

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-1
July 9, 2019
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Michael Mena
Commissioner Jorge Fors

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Public Services Division Director, Brook Dannemiller
Senior Sustainability Analyst, Matt Anderson

Public Speaker(s)

Kelly Cox

Agenda Item G-1 [0:00:00 p.m.]

A discussion and presentation by Kelly Cox, Program Director from Miami Waterkeeper, on the use of Glyphosate-based herbicides and fertilizers on urban landscapes.

(Sponsored by Commissioner Keon)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We have an 11 o'clock time certain, a discussion and presentation by Kelly Cox, Program Director from Miami Waterkeeper on the use of Glyphosate-based herbicides and fertilizers on urban landscapes. Why?

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Agenda Items G-1 - Discussion and presentation by Kelly Cox, Program Director from Miami Waterkeeper on the use of Glyphosate-based herbicides and fertilizers on urban landscapes.

Commissioner Keon: I asked Kelly to come join us. I saw her -- I don't know if she met with the others. But you know, when we talked about the, you know, use of Roundup and, you know, should we ban it or is it really a matter of protective clothing and not the actual herbicide itself, but the way in which it's applied, and I think that we agreed that we were going to include in a policy manual the requirements for how people need to be dressed and the other things while using Roundup so we have that as a clearly-stated policy procedure within our city. And so, the other things really dealt with fertilizers. Kelly has a presentation, and what I'd like to do after she does her presentation -- it really was for public information -- is I would like to ask that you would support me in having Coral Gables TV make this part of their programming or do an interview with Kelly and see what they have to say so it can be shown on Coral Gables TV. I'd rather have it seen on Coral Gables TV than just on a YouTube. And I don't know if that's possible, but if we can, we could schedule it because it really is informative to the homeowners along the waterway.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: That's a very good idea.

Commissioner Keon: So that we can begin to tackle this issue because it seems to be a difficult issue for us to be able to tackle and get -- have the waterway homeowners knowledgeable, and also, for golf courses and whatever that go into the waterway. So, thank you for being here, Kelly.

City Manager Iglesias: We will do that, Commissioner.

Commissioner Keon: Start.

City Manager Iglesias: We will do that.

Kelly Cox: Thank you so much for having me, Commissioners. As Commissioner Keon mentioned, my name is Kelly Cox. I'm the general counsel at Miami Waterkeeper. We're a local nonprofit that's dedicated to defending and protecting South Florida's watershed. And today,

Commissioner Keon asked me to come and give a brief presentation to you all about this initiative that we're working on related to land-based sources of pollution, with particular focus on nutrient loading. And so, what we've done is we've drafted some sample legislation related to fertilizer application, including fertilizer application rates and locations. We've shared that with each of you. But today, I'm going to talk more broadly about the issue of nutrient loading and what the community of Coral Gables can do to address that. So, why is fertilizer problematic? Well, we all know that fertilizer contains a lot of really good nutrients. And "nutrient" sounds like a really positive term, but with all things, there can be too much of a good thing. And so, these nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorous, when applied in excess can result in things like algae blooms. So, actually, something I'll speak about is a bloom that we're experiencing near the mouth of the Coral Gables waterway. Nutrients can come from numerous different points (INAUDIBLE) point sources of pollution, from storm water runoff, to septic tanks, but also, from fertilizers. So, today, I'm going to speak more specifically about fertilizers. Our waterways in South Florida, and particularly, in Biscayne Bay, are really sensitive to nutrient pollution. And in fact -- I'm so sorry about the text on here. But the federal government actually designated Biscayne Bay as one of ten locations around the country that are at an ecological tipping point for certain parameters for certain ecological factors. And Biscayne Bay was designated as a tipping point for nutrients. So, we've been working on these issues and nutrient loading in Biscayne Bay for almost five years now. But essentially, the government's determined that Biscayne Bay simply can't absorb any more nutrients, otherwise, we'll run the risk of actually creating a sort of cascading algae bloom that we've been seeing on the west coast of Florida and at the upper east coast of Florida with these massive fish kills and really problematic environmental and public health impacts. So, I wanted to talk a little bit about the science. I don't want to overwhelm you all, but I want to let you know that everything we do at Miami Waterkeeper is based on the best available science. So, looking at some recent studies -- this study is from Nicole Millette, which is actually under peer review right now. But she took a look at Chlorophyll a concentrations in different areas of Biscayne Bay. And as you can see from this map, there's a gradient of Chlorophyll a concentration. And Chlorophyll a is a proxy for algae because chlorophyll is that photosynthetic piece of the puzzle that algae need in order to bloom and grow. So, if you take a look at this map, you'll see the square

there is really focused on the Coral Gables waterway. And those dots are the Miami-Dade County DERM sampling points, where we've been able to pull data through this study to take a look at the Chlorophyll a concentrations. And we found that they are really heightened, as you can see by that red dot right there, right at the mouth of the Coral Gables waterway. There's a really heightened Chlorophyll a content right at the mouth of the waterway. So, then we looked at a separate study. And this is a Collado-Vides study from 2013 that took a look at a specific macroalgae called Anadyomene. And Anadyomene is a little bit problematic because it can smother and replace seagrass in the bay. So, when you add a bunch of nutrients, this algae happens to bloom. And so, if you look at this map, similarly, right near the Coral Gables waterway, you'll notice that there's this Anadyomene bloom that's been occurring for many years now and in pretty high concentrations. And the final piece of the puzzle I'd like to draw your attention to is a Miami-Dade County seagrass die-off report that was issued in February of 2019, this year. And it took a look at which areas of Biscayne Bay have experienced the most dramatic seagrass decline. And of course, taking a look at the Anadyomene bloom area, right at the mouth of the Coral Gables waterway, and we've seen an 85 percent decline in our seagrass cover at the mouth of the waterway. So, it's our opinion at Miami Waterkeeper that all of these things are really intimately interconnected. And we have an opportunity to do something about it. So, what we've proposed to you all is considering a fertilizer ordinance, a municipal ordinance related to the regulation of fertilizer application. This is not a ban on fertilizers. I want to be super clear about that. But really, the nexus of -- the center issue that we're dealing with here is that people apply too much fertilizer and too often they apply fertilizer. And when they do that, the grasses and the plants don't actually absorb all of those nutrients, and instead, start to run off into the nearest waterway during rainy season or during flooding events or what have you. And so, what we're proposing is to start to regulate that and control the amount of fertilizer that we're applying, especially near the Coral Gables waterway. So, what do we actually propose in the ordinance? Well, each of you have had a copy sent to you. And if you haven't, I'm happy to send another copy to take a harder look at it. But we propose limiting the amount of fertilizer applied. We propose applying slow release fertilizers instead of quick release fertilizers. And we also propose a blackout period during the summer. So, the summer months are the most rainy months out of the entire year, and they're

the months where we experience the most run-off into the waterway. And moreover, the ground is actually too saturated during that time period to actually permit adequate uptake of the fertilizer or the nutrients in the first place. So, those fertilizers are running off in higher concentrations in our summer months. We also propose instituting sort of a ban during hurricanes or tropical storm events as well, things that would basically contribute to flooding. And finally, we are encouraging an enforcement zone of a 15-foot buffer from waterways to say, hey, you can't apply fertilizer right up to the edge of the Coral Gables waterway because, in reality, a lot of that fertilizer is just going to run-off to the waterway and not provide much use to your lawn or to your plants in your yard. So, finally, I wanted to share with you that this is not a novel suggestion that I'm making to you all today. The State of Florida, several years ago -- in fact, almost a decade ago, passed a model fertilizer ordinance that they encourage municipalities across the state to adopt and implement. And so, what we did was we collected all of those different ordinances and we created this map that you're seeing right here. And the red areas are counties in place, and the blue dots are municipalities that have ordinances in place. And certainly, municipalities throughout South Florida have landscaping ordinances and regulations in place, but this fertilizer ordinance really takes a hard look at exactly the amount and quantity of fertilizer that we're applying. And to date, we don't have anyone in South Florida. There's a big gaping hole for municipalities in regulating the application of fertilizers. So, I'm coming to you all today to say this is a great opportunity for the City of Coral Gables to take a leadership role -- as you have done with so many other environmental issues -- and to consider passing this sort of legislation. And of course, no legislation is effective in our opinion at Waterkeeper without an appropriate educational campaign to accompany it. So, what we propose and what we're currently working on with NOAA, the federal government, through a habitat focus area grant is developing a strategic outreach campaign related to fertilizers and educating the public, especially homeowners, but of course, managers and commercial applicators as well about how they can make good choices relating to their fertilizer application. So, these are some fun examples that we've found that have been really successful across the state. The one that I really like is the Be Floridian one. Relax during the summer. Take a break. Quit working on your lawn. Stop applying fertilizer during the summer months and pledge to have some more fun. So, I really like that positive outlook that they take. And you

know, it also has that educational component that tells folks, hey, you don't need to apply fertilizer in the summer. Take a break, kick your feet up and let the natural environment do the work that you should not have to do. Another suggestion that we have -- we have a signature program at Miami Waterkeeper called 1000 Eyes on the Water, where we train residents and community members on how to identify, document and report pollution events. So, what we're proposing is incorporating a fertilizer education component into our 1000 Eyes on the Water program so that when we do outreach and training events and workshops in this community and beyond, folks are educated about the best management practices for homeownership with respect to fertilizer application. And just to give credence to it, I'm saying we do have a lot of ongoing water quality efforts with the City of Coral Gables. You all have been wonderful partners with Miami Waterkeeper in the past. We've been working on a number of different things, including a recent proposal to install more auto samplers along the Coral Gables waterway to give us a better idea of what a water quality budget looks like for the City of Coral Gables and whether or not nutrient run-off or storm-water run-off is really the culprit in terms of degradation along the waterway. So, we've been working with the City of Coral Gables on that, as well as an actual initial storm water run-off education campaign. And I brought some of those materials to share with you all at the end. And by the way, I just want to touch on this glyphosate issue that I know you all have been discussing. And to be completely candid with you all, I really think that the opportunity here lies with the fertilizer regulation. Fertilizer is really what's going to move the needle, we believe, on water quality in the Coral Gables waterway. And while glyphosate is certainly cause for concern in terms of the municipality, I really think that if we're talking about waterway water quality, we need to be talking about fertilizer and nutrient loading. But that said, I'm happy to give a brief overview on the glyphosate issue as well. As you all know, glyphosate is a broad-spectrum herbicide that's typically sold under the names Roundup, Ranger Pro. There are other active ingredients as well. But glyphosate has been found to persist in water for extended periods of time. And that persistence has resulted in what we believe to be some adverse impacts for natural -- the natural environment, but also, the human environment as well. So, there are the environmental impacts, but also, glyphosate has been classified as a probable human carcinogen. And exposure has been linked specifically to cancers like non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. And of

course, that results in a myriad of different problems for human exposure. So, due to increased interest in this glyphosate issue and sort of the cascading lawsuits that we've seen across the country, we have also pulled together a brief glyphosate resolution. As you might know, the State of Florida has actually preempted local governments from regulating glyphosate by way of herbicides and pesticides preemptions. So, instead, we've got a resolution here which is simply a policy statement that says that your municipality will willingly stop using products that contain glyphosate on your public lands, parks and waterways. And we've been in discussions with City staff about this at length and they've been toying with different alternatives. But to give you an idea, to date, a variety of different municipalities have passed resolutions like this or amended ones related to this, including Miami-Dade County, the City of Miami, City of Miami Beach, North Miami, Stuart, Florida -- Stuart and Key West. So, it's been pretty popular, and we'll probably continue to see that trend. And of course, if you haven't heard about us at Miami Waterkeeper -- and I always got to put the pitch in. To get involved, come on out. Join us. We do beach cleanups and habitat restoration projects. We have water quality sampling sites and educational events all the time. We are right down the way on Coral Way. Our offices are right here, and we're really happy to be right next door to Coral Gables and a part of this community. And of course, this is my contact information, and I'll pass around some little educational packets. But I'm happy to take any questions you might have.

Commissioner Keon: And thank you very much for being here. Again, I think we should introduce you to the Waterway Advisory Board, and you can also work with them in educating because they're working to educate homeowners too, so we can put you in touch with their chairman. Peter, could we do that through your office? Mr. Iglesias, can we put her in touch with the Waterway Advisory Board...

City Manager Iglesias: Of course.

Commissioner Keon: Through your office.

City Manager Iglesias: Of course.

Commissioner Keon: So she can work with them and meet with them so they can discuss how they can work together to deal with educating on some of these issues. But I'd like -- I know the CGTV has done those interviews with individuals and with people that they then air on a regular schedule. It's not a YouTube, but it's on a regular scheduled time on the -- on Channel 77 or whatever it is for AT&T. I'm not sure. But if we could have them interview Kelly and have this discussion and hope to begin to educate our homeowners on the use of fertilizers. You know, especially, in our communities that are near the bay because so much of the drainage there are just all -- fall so it goes into the bay that don't go into storm water run-off or whatever else they -- they -- that's what they are. That's how they work. They're grandfathered in. Our cost to replace that is...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I thank you...

Commissioner Keon: I thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: For your presentation and your bringing this up.

Commissioner Keon: But if we can do that.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And...

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: There's a phrase that I always think of when we are sitting here. And the phrase is obey the unenforceable. In other words, if you can't enforce it, don't pass the legislation. I would love to forbid fertilizing in the summer, but that's absolutely -- I mean, it would be crazy for us to do that, and we'd become the laughingstock of the county. But if this would be part of

an educational program, which you can help us with -- and as you said, putting it in Coral Gables Television to instruct people as to the harmful effects of doing this, and I think it's very, very good. I'm surprised that this product, whatever it's called...

Commissioner Keon: Roundup.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Is not banned. And our legislature has, of course, preempted things that would be good for us because of God knows what vested interests. We passed -- we were preempted from passing gun legislation, and we got it through the first reading anyway. And I would not be opposed to passing legislation banning the use of this in Coral Gables, in spite of the fact that the State has forbidden us from doing it in order to get attention on the issue. Maybe we can get more attention for you and for this and for this wonderful cause by passing that legislation, even if it goes against the State. But we would be in the papers, and it would be a good thing because it would prevent cancer. It would prevent, you know, stillbirths and whatever. And whatever we can do, I think that send to the Commission -- and I'm speaking for myself but -- and maybe Commissioner Keon, we will do whatever we can to help you with your great cause.

City Manager Iglesias: Mayor, I think what we can do is an education program, which is a very good idea. We can get Gables TV to do a video on it and get it out as to what the detrimental effects of this and what it's causing. So, we'd be happy to do an education program on...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Perfect.

Commissioner Keon: Okay. So, we'll coordinate it through your -- Kelly will...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Is there anything else...

Commissioner Keon: We'll do it through your -- Kelly will...

City Manager Iglesias: Yes.

Commissioner Keon: I mean, I would ban Roundup just because I...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Why don't we?

Commissioner Keon: You know, I don't like the...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Let's do it.

Commissioner Keon: I don't like the State just...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: If you make a motion, I'll second it.

Commissioner Keon: Just, you know -- I don't like that they preempt it. I mean, I don't like that they do that. Yeah, I would make the motion that we...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: If you make a motion, I'll second the motion.

City Attorney Ramos: Wait, wait, wait. What's the motion for, Commissioner? I'm sorry.

Commissioner Mena: So, what is the motion?

Commissioner Keon: To come back with an ordinance...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: To ban...

Commissioner Keon: Banning Roundup.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Roundup.

Commissioner Keon: There's got to be other things that work.

City Attorney Ramos: Okay. So, I'll look at what is preempted, and I'll draft an ordinance that I believe is legally defensible.

Vice Mayor Lago: Can I ask you a...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Vice Mayor Lago: May I ask just a quick question on that? Because we brought this up about two years ago and we talked about it with staff. And I remember that staff -- your...

City Attorney Ramos: We spoke about Roundup last meeting, I think.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yeah. We talk -- and we...

Commissioner Keon: A few meetings ago.

Vice Mayor Lago: Talked about it because...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: It's carcinogenic, for god's sake.

Vice Mayor Lago: No, no, no. I agree. But I'm just saying, about two years ago, we had a conversation that South Miami was the first city to ban this outright. And they were moving in a different direction. They were using different products. Does staff have a different opinion now than that moment or...

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: The main issues are that any substitute product is going to cost more and is -- or is going to be less effective or a combination of the two.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: But doesn't cause cancer.

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: So...

Vice Mayor Lago: Because every time I turn the TV on, every other commercial is a class action lawsuit saying if you've used Roundup, you know, call us because you could be entitled to I don't know how many millions of dollars. So, obviously, these attorneys are looking for clients to fill some sort of class action lawsuit that there's a potential risk for the community.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We have three attorneys.

Vice Mayor Lago: So, when -- yeah. I know, so when we talked about this...

(COMMENTS MADE OFF THE RECORD)

Vice Mayor Lago: When we talked about this -- and I'm happy Commissioner Keon brought this back. Because when we talked about it two years ago, the issue was we're using it in such small quantities. We're using the protective clothing. This is not an issue. Okay.

(COMMENTS MADE OFF THE RECORD)

Vice Mayor Lago: You know, and we -- yeah, remember that? So, c'est la vie. We've moved on from that. Now, we're back. We've been talking about it for about three or four meetings now. And I just want to make sure if this is a cost issue, I mean, we spend money on certain things that people in this community think are ridiculous. I mean, this is a life-saving issue, so...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: It's been moved and seconded that we ban usage of this -- products containing...

Vice Mayor Lago: I just want...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Glyphosate.

Vice Mayor Lago: I just...

Commissioner Keon: I'm finished. Yeah, why don't -- can you finish?

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: So, the -- there are other chemicals we can use. It's, you know, substituting one chemical for another. They don't have glyphosate in them. So, ideally, they would not be harmful, but they all pose a risk. They all have a label on them of how to properly use them. We've been testing out some plant-based organic herbicides, but they take two weeks to kill a weed that normally would get killed in, you know, two or three days. But as long as those, you know, expectations are managed, the golfers understand that, you know, those weeds might take two or three weeks to get killed instead of two or three days. There's a cost implication. So, you know, there are other products that we can use. We just -- we need to manage expectations.

Commissioner Keon: Could you just dig them up? You can't just pull up a weed?

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: You can. That's the most effective way to kill a weed.

Commissioner Keon: So, why don't we do -- why don't they do that?

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: Well, when you have thousands of weeds...

Commissioner Keon: Is it too costly?

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: And you know...

Commissioner Mena: Going to need a lot of hands for that.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yeah, you need a lot of hands.

City Attorney Ramos: Also, is...

Vice Mayor Lago: Manpower.

City Attorney Ramos: Are we looking to have the City no longer use Roundup because I do think that's defensible.

Commissioner Keon: That's...

City Attorney Ramos: Or are we looking to prohibit...

City Manager Iglesias: We are looking...

Commissioner Keon: I think (INAUDIBLE) the City...

City Manager Iglesias: We are looking at other...

Vice Mayor Lago: (INAUDIBLE) City.

City Manager Iglesias: We are looking at other products right now to see which ones are effective. However, what we use is a very low amount, very low concentration, and we use it correctly with the correct protection. A lot of the problems have been misuse of the actual product, and that's the biggest thing that...

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

City Manager Iglesias: But we use a very low concentration. We've been -- this has been an ongoing discussion for us for the past couple of months as to what other alternatives we have because we are aware of all the issues. But we use it at very low concentrations, very low amount, and we -- and we are certified in using those products and use them correctly. Misuse is a serious issue and that's the problem we have really is misusing the product.

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: And we've been -- we haven't purchased any in quite some time. We're down to about six gallons to use up, and then we're testing out a number of different products.

Commissioner Keon: Okay, then we could wait until you come back.

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: And so, we'll...

Commissioner Keon: Could you meet with Kelly and talk about the fertilizer issue because we have -- you know, I'd like you to meet with the -- like the Biltmore because that dumps right into the waterway. And talk to them about fertilizing, particularly, in the summer and maintaining that two feet back to fertilize from the waterway and the golf course.

Senior Sustainability Analyst Anderson: So, we also, over the last, I'd say, year -- at least year, we have been working with Miami Waterkeeper, as Kelly alluded to. We did develop a brochure...

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Senior Sustainability Analyst Anderson: in partnership with them that talks about how people that live along the waterways can be more conscious about what they're applying on their lawns. We have put this in -- we've been working with the Public Affairs Office. We've put this in eNews, on social media. We want to get it to the homeowners' associations that are right on the waterways to help further push this education campaign along. So, it's something that we're continuing to focus on, so I did want to make you guys aware that we do have an ongoing education campaign...

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Senior Sustainability Analyst Anderson: Going on on this.

Commissioner Keon: Good. You know, maybe you could participate with Kelly in the interview on Coral Gables TV.

Senior Sustainability Analyst Anderson: Absolutely. Happy to do that.

Commissioner Keon: And talk about what our efforts are.

Ms. Cox: And I also want to point out that, at the request of a variety of municipalities, we've actually drafted an enforcement memorandum that explains how municipalities across the street are enforcing their fertilizer ordinance. So, it's really not focused on the homeowner enforcement, but more on the commercial applicator enforcement. And the sort of unfortunate reality for Coral Gables is that a lot of folks are having commercial people handle their lawn maintenance. And so, there's issues that extend just beyond fertilizer, of course, things like dumping debris into the waterway, which isn't allowed and things like that that I think could really be remedied through an ordinance that requires specific educational training and best management training. And we already a required landscape registration list at the City of Coral Gables, and I think this could be

some really low-hanging fruit to get people onboard and to learn these new techniques. But I think that municipalities across the state have been really successful. And even places like Sarasota County, they had massive seagrass die-offs, and they started implementing summertime bans on fertilizer. And over the course of about two decades, their seagrass completely came back in that area. So, I think that it is possible, and it is feasible, and there are enforcement mechanisms that are pretty low-hanging fruit...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: (INAUDIBLE).

Ms. Cox: Especially with these sort of smaller municipalities. And we've put that in a memorandum for you all as well.

Commissioner Mena: Can you get us...

Ms. Cox: Thank you.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you.

Commissioner Mena: Have you sent that to us, or can you get us a copy of that?

Ms. Cox: Yep. We'll recirculate it.

Commissioner Keon: Right.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

Commissioner Keon: And could you work -- you'll work together?

Senior Sustainability Analyst Anderson: Absolutely.

Commissioner Keon: And you'll bring back the legislation for us that you...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: (INAUDIBLE).

City Attorney Ramos: If we're looking to prohibit only use by the City, that can be done by resolution today. That's a policy matter. If you're looking to implement the training -- a required training and the maybe ban in the summer. I need to look at the preemption. That may be enforceable.

Commissioner Keon: Okay. I really would like them to work with staff and have staff come back and talk to us about the -- you know, bring forth the legislation on the ban of fertilizer in the summer as you work with them, as appropriate.

City Manager Iglesias: Again, Commissioner...

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

City Manager Iglesias: I think it's a misuse of this product. I think our staff is very...

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

City Manager Iglesias: Good at using this product.

Commissioner Keon: But I mean fertilizer.

City Manager Iglesias: But it's a misuse of the product. So, I think that's something that we...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Try to...

City Manager Iglesias: Can bring back.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Try to ban...

Commissioner Keon: Will you talk about the...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Fertilizer.

Commissioner Keon: Fertilizer issue...

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: And just the...

Commissioner Keon: Okay, with staff.

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: And the fertilizer -- for the fertilizer, golf courses, they have to for the greens and tee and things like that. They do need to use fertilizer year-round to grow a golf course. We don't fertilize our grass in the summer. So, the (INAUDIBLE) grass. If we do, we use fertilizer that has no nitrogen or phosphorous. It just has potassium. Most grass -- grass does not need fertilizer in the summer. So, anybody watching out there...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And we can look at...

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: Grass does not need fertilizer in the summer.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Getting a bunch of cows and then using cow manure.

City Manager Iglesias: That's what I was saying...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: (INAUDIBLE).

City Manager Iglesias: That we have taken, I think, the correct practices from -- internally for our systems. The issue is outside of...

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much.

Commissioner Keon: But if you could work together, I'll follow up with you all.

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: Absolutely.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: Thank you.

Ms. Cox: Thank you.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you, Kelly, very much.

City Attorney Ramos: Finish that motion. I don't think that roll call was taken.

Commissioner Mena: The motion -- what was the...

Commissioner Keon: We're going to wait for them...

Commissioner Mena: Motion?

Commissioner Keon: To come back.

Vice Mayor Lago: What's the motion?

City Attorney Ramos: No, on directing me to draft the ordinance on those parameters.

Commissioner Mena: I'd like to hear back from them first.

Commissioner Keon: I'd like to hear back from them.

City Attorney Ramos: Okay, so we're not drafting then for next meeting?

Commissioner Keon: We'll wait.

Vice Mayor Lago: And what I'd also like to hear back -- and maybe Brook -- can you look -- remember the information I gave you from South Miami and the products that they're using? I gave it to you like, I don't know, a year ago and change. I wanted to see if we ever started using any of those natural products and if they are -- South Miami says that it's working for them and there's no need to use Roundup. So...

(COMMENTS MADE OFF THE RECORD)

Vice Mayor Lago: Okay.

(COMMENTS MADE OFF THE RECORD)

Vice Mayor Lago: Okay. And with that -- with your findings, I'd also like to send them to the Mayor of South Miami, who was nice enough to send me all that information.

City Manager Iglesias: We are currently working on that...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much.

City Manager Iglesias: To see which product is the most...

Vice Mayor Lago: Yeah.

City Manager Iglesias: Effective.

Vice Mayor Lago: We should share that -- I mean, we're -- if we're actually testing different products and other cities are helping us in this initiative, I mean, I'd like to share it with as many people as possible. I want to spread the word of what works and what doesn't work.