

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item D-3
January 13, 2015
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Jim Cason

Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.

Commissioner Pat Keon

Commissioner Vince Lago

Commissioner Frank Quesada

City Staff

City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark

City Attorney, Craig E. Leen

City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman

Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Jack Thompson, Coral Gables Resident

Agenda Item D-3 [Start: 10:04:46 a.m.]

Jack Thompson regarding the profession of police officer.

Mayor Cason: Let's move to D-3. This is Jack Thompson regarding the profession of police officer.

Mr. Thompson: Good morning.

Mayor Cason: Good morning.

Mr. Thompson: I'm from Ohio and my great grandfather played football for Ohio State so I'm a little sleep deprived this morning, as some of you may be. I'm delighted to be here, especially because of the appreciation given for our police and fire personnel because I'm here for the same reason, which is I think a divine coincidence. The great political philosopher and actor Sylvester Stallone once said, "If you think people are inherently good get rid of the police for 24 hours and see what happens." Rudy Giuliani and speaking of the police in his City after 9/11 said,

“Courage is managing fear to accomplish what you must”. The current Mayor of that City ran on a platform to undo the very police practices that turned the most dangerous large American city into its safest. Thirty-four years ago our family moved to Coral Gables, primarily because of the quality of its police department and fire department. Since then, police and fire personnel have lavished upon our family dozens of individual acts of kindness from the Chief on down, the most dramatic of which was when the fire department arrived at our home in less than two minutes after I called, thinking that our son had died. So I am here today to thank also the first responders and in doing so to play into the record a sound recording called simply, “Policeman” by Paul Harvey, first broadcast by him on his national radio show in 1965, a full 50 years ago. Paul Harvey’s radio broadcast from the 1950’s through the 1990’s reached as many as 24 million people a week. Paul Harvey News was carried on 1200 radio stations, 400 Armed Forces Network stations and 300 newspapers. So, I’m here today to share with you and our City the words of Mr. Harvey because I know that every person in this room shares the thoughts found in these words. We may from time to time have suggestions as to policing issues, but I know that every person in this room has nothing but the deepest gratitude for these men and these women -- who not only keep us safe, but also keep us free. And so now if a 63 year old can get my smart phone to do what I want it to, the words of Mr. Harvey.

[Note for the Record: An audio recording was played by Paul Harvey for the Commission to listen to].

Mayor Cason: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Thank you.

Mayor Cason: That was beautiful, thank you very much.

[End: 10:10:30 a.m.]