how it ended was that they were going to try to find a staging area and redirect them to that staging area.

Vice Mayor Lago: Perfect – awesome. The second issue that I had was garbage under the bridge, that was sent to me...

Chief Hudak: That came from the Waterway Advisory Board?

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes, it did. It was on the LeJeune Road bridge. So, we are having multiple issues on bridges. Again, people are using the bridges for fishing, they are having their lunch, hopefully and relaxing, and what ends up happening is that they are leaving all their garbage behind. That is on the LeJeune bridge; and, on the Granada bridge on Bird Road, there is a home there that has their entire side of the home and the bridge is covered in weeds. And I brought it up to the attention, Ed, you know which one I'm talking about, right, the Granada bridge on Bird

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Road, where they used to have the Manatee sign, that the Manatee was, I guess, walking across the bridge has since been removed.

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: The pedestrian Manatee.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes, the pedestrian Manatee. So that whole house, I know they cut back some of the foliage, but there is a significant find that is on the actual FPL pole and on all, basically consuming the bridge. Do we have a plan of attack to address the aesthetics of all these bridges underneath and above?

Commissioner Mena: [[Inaudible]...Hardee near Granada, it looks terrible.

Commissioner Keon: On Hardee.

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: As to the bridge on LeJeune Road, there is a very robust plan in place, right now, and actually going to get attention, I think its four times a week now.

Vice Mayor Lago: The one facing the Presbyterian Church.

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: I was speaking about the one on LeJeune Road and at Cartagena Circle.

Vice Mayor Lago: OK. That's one, that's one. I'm talking about the one on Granada and Bird Road.

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: The one on Granada and Bird Road, we do have a waterway...

Vice Mayor Lago: Waterway Advisory Board.

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: Yes, he's met with the Waterway Advisory Board, but he's one of our maintenance folks and he's tasked with the waterway. We also have Keep Coral Gables Beautiful and I'm going to turn it over to Solanch because she has some details how we are going to be approaching this issue.

Vice Mayor Lago: And before you leave just one last thing. I got an e-mail from a Waterway Advisory Board member, whose Chairman of that Board, since we are starting to have some issues with abandoned boats on the waterway, so I'll have Manny Chamizo reach out to you and explain to you where those boats are located. I think he actually sent an e-mail, I forwarded it to you already.

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City Manager Iglesias: That’s something I believe Chief Hudak.

Chief Hudak: The marine patrol – Mr. Chamizo sent that to us as well, the marine patrol addressed it and will continue to address it if it comes up. Its about that time of the year where we find some of the other sailboats, because mangroves are a natural protection, so we see a lot of them trying to come in to tie into the mangrove area. So, a lot of those issues have been addressed by the marine patrol and will continue.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you Chief.

Ms. Lopez: In terms of Coral Gables Beautiful, an update to that is that the organization Keep America Beautiful, has accepted our application and we are entering the next phase. So, we are in the process of coordinating the first community training, which is the next step in the application process. It will be open to the public for the first hour and any stakeholders, and then it will be specifically for the members of board, which consist of the Sustainability Advisory Board as the subcommittee. Once that is in place, they will leave us with, what they call “homework” somethings that we must do before we move onto the next step. A large part of that is our in-depth litter index of the City as-a-whole. That will give us a baseline of what our actual litter problem is and that has to be repeated from year to year, so we will see what our process is and what areas we really need to tap and how to coordinate that.

Vice Mayor Lago: Love it – perfect. Just keep the, like Commissioner Mena mentioned, both bridges, they are a magnet for weeds and garbage and all kinds of things.

Ms. Lopez: I’ll make a note when we start looking at what areas we are going to do the litter index part.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Anything else?

City Manager Iglesias: Mayor, I’d like to discuss annexation with you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: What?

City Manager Iglesias: Discuss annexation, thank you. I believe I’ve discussed with all of you concerning my discussion with Commissioner Hayman yesterday, the Chair of the Health Care and County Operations Committee. We had quite a talk last night and we could not get any votes

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to move both the north or south annexation areas forward. It will not be on the agenda for September, which means it cannot come to the October meeting. After that the 90 days expires, which means we have to apply all over again. So unfortunately...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Anything else?

City Attorney Ramos: Sir when we adjourn at the City Commission, we need to hold the four meetings of the condo association, which will take five minutes, I promise.

City Manager Iglesias: And I have Chief de la Rosa, our emergency manager, to give us an update on Dorian.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes please.

Chief de la Rosa: Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. As of 2 o'clock this afternoon the advisory, tropical storm Dorian is moving west northwest with maximum sustained winds at 50 miles an hour and moving at 13 miles an hour. It has impacted the Lesser Antilles and is on track now to impact, depending on what trajectory it takes, Dominican Republic and/or Puerto Rico, or the third option is, is that it might basically go through the whole of the needle and not hit either of the two islands. So, the State of Florida right now, the entire State of Florida, not just South Florida is in the cone of uncertainty as to whether we are going to be impacted or not. A lot of that has to do with what trajectory that storm takes tomorrow and early Thursday as to what impact it could have from it when it makes landfall or not, within the islands of Dominican Republic or Puerto Rico. So, our level of uncertainty as to what we may be feeling come the weekend is based on its interaction with land or not, within the next day, day and-a-half. So, what have we done as a City? We began monitoring the storm over the weekend. Throughout this week we participated in the National Weather Service briefing and we've been briefing all our department heads and our City employees, as well as our satellite cities. We continue to do that. We've discussed our public protective actions with all of our departments, and we've gone ahead and started the staff, what would be our, used to be called essential or non-essential employees, and that been identified. Depending on what trajectory this storm takes, is what actions we will take in the next day. For our citizens, what we expect them to do is to start reviewing their family plans, to look at what they need to acquire, and make decisions or plans if they normally live in an evacuation area. Something that we would like to stress is that our benchmark for preparation should be Friday. So, if you identify the fact that you have to trim trees in your house or you have to remove debris, then you should have a plan to do that, and have it removed, not leave it out for the City to pick up by Friday. We do not want to create additional hazards by having flying debris. What we will get for the weekend one way or the other, is heavy rains, some winds and couple that with the King Tide, we'll have some area flooding, that is a for sure. As to whether it will remain a tropical storm or

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whether it will intensify into a low-grade hurricane, we won't know for sure until, as I stated, tomorrow late or early Thursday. We've been in discussion with the City Manager and the ACM and probably tomorrow morning we'll start having a discussion whether we begin to sure up the City or not.

Commissioner Mena: Can we get ahead on messaging out to the public about, not telling people to go buy water, I think people more or less know that kind of thing already, but just as far as the City is concerned in the event that we do have a storm, here are the numbers that you should save, so you have them, here's how to communicate with us, all that kind of thing.

Chief de la Rosa: So that's a good point. Up to this juncture, we've put out what would be our generic storm messaging plans and identifying the fact that you should be looking at your plans up to this point. Tomorrow morning, we are having our joint information meeting, that would be, not only with our office of communications through MR (Maria Rosa), but police and fire PIO's, to begin to formulate a unified message that can go out through all our social media portals to do exactly what you just said. So, that's our plan for tomorrow morning.

City Manager Iglesias: And by the way Commissioner, we've sent out a notice from FEMA, emergency management notice to every home through a FEMA plan that has a checklist, it has all numbers, checklist, everything, pre-storm, post-storm, and the Chief has done a very good job on it. That was sent out before hurricane season to everyone.

Chief de la Rosa: So most recently from my department specifically, and in conjunction with police, because they do protect in place our fire stations, we've already established a plan as to where we are going to shelter our firemen with regard to the fact that Station 2 is under construction, Station 4 is at UM, and Station 3 is in an evacuation zone. So that's been in place now for a couple of months. We formalized that plan, however last week.

Commissioner Keon: When do you decide to open up the garages if people need to move cars and things like that? Is that if there is a hurricane warning?

Chief de la Rosa: At a warning is when we go ahead and do that. At a watch we start having that discussion. The challenge that we have with the storm is, we are really not even going to know if we are going to be under a tropical storm watch or a hurricane warning or watch until it gets on the other side of Puerto Rico.

Commissioner Keon: So, it will be Thursday or Friday before you know. And that is when the warning is issued is when people can move their cars if they want to.

Chief de la Rosa: Correct. We are looking at a potential storm impact if it was to hit South Florida Saturday or Sunday, and that's why we keep stressing the fact that whatever preparations or plans you should make, we should start wrapping it up by Friday.

City Manager Iglesias: Commissioner this is a tough storm to call. It deintensified from 60 miles an hour to 50 miles an hour now, but it could be up again, but its projected now to be a tropical storm, so we are trying to call it as best we can.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright. Anything else? Thank you very much everybody. Meeting adjourned.

[End: 4:09:05 p.m.]