

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item K
September 24, 2024
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Melissa Castro

Commissioner Ariel Fernandez

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez

City Manager, Amos Rojas, Jr.

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item K [11:20 a.m.]

Discussion Items

Mayor Lago: Madam Vice Mayor, anything for the good of the order.

Vice Mayor Anderson: On October 18th with your Live Like Bella shirt on, ready to play pickleball and support the cause or cheer people on. I'll be in the cheering section because my knee will not be healed by then.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner Castro.

Commissioner Castro: Yes. So, on Saturday, I am putting together a game night for residents, if Billy, there we go. Game Night with Commissioner Castro at 4:30 we're going to have Trivia, at 5:30 we're going to have Bingo, Karaoke at 6:30, which I hear is a very wanted and fun event to do. This is pre-entry, please do register because capacity is limited. Did I say that right, I guess. Its free entry, it's in the Adult Activity Center. There's also going to be different stations with different types of games if you don't want to participate in Trivia, Bingo or Karaoke. There's going

City Commission Meeting
September 24, 2024

to be light bites as well. I expect everybody to be there. If you can't make it, you're going to miss out. And I believe earlier that day, there's going to be a movie night with Commissioner Menendez, so if you want to go ahead and just call it a day with going to the movies and then having a little lunch and then going to game night, I think that would be the perfect Saturday. Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk, I forgot that we have one individual that we missed on Public Comment. I apologize.

[Note for the Record] Speaker Gonzalo Sanabria's comments are in Public Comment section.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner Menendez.

Commissioner Menendez: Yes, showing a movie about two drifters that are trying to bamboozle others, and it's called The Sting, with Robert Redford and Paul Newman, its an Academy-Award winning movie, very entertaining perhaps not as entertaining of the end of this Commission meeting, but entertaining, nonetheless. Its free, free popcorn and free beverage for everyone and you can't go wrong with Paul Newman and Robert Redford.

Mayor Lago: Thank you. Commissioner Fernandez.

Commissioner Fernandez: Mr. Clerk, you have the pictures I sent you.

City Clerk Urquia: Yes sir, I do.

Commissioner Fernandez: Can you please pull those up.

City Clerk Urquia: Yes sir.

Commissioner Fernandez: I was alerted by a resident about concerns about the clock on Miracle Mile. The clock is starting to rust onto the pavers. Had a brief meeting this morning with the City Manager and the ACM, believe it may be issues with the materials used to install it. I know that that was a private contract, the city did not contract for the installation, so just wanted to ask for the Mayor to help put staff in contact with the installers to make sure we address it. You can see it there in the bottom of the base. The next picture is clear, that was just to show where the clock was.

City Clerk Urquia: Give me one second sir.

Commissioner Fernandez: Its rusting on the south end on the east side. Scroll to the bottom to the base, there. Just want to make sure we address it before it becomes a larger issue. It's only been installed for a couple of weeks. Other than that, once again wanted to thank our firefighters for the incredible work yesterday and remind residents that at 5 o'clock today we have our Second Budget Hearing.

Commissioner Castro: Can I say one more thing. I want to apologize on behalf of the residents to the City Manager. You've worked really, really great with me and I really like to at least stand up for our city employees, and you are one of them, and I appreciate the work that you've put in. I'm not 100 percent sure that all those numbers are accurate, we can look into that a little later, it wouldn't make a difference. But I would like to move to give the City Manager a vote of confidence.

Commissioner Menendez: I'll second.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk.

Commissioner Menendez: Yes

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes

Commissioner Castro: Yes

Commissioner Fernandez: Yes

Mayor Lago: No

(Vote: 4-1)

Mayor Lago: Alright. I'm going to speak about two...

Commissioner Fernandez: Well, actually hold on, because that brings a question. Public comment was closed. Did you invite this gentleman to come here and speak on your behalf?

Mayor Lago: Very briefly. I'm going to speak about two things I need to speak about.

Commissioner Fernandez: No, it's a question because public comment was closed. In order to reopen public comment, we needed to have taken a vote.

Mayor Lago: Let me finish. First off, I did not invite this gentleman to be here. Number two, you're not going to cross-examine me, okay. Number three, we are moving on. Two things. I'm very proud as a multi-decade member of La Liga Contra el Cancer. I sat on that board for several decades, very proud of what that organization is doing. We raised \$4 million dollars this weekend to continue to treat people in this community who do not have the insurance or the wherewithal to receive treatment in this community. We were able, this year to give the Gallot check for La Liga over \$50,000 at this past weekend's tele-marathon, which was incredibly successful. Thousands of people donated, 5, 10, 15 dollars. It was a beautiful, beautiful opportunity. The 49th year that this organization continues to exist and continues to serve this community. Next year is the 50th anniversary. I ask people in this community to get involved to find a way to help this community, which at the end of the day, it is the true safety net in this community which treats anybody that comes to them. They don't ask you whether you are a citizen, they don't ask you if you can prove that you can't pay for it, they'll take care of you by some of the best physicians, all board certified here in South Florida, one of them being my father, who's been working there for 40 years and he's the one that got me involved in this great organization. So, I welcome everybody to get involved. That was a great success this weekend. I'm inviting everybody on November 15th, I don't have the invitation, because its not done, on November 15th for my fourth year as Chair of the
City Commission Meeting
September 24, 2024

Coral Gables Community Foundation Wine Auction, which is Vino at The Plaza. We started three years ago, we raised \$50,000, the second year we raised \$100,000, and last year we raised \$150,000. I would love nothing more than to give the Community Foundation that evening \$200,000 for all the scholarships that they give to kids throughout South Florida, who in one form or another are connected to the City Beautiful. Its an opportunity to really showcase what this community is all about; the event continues to grow. It's a great time to have great wine, great food, be with great people and it benefits all the students who are associated with the foundation and who go to public schools and some private schools here throughout the community, and I think its something that bears fruit year after year after year, because you see the success of these children as they go off onto college and you know that you played a role in that by being able to raise money. So, I ask you please, people to come, tickets are \$100, if you are involved with the Coral Gables Community Foundation. Just go to their website and you can enjoy a beautiful night and be amongst family and friends. So, with that being said, we have 5 o'clock budget meeting. I look forward to everybody joining us. Thank you.