

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item D-1
November 9, 2021
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 to the City Manager, Solanch Lopez

Public Speaker(s)

Mark Trowbridge

Aura Reinhardt

Agenda Item D-1 [10:35 a.m.]

Mayor's Comments

An update regarding cleanup efforts in the downtown business district.

(Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

Mayor Lago: Alright, moving on to Mayor's comments. I have three items that I want to mention. The first one I want to mention is I want to bring up Mark Trowbridge from the Chamber. Please come up. This is in regards to -- we're going to call out of order here.

Commissioner Anderson: Which item are we on?

Mayor Lago: I want to talk about issues in the downtown. I want to talk a little bit about what we're working on. And I know that Mr. Trowbridge has a few other items that he wanted to bring up to our attention.

Mark Trowbridge: Yeah, and Aura is here as well. So I definitely...

Mayor Lago: Yes.

Mr. Trowbridge: Want to include her.

Mayor Lago: Oh, I thought Aura had stepped out. I apologize, please. For some reason, I missed you there. You changed chairs on me though. Okay, then I'm not going...

Mr. Trowbridge: She moved on you.

Commissioner Anderson: To keep you on your toes.

Mr. Trowbridge: But while she's coming up, I'll just mention that under the consent agenda today...

Mayor Lago: Oh, yes.

Mr. Trowbridge: You all are going to be considering our temporary liquor license. I want to thank Fred and Norma and the entire team for working with us to find a new date. We haven't been able to host our Burgerlicious event since 2019, but we will be able to do this with the support of all of the City and all of the folks in Special Events. And we're going to do it in January, so on the other

side of the new year, give us a little bit more time to allow us to gather in person, so that'll be January 13th. This is our 10th year, which is hard to believe.

Mayor Lago: It's a big deal.

Mr. Trowbridge: We'll also have a new location. As you all know, the Chamber moved our headquarters from Catalonia about a year ago to Alhambra Circle. So, it'll still be, you know, a great celebration of all things burgers, but it'll be more of a block party on Alhambra Circle. So, I want to thank again all of the folks, Police and Fire, and of course, the Parks Department, for working with us. Again, that's Thursday, January 13th. It now benefits our foundation for the Chamber, which raises funds for our Welcome Center that we activated when we moved. And so, our lead sponsor -- of course, working with Aura and her team from the BID -- South Motors. Sam Adams will be giving out the Best in Bun Award, year number 10; music by Mad World orchestra. And there'll be general admission and VIP tickets on sale starting on 11/13. And you'll be able to look at all of that on our social media. And again, looking forward to bringing back a very cherished and beloved not only community event, but certainly a Chamber event that recognizes and elevates our restaurants. So...

Mayor Lago: By the way...

Mr. Trowbridge: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lago: I just want to bring this up for your attention. I know it's -- you know, probably it's a mistake, but just bring it to your attention. I've never been a judge at the event.

Mr. Trowbridge: Well, I think one of the reasons...

Mayor Lago: So...

Mr. Trowbridge: I think one of the reasons...

Mayor Lago: I'm just putting it out there.

Mr. Trowbridge: Is that we have reserved that typically for the Mayor. Of course, Mayor Cason previously...

Mayor Lago: I know that I have some other members of my Commission that would like to have that privilege also.

Mr. Trowbridge: Well...

Mayor Lago: They may not be the Mayor, but they have good taste...

Mr. Trowbridge: They do.

Mayor Lago: And your event has incredible food.

Mr. Trowbridge: They do. And our restaurants really step up and do the heavy lift for that. I also think the community is worried about your waistline, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lago: I work out seven days a week.

Mr. Trowbridge: Because you would have to eat about 20 or so burgers so...

Mayor Lago: I -- it's small bites, small bites.

Mr. Trowbridge: Small bites, very good. Well, I will consider that that we've made a deal here. So, thank you again for your support on that item under the consent agenda.

Commissioner Menendez: Do you need a motion?

Mayor Lago: So, really quickly, because I know that you have to be somewhere 11:30...

Mr. Trowbridge: Apologies.

Mayor Lago: We keep putting -- I keep putting an update regarding the cleanup efforts in the Downtown Business District. And the point why we're doing this is, number one, we're sending a message to staff, to the Manager, and to the community as a whole that we will be ready December 1st. We will be held accountable. And if I have to be on those blocks myself ensuring that the work gets done, and that people are educated, and that the community understands the importance of making sure that our downtown is clean, inviting, and respectable, I will do it myself if I have to. But that's why I have both of you here. You want to talk a little bit...?

Mr. Trowbridge: Well, we had a great meeting...

Mayor Lago: Yes.

Mr. Trowbridge: Yesterday, Mr. Mayor. Both Aura and I joined Matt Anderson, of course, and Solanch to...

Mayor Lago: Yep.

Mr. Trowbridge: Talk about, you know, where we are today. You got a great -- I think -- update from them earlier on the Recycles Program, which is all part of the Keep Coral Gables Beautiful Program. So, we're talking about our plans for the December 2nd clean-up. I think secondarily to that, we've been working with Belkys and her team to look at the communication piece that will be provided to all of the businesses. I think there's some work there to be done because I think

maybe while the Code speaks to certain requirements and expectations, I don't know if we've necessarily been enforcing it, or if we have necessarily been reminding the businesses that this is something that is their responsibility. So, I think there will be...

Mayor Lago: So, that's my point, (INAUDIBLE) the point.

Mr. Trowbridge: Yeah, a continued education process.

Mayor Lago: Through the Manager, we don't have any more Commission meetings left here, so we have to take some action. We've been talking about this for three months now. I want to take action today. And I need to understand what we're rolling out in December so that the businesses understand what they're responsible for; once a quarter, once a trimester, pressure cleaning the floors, cleaning the gum, ensuring that -- for example -- Bank of America does not have the entire sidewalk full of bird feces. You know, I mean, bottom line, we have to deal with this. We have to deal with this at the end of the day. If we don't, we just become like any other city. So, I know that nobody wants to talk about that, but it's the bottom line, That's why people -- many people who are here today decide to not only live in the City, but also, to conduct business in the City. So, I need to make sure that we do not have a Commission meeting in December and say, "Hey, listen, are the businesses aware of what our standards are? Are the businesses aware of how we're going to be held accountable, personally held accountable?" The City of Coral Gables, the Fink Studio, Ortanique, Starbucks; businesses that we own should be the example of cleanliness. We should be -- the Miracle Theater, around the entire property should be the example of cleanliness. Our sidewalks should be impeccable. So, I want to understand -- and I'm going to ask this already. This is the final time, the opportunity that I have. I want to make sure -- December 1st is a month -- three weeks away. Are we ready? Have we been speaking to the businesses? Have we notified the businesses? I've been saying that December 1st is the day. I need to understand. Are we ready?

City Manager Iglesias: Yes, Mayor. We have done quite a bit of outreach, and December 1st is the day that we will start with -- initially, we'll start with warnings, and then with enforcement after that.

Mayor Lago: If we need more time, if we need to go to January 1st, tell me now because I haven't seen any documents. I haven't seen any notifications. I haven't been reached out to by any of the businesses saying, "Hey, listen, this is heavy-handed. Why don't you consider this? Why don't you consider that?" I need to understand it. So, I would ask that your staff reach out to me this week, sit down with Chelsea and Santiago, and have a conversation with my colleagues on the Commission and say, "This is what we're presenting to the Chamber. This is what we're presenting to the BID," saying that you must follow the following protocol to ensure that your windows are clean, that your roof is clean, that your sidewalks are clean, that your hedges in front of your business are clean. Case in point, Mr. Trowbridge, the five buckets that we pulled out of the hedges in front of that salon on Giralda. So, I want to make sure -- not on Giralda, I'm sorry -- Aragon, right? Aragon parking garage. I want to make sure we're ready. I do not want to come back to the Commission meeting in December and not see a plan in action.

Commissioner Fors: Mayor, remember the first time you brought this up, I discussed the matrix.

Mayor Lago: Yep.

Commissioner Fors: A document. This isn't -- I don't think this is something we can word of mouth tell people. There needs to be a central document that says who's responsible for what that we can hand out to people, point to, and give to people. When they didn't look at it the first time we gave it to them, we give them another copy of it, and I think that's going to be key. I know it's written in the Code, but we need to sort of digest that.

Mayor Lago: We need that.

Commissioner Fors: We need that ourselves.

Vice Mayor Mena: Yeah, so when people ask us because I...

Commissioner Fors: Exactly.

Vice Mayor Mena: Frankly, I don't know all the answers and all the particulars.

Commissioner Fors: Me neither.

Vice Mayor Mena: And I need to know that so that we can communicate it.

Mayor Lago: And if I may add something to Commissioner Fors' comments and the Vice Mayor's comments, when we send information to the businesses, through the Chamber and through the BID, it should say the Code provision on it very clearly so there's no dispute whether this is law or not, whether this is required or not. The Code provision should be very clearly delineated in the document we're sending that says this is your responsibility. If you need a resolution from the Commission, I'm willing to do it right now. I'm willing to do it right now. If you want me to push this to January 1st, I'm willing to do this right now also. If you need a Code provision -- if you need a resolution from the Commission saying the Commission is requiring that your sidewalks be cleaned on a quarterly basis, that your front glass be clean, that you ensure that your hedges in front of your -- by the way, not only that your hedges are clean, but that you have hedges, that you have landscaping because I can tell you that in front of Bank of America, there is no hedges. It's a Fortune 50 company in the world, and they don't have any hedges in front of their property. Why is that? Who's responsible for those hedges? Is it the City of Coral Gables? Is it us? Case in point, go in front of Crema. This morning, I was there for a meeting, 7 in the morning. There are no hedges in front of Crema. They're all gone on the corner of Miracle Mile and Ponce. Who's responsible for that? Is it the City of Coral Gables, or is it the actual building? It's been like that for months.

Mr. Trowbridge: Mr. Mayor, if it's okay with you, I think we would love to take you up on that offer to give us another, you know, 30 days beyond that. We will continue along with the support of the staff, and of course, through the Manager's office and Economic Development, to view the warnings and education. I think that's been ongoing. You know, I think in working with Belkys and her team, we want to make sure that while that information is in the Code, that it strikes the right tone as the new year unveils itself, and as people, I think feel even more positive about how their businesses are doing in 2022. I think there's something material to that, but that maybe allows you all to continue to work, whether it's the matrix that you're looking to see a little bit more detail on. But I do think we want to strike the right message. It's clear -- I think we've always been clear here in these conversations where we are headed, but I think it's also clear that not everybody has understood what that's going to mean in terms of, you know, I clean to here versus I clean to here, versus I clean to here. So...

Mayor Lago: If I may, Mr. Trowbridge, you're 110 percent correct. I'm going to make a motion -- and I pass the gavel over to the Vice Mayor. I'm going to make a motion that January 3rd be the deadline -- that is Monday -- to implement a strategic plan, considering Commissioner Fors' comments about a matrix, to address cleanliness in the downtown, to ensure that our sidewalks are held to Coral Gables standards, windows are clean, to ensure that whoever is responsible for hedging and landscaping in front of their properties that they maintain it and they address it, and that trees are planted accordingly as per the Code as per the development agreement, and a plan be delivered at the next Commission meeting to have proper time to notify the businesses, both in the Business Improvement District and in the Chamber...

Mr. Trowbridge: Sure.

Mayor Lago: And throughout our downtown that we follow these new protocols, along with -- like we did with the restaurant on Ponce de Leon -- if they are no longer in need of COVID seating outdoors, please revoke that seating so that we can have the parking, and we can clean up the area,

like we did with the restaurant on Ponce de Leon that we took away the -- they did not need it anymore. We took it away, and now obviously, they have parking there, and they have -- the sidewalks are more accessible to people, especially ADA issues that we may have had. So, moving forward, that's my resolution, and it's simple. Can I get a second?

City Manager Iglesias: Mayor, if I may say, we have a very clear handout on what is required. Code Enforcement has already initiated warnings. We have all our covenants on GIS now, so we're enforcing our covenants. Covenants are being enforced as we speak. And I think we can certainly -- we certainly -- and we have a very clear handout on what is required, what is the minimum requirement, but there's additional requirements if you use outside seating. And the outside seating requirements end January 15th.

Mayor Lago: And that we're going to talk about in the next Commission meeting.

City Manager Iglesias: January 15th unless that is extended, so this has already started. We're...

Mayor Lago: But I need...

City Manager Iglesias: Geared up for December 1.

Mayor Lago: But I need a plan.

City Manager Iglesias: We have a plan. We...

Mayor Lago: I haven't seen a plan.

Vice Mayor Mena: Yeah, we need to see it.

Mayor Lago: I haven't seen a plan. I haven't seen a plan. Have the businesses been given a plan on how to clean the sidewalks, their windows, address with hedging, missing hedging, missing landscaping, gum, bird feces? Have we -- have you been provided with that?

Mr. Trowbridge: I mean, we've seen some of the preliminary documents that delineate about what the expectations are, but that's in draft form in terms of...

Commissioner Anderson: May I add one thing?

Mr. Trowbridge: Staff's been great in terms of taking our feedback on that.

Commissioner Anderson: Let's not forget the alleyways.

Mayor Lago: The alleyways, critically important.

Commissioner Anderson: Yeah, the alleyways, the parking behind, because it looks like people just open up their doors and clean out their cars.

City Manager Iglesias: We have also issued Code Enforcement citations or warnings concerning the alleys. Mayor, if you are using the right-of-way for dining, you need to clean the right-of-way.

Mayor Lago: Of course.

City Manager Iglesias: I mean, if you -- we -- those are City Code requirements, and we are providing that information, I think, with the Chamber, but if you would like...

Mayor Lago: So, what I would like to do is -- as we just notified here -- I want to move this to January 3rd. I want to be reasonable. I don't want to set us up for disaster. I want to set us up for success.

Vice Mayor Mena: Agreed.

Mayor Lago: And I want -- in the next two weeks -- for staff to present to the Commissioners. I want the Commissioners' input, I want Aura's input, and I want Mark's input, and I want Mark -- Solanch's input. I want everybody's input. Not bad, right foot? Okay, so I want everyone's input in regards to this. And I want to make sure that we're on solid footing and that the Chamber and the BID have had an opportunity to vet this, and I want to start January 3rd. That's my...

Vice Mayor Mena: Is there...?

Mayor Lago: That's my resolution.

Vice Mayor Mena: Is there a second for the Mayor's motion?

Commissioner Menendez: Second.

Commissioner Anderson: Yes.

Commissioner Fors: Yes.

Commissioner Menendez: Yes.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

Vice Mayor Mena: Yes.

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Lago: Thank you.

Commissioner Fors: One quick question: Is this information campaign...

Mayor Lago: Thank you, sir.

Commissioner Fors: Going to businesses all the way up and down Ponce, or has it just been...?

Mr. Trowbridge: I think it's going to be for everybody's sake.

Mayor Lago: Everybody.

City Manager Iglesias: It's for the entire commercial district.

Mr. Trowbridge: There are actually different requirements in terms of how...

City Manager Iglesias: Yes.

Mr. Trowbridge: Like Miracle Mile is handled in terms of like pavers and things like that, and how they're cleaned, so that has to be encompassed into that.

City Manager Iglesias: Yes, how you clean concrete...

Mr. Trowbridge: The City's done a very good job of kind of laying that out.

Vice Mayor Mena: You should probably have...

City Manager Iglesias: There are...

Vice Mayor Mena: A landing page on the website with all of these details, the links to the relevant, you know, portions of the Code, whatever matrix there is.

Mayor Lago: Amend my reso.

Vice Mayor Mena: I don't think you need to amend it.

Mayor Lago: Amend it.

Vice Mayor Mena: Just give them that direction.

City Manager Iglesias: We can have that.

Vice Mayor Mena: Because you can give whatever packet or whatever it is you're going to give to the businessowner, but then they might lose it. You want to be able to point people to just go to this website, everything's right there. And that'll make it easier for everybody. It'll make it easier for us to communicate it as well.

Mayor Lago: So, with that being said -- and please, I ask you to consider the Vice Mayor's comments and let's work on that because that'd be a great opportunity to make sure we're ready for January 3rd. The idea of what we're doing December 2nd -- and I know that you have to leave -- the idea of what we're doing on December 2nd, let's talk about that a little bit. This is critically important, but we can't continue to do this on a monthly basis to maintain people's bad habits. This is just additional efforts to show that 50 people, 60 people, the Commission, leadership, we're out there, we're setting the example. The real heavy lifting is going to be done January 3rd with a plan of action that we hold people accountable. This would just be additional...

Vice Mayor Mena: That should be an opportunity though to...

Mayor Lago: Engage.

Vice Mayor Mena: Engage and say, look, we're out here...

Mr. Trowbridge: Before you...

Vice Mayor Mena: Doing this.

Mr. Trowbridge: And I think by you seeing us out there, by having done it in late September and now planning for December, is we're tilling the soil.

Mayor Lago: Exactly.

Mr. Trowbridge: And so, that's our role, we think, in conjunction with all of you. You've been omnipresent in that regard, working with Solanch and Matthew, terrific. So, I think at the end of the day, if that tills the soil, then you know, things will start to bloom in January.

Mayor Lago: Exactly. Solanch. This guy's a poet.

Assistant to the City Manager Lopez: Just to talk a little bit more about the December 2nd event -- and Matt has the numbers from the September event -- but this is going to be the second time we do a downtown community cleanup. For December 2nd, we're doing a holiday edition of this. So, we want to really kick off the season of giving by getting the community involved and showing a bit of holiday spirit too. So, we're asking that they come out with their holiday attire and gear and help clean up the community. We will this time around be doing a most pounds of litter collected contest, like we do for our solo cleanups and other cleanup events that we host. And we have some great prizes, so we hope to see members of the Chamber and the BID out there, local businesses, and families. We're going to have as prizes for the most pounds of litter collected...

Mayor Lago: What are the prizes? I'd like to know.

Assistant to the City Manager Lopez: We have a family four-pack VIP tickets to the tree lighting the following day on December 3rd. And Mark yesterday at the meeting also offered some Burgerlicious VIP tickets as prizes.

Mayor Lago: What is the prize that I gave before, a cash prize that I gave before to one of the times that we did this, personal? What was it?

Assistant to the City Manager Lopez: That was for...

Mayor Lago: For the solo cleanup.

Assistant to the City Manager Lopez: The International Coastal Cleanup.

Mayor Lago: How much was that?

Assistant to the City Manager Lopez: You gave a thousand dollars that was split up into two prizes.

Mayor Lago: I will give a thousand dollars personal contribution from my own again -- if anybody wants to join me, they're more welcome; any developers, any contractors, any engineers, architects. I want to make it so that people are enticed to come out and do these cleanups. I will give a personal thousand dollars. I recommend that anybody else out there who wants to give a personal contribution as a charitable donation, tax deductible. You know, it's a great opportunity to put your name out there. I will give you exposure. The City will give you exposure. Please feel free to contact my office, contact Solanch. And I want people to be enticed, especially young kids to come out. I want them to feel, you know, the interest and really sustainability, about cleanup, and doing those kinds of things.

Assistant to the City Manager Lopez: Thank you, Mayor. So, we'll have all the information up on our Keep Coral Gables Beautiful website. We're finalizing the marketing material to start promoting this event. We'll have the registration link to start getting those numbers and pre-

register people ahead of the event. But that's going to be on December 2nd at 6 PM, and we'll start at the Chamber office on Alhambra, just like we did in September.

Mayor Lago: Perfect. In closing, I want to thank the BID. I don't know if you want to say a few words.

Aura Reinhardt: I do actually if I may.

Mayor Lago: Please.

Ms. Reinhardt: I think one of the things we discussed at yesterday's meeting is that it's important for us to end up somewhere and not go back to -- we thought not go back to the Chamber, but to celebrate what we're all doing as everybody comes out. And we have one of our BID members at Clutch Burger who's going to host everybody, so that's come through...

Mayor Lago: Best burgers in town.

Ms. Reinhardt: And I want you to know that. And so, Mark and I will be working with him on offering everybody who comes to his venue for celebration, which is important.

Mayor Lago: I love it. So, you know, we're making a statement and we're going to continue to do this. Now with the resolution, and obviously, pushing it to January 3rd, we're going to be ready. We're going to be ready to really effectuate change and change the way that we do business in the downtown to be even more inviting. So, any ideas? Anybody have any ideas that -- not today, but in the future -- feel free to reach out to the Commission, reach out to our staff. If you want to sponsor the event -- I'm making a personal sponsorship again because this is very near and dear. Because you can't be the City Beautiful if you're not beautiful.

Ms. Reinhardt: Mr. Mayor, is your contribution based on weight that's collected or should we be...

Mayor Lago: I will allow Solanch...

Ms. Reinhardt: On age groups? Because I think there's a lot...

Mayor Lago: I will allow Solanch -- I will cut the check like I did.

Ms. Reinhardt: Yeah, that's great.

Mayor Lago: I will cut the check again, like I just recently did for the little library that we donated a thousand dollars. I will cut the check to Solanch. Solanch can break it up. I am hoping that other people who are listening to this will match my donation and we could have multiple checks and do something great.

Ms. Reinhardt: Super.

Mayor Lago: Okay?

Ms. Reinhardt: Great, thank you.

Assistant to the City Manager Lopez: Thank you...

Mayor Lago: Thank you, guys.

Assistant to the City Manager Lopez: So much, Mayor.

Mayor Lago: I appreciate it.

Vice Mayor Mena: Thank you.

Mayor Lago: So, I have two other brief items that I want to talk about in the Mayor's comments. So, this weekend was a great one in our Central Business District. First, we had the inaugural of the North Gables Harvest Market, which was huge, success. I hope that more people join us on Saturdays from 9 to 2 PM through December 18, except for Thanksgiving Saturday. Market is right in front of Coral Gables Prep. I would like to give kudos to the Administration, and most especially, our Community Recreation Department, who put together this fantastic event together in such a short period of time. This has been an item I introduced in September, and less than two months later, it came to fruition. Thank you, Mr. Manager. You really brought it home. And I've just gotten only -- I've gotten positive responses from people, especially in the North Gables, that we're doing things for that community, which is one of the fastest growing communities, if not the fastest growing community in our city. So, I congratulate you and thank you for your leadership. Thanks for a job well done to all the staff. It's great to have an event in North Gables area, and I know the neighborhood is very appreciative. We also saw a great turnout for the Day of the Dead Festival on Saturday, which was sponsored by the Mexican Consulate. Giralda restaurants were teeming with customers and vendors for the festival who were doing brisk business. When I gave my State of the City address, I spoke about hosting cultural events in conjunction with our consulates. This is a great example of the types of events that I want to see developed. And I'm positive that this event will continue to grow. I attended the event personally. It was a great success. There was a lot of people out there. This is another example of what's happening in our downtown. The next few months are going to be incredible, and it's something that we really have to celebrate. It was also great to see families trick-or-treating on the Mile for Halloween. It was also wonderful to see so many merchants participating. It takes all of us working together to be successful. What I saw this weekend is exactly what we need to see every weekend, a vibrant Miracle Mile. Thanks to the Business Improvement District for organizing such a great event. From what people have told me, this is an event that keeps on only getting better. And speaking of the Mile, what a great concert by the great city -- by the Greater Miami Youth Symphony

Orchestra at the Miracle Theater. I was proud to attend and especially proud that our City supported this event. Again, a fantastic way to bring people and especially families to Miracle Mile. And to showcase how all these activities are being -- are making a difference in our Central Business District -- which is so vital to our economy since 27 percent of our tax base is from the commercial properties -- a project I spearheaded with the support of my colleges in the Commission was -- as your representative on the Transportation Planning Organization -- that Saturday trolley service has been a huge success. On the first Saturday in October, the day we inaugurated the service, we had 543 riders. And this past Saturday, just four weeks short, we had 960 riders, an increase of 76 percent. What an amazing result. And everyone should know that I was able to secure this Saturday service at no cost to our City for the next two years. This is important. Our downtown is vibrant, our downtown is growing. You heard concerns where we're headed. Now, we just got to continue to elevate the quality of service. And we need to get out there and we need to provide every opportunity for the public sector to get out of the way of the private sector so they can conduct business. Just give them all the necessary tools and step away, don't meddle. When we meddle, we fail. It's the opportunity for the private sector to just continue to have -- only to increase and to get better, especially after the COVID pandemic. I want to take another opportunity here -- and it's my final point before we move on to the agenda -- is to congratulate the Code Enforcement team. I have been working with them, especially Suramy Cabrera and the Manager on this issue, and the change is night and day. It's incredible, just like we were talking about our garbage and waste disposal. We are being incredibly proactive. We are fighting issues that we're facing in this community, like illegal dumping. And I want to show you some examples because we talk about pits. And this is an example of just one individual who is illegally dumping in our city and was caught by our Code Enforcement team. I show you this video because this is an example of something that happens every day. It's happening right now in our city every single hour. People come to our community and take advantage of our trash pits, and it's your tax dollars. You pay to dispose of this material, you pay. The amount of green matter is growing exponentially in our City, not because we're getting more trees. It's because of the simple fact that people know that we will accept anything in our trash pits, so they come to conduct business in our City, and then they dump their refuse (sic) for the entire day's work instead of

driving to the dump to get rid of it. We have to face the facts and what we're going to have to do here in the City, unless you want to continue to see your garbage rates go up. This is not what the City Beautiful is about. This is one example. I have some other pictures also. Well, I don't know if we have the pictures, but my point is that I wanted to bring that to the attention -- and I wanted to congratulate Code Enforcement. They're working. They're being very proactive. They're doing heavy work -- look at this. This is an example of some graffiti that was in our city. In a matter of an hour, they were out there taking care of it using a special product that some of our Code Enforcements even buy themselves, and we have to make sure that we can provide it for them, Mr. Manager. This is what I mentioned before is unacceptable in the City. That is on Main and Main. That is Alhambra -- excuse me, that is Ponce and Miracle Mile. That's been like that for months. We need to address these issues. Look at these -- look at that. That is adjacent -- that is right next to the Quickie Mart next to, you know, UM. Look at those sidewalks. So, I'm showing you the positive and I'm showing you the work that we have ahead of us. This is by my neighborhood. I use this Quickie Mart two or three times a week, and I have to see the sidewalks in that fashion. It's unacceptable. That neighborhood should be held accountable. Here you have more illegal dumping. Examples of people who had dumped materials, refuge (sic), landscaping material, and we went, we caught them, and we forced them to basically have to haul that material away. That is happening every hour on the hour on the City, and you're paying for it to the tune of millions of dollars because we insist on basically just having our trash pits and not regulating this. So, with that being said, I just want to continue to put that -- keep that on top of mind because it's critically important. We're talking about millions of dollars. I think the numbers were the City of Coral Gables produces six times more green matter than any other city -- six or seven?

City Manager Iglesias: Six or seven, Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Six or seven times more. Guys, we got to face the facts. Nobody wants to have this discussion, but we need to have a real discussion about what we're doing and how we're going to handle it forward because we're talking about millions and millions of dollars that belong to the residents. So, thank you.