

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item H-4 and H-5
October 14, 2014
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

Interim City Manager, Carmen Olazabal

City Attorney, Craig E. Leen

City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman

Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Interim Police Chief, Ed Hudak

Public Speaker(s)

H-4 and H-5 [Start: 10:38:20 a.m.]

H-4: A Resolution rescinding Resolution No. 2005-119 and reinstating the City-Wide Anti-Crime Committee and setting forth guidelines by which such Committee shall be governed.

H-5: Update on the Police Department

Mayor Cason: We are going to change this around a little bit now and move to Item H-5, which is an update on the Police Department and then H-4 because Chief has a meeting to go to, if he's not late already.

Interim Chief Hudak: Mr. Mayor, Commissioners, Madam Manager, Mr. City Attorney, how are you? I know you have the resolution in front of you, I think we are going to take that issue ahead of time or do you want to just do the update?

Mayor Cason: Whatever you like. You want to do H-4.

Interim Chief Hudak: Its part and parcel. I believe if we take the resolution right in front of you, reinstituting the City-wide Anti-Crime Committee and that would Segway into, if that's approved exactly where we are at and a brief update on what we are doing.

Mayor Cason: That's fine. You want to talk about how you envision this working.

Interim Chief Hudak: Basically what we are recommending to the Commission through the idea of a resolution is to bring back the City-wide Anti-Crime Committee, affectionately known by the Police Department as the CWACC, and we sunsetted it, I think in my recommendation to the City Manager and to you all that we bring it back to help guide us and give us input in the Police Department on some of the things that affect us as a City and us as a government and us as an administration. I believe through you all's leadership as far as picking two people, it gives us the coverage from the entire City as well as the Manager's to appointments to the Board will help me and my staff going forward and answering some questions and us also looking down the line 5 or 6 years. As we see today from Meg's presentation, the City is going to evolve in 5 or 6 years and we need to be right ahead of the steps that are coming forward with the Police Department. The other thing I think that this committee does for me is it gives me the opportunity to give you an answerable question and deliverable to the matrix report and what has been asked. I would like other people's inputs as to what the matrix report presents, what is good, what is bad, as you all have asked me to present back to you. Myself and my staff have started to look at that, it's on our list of things to do, but I think another or other sets of eyes from throughout the City, excuse me, would also help us go back and make presentations to you in the future. I believe in transparency and bringing in individuals of your choosing that you assign to this Board. I know the City Manager and I talked briefly about it, about staffing it, we have the ability. I would say as it was written up originally it would be semi-annual meetings, however I would make myself available to all the Board appointees to make sure that we continue to have their input going forward as we plot the future of the department and our continued responses to the citizens.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: You think semi-annually would be sufficient initially? Did we start off initially with semi-annually meetings?

Interim Chief Hudak: We started off – I believe we started off before that. If I remember when...

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Quarterly or something.

Interim Chief Hudak:...It actually came from Omaha from then Chief Skinner to create a 5-year plan. So I believe the meetings began probably quarterly then went semi-annually and then it eventually was sunsetted once we had our strategic 5-year plan. We have a strategic plan in

place; I think what my starting block would be, present that plan, present the matrix report, and then have my staff and myself present to them as far as this is what we are doing now, how can we do it better before we come back.

Mayor Cason: Chief this say on Section 7, that the Committee shall hold regular monthly meetings and special meetings at such time. This was the old...

Interim Chief Hudak: I think there were several revisions Mayor then sunsetting. When it originally started I know we had come back several times up until the sunset or it was monthly to start off and...

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: I remember it being monthly because it was such a hot issue at that point.

Interim Chief Hudak: We didn't have a strategic plan at that point. I believe then Chief Skinner and City Manager Jack Eads then wanted us to meet monthly as far as developing that plan. We have that plan in place. I'm not necessarily recommending that we go semi-annually, I think we can set those up once the committee is established and let them continue to provide as we would any other.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: I would suggest that. I would suggest having a meeting and let them dictate about how often they want to meet, quarterly, once every two months, whatever that is. I think so.

Mayor Cason: That makes sense.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: I think we need to do that.

Interim Chief Hudak: And I wouldn't put parameter on but we can report back to you all with the committee members what they will do.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: I think twice a year I think might be a little too little at this point.

Interim Chief Hudak: I'm going too fast to actually meet twice a year. We could probably meet twice a week the way we are going.

Mayor Cason: A couple technical issues on this. One is going to be how we assign people to the zones among ourselves, and secondly, when do we want this to be the deadline for us to put our nominees in?

Interim City Manager Olazabal: There are 12 members on the Board and 10 of those are appointed by the Commission and 2 at least by the City Manager and they would represent the 12 zones, so we need to decide who appoints for what zone.

Commissioner Quesada: Why don't we do this as far as the zones? Why don't we do the same as the Traffic Board because the Traffic Board is broken up for each one of us, no its actually 5 zones, but I'm sure say my zone on the Traffic Board will encompass 2 or 3 different zones, we could do it that way. Have staff take a look at it that way, maybe it's a little bit easier.

Interim City Manager Olazabal: So similar to the Traffic Advisory.

Commissioner Quesada: Since we already have it in place, unless someone suggests another way.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: No, that's fine. I think its fine.

Mayor Cason: Do we want to have our nominees for the next session?

Commissioner Keon: We need to know our zones.

Commissioner Quesada: Yes, we need to know our zones.

Commissioner Keon: We need to know our zones so that we know that we have people from those specific zones.

Interim City Manager Olazabal: So we'll research who appoints to what zone then we'll send an e-mail and then we go from there.

Mayor Cason: OK.

Commissioner Keon: That's fine.

City Attorney Leen: Mr. Mayor just two points about the resolution.

Mayor Cason: Yes.

City Attorney Leen: Right now it does say that the committee shall hold regular monthly meetings, so it's only if there is nothing to be done would you have it up to semi-annually. So if you want to change that you may want to indicate that in the resolution itself. The second things

is it is a committee with 12 members, so it is possible there could be a tie, even if everyone is present, so probably the instructions from you as to what to do in those circumstances maybe we could – one thing that sometimes happens is that staff has a proposal and it's a tie, you allow staff to proceed with the proposal.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Or you appoint thirteenth members, one of the two.

City Attorney Leen: Or you appoint a thirteenth member.

Mayor Cason; It could go either way.

Commissioner Keon: Either the Manager can appoint one person or they can appoint three people, to make it an uneven number.

City Attorney Leen: Sometimes what you've done in the past is you either have a Commission-as-a Whole appointee or a Board-as-a-Whole appointee; you've done that in the past.

Mayor Cason: How about a Board-as-a-Whole appointee.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: That's a good idea.

Commissioner Lago: I'll go along with that.

Commissioner Quesada: So you are saying to reach the 12.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: No, to reach 13.

Mayor Cason: Let the Board pick the 13th so we don't ever have a tie.

Commissioner Quesada: Or we can do each one of us do two, City Attorney gets one, City Clerk gets one and the Chief gets one.

Commissioner Keon: I don't care.

Interim Chief Hudak: You can make me the tie-breaker, but that probably....

Commissioner Keon: Do I make that motion. It doesn't make any difference as long as we get 13.

Commissioner Lago: Whatever you guys want.

Commissioner Keon: Does anybody have any objection to what Commissioner Quesada said.

Commissioner Lago: I have no issue with that either.

Mayor Cason: No.

Commissioner Keon: OK. Fine. So the Manager gets an appointee, the Police Chief gets an appointee, and the City Attorney gets an appointee.

Commissioner Quesada: Do you have a problem with that Craig?

City Attorney Leen: No. I actually am honored to have an appointee. It's just normally that hasn't happened, because I serve as the legal advisor.

Commissioner Keon: Then just ask that the Police Chief have one and the Manager has two.

Mayor Cason: Let's do that.

City Attorney Leen: Because it keeps me more as the advisor.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: I think so too.

Commissioner Keon: So we'll just add an additional member appointed by the Police Chief.

Mayor Cason: So you get one and the City Manager gets two.

Interim City Manager Olazabal: And then we have 13.

Mayor Cason: So on H-4 do we have a motion.

Commissioner Quesada: So moved.

Mayor Cason: Commissioner Quesada makes the motion.

Commissioner Lago: Second the motion.

Mayor Cason: Commissioner Lago seconds.

City Clerk

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Yes

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Commissioner Quesada: Yes

Mayor Cason: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Cason: H-5.

Interim Chief Hudak: And just a quick update where we're at. I know some of you probably watched last night. I'm happy to advise you that at 8 o'clock last night we had the individual in custody up at the north end that has been exposing himself, who has a long history of doing this. We are in the process of doing the press conferences now. The second time in as many weeks as our outreach into the public going door-to-door has given us tips, so this person – we ran out at noon yesterday by about 5 or 6 o'clock yesterday afternoon. We had a subject identified by an anonymous tip, picked them up, we interviewed them throughout the evening. He is not and does not appear to be the person who has committed the sexual batteries in the past; however, he does have an issue, a long standing issue to the point where we can tell by GPS from another case in Broward. Again, our – this is us working with the community together and it's the second time, if you remember we had the break-in into the law office where the detectives through their hard work were able to track down that individual and again, it's from tips from the community, we are doing that. We are still waiting on the FBI audit; it's completed as far as when we get the final report. I've talked to the media about it as well, we will present you through the Manager a total package of what the audit says, what changes we've made if any are required and how we are going forward on those numbers as far as statistics are concerned.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Chief just for the record. Can you talk about how you are getting these tips from the residents in general? You are sending out brochures, you are doing this, you are doing that.

Interim Chief Hudak: Yesterday – a lot of it has been and working with MR (Maria Rosa) from what we've started doing on just our press releases to get them out sooner, they call it sound on tape. So we'll have Officer Denham do through Channel 77 do the video right there and we send that out as a hyperlink with our press releases, which is getting us more air time. Yesterday, Columbus Day, was a slower news day, every channel handled it at noon and then again at night,

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and that's where we are getting the phone calls, I recognized that person. I think it's working with the Crime Watch and getting those out. Some people and this is a first in my one-month tenure that people have been stopped so many times because neighbors are actively calling us, it's a problem that I don't mind having, as where people are going door-to-door legitimately and neighbors are calling us in. Our responses have been nothing short of phenomenal by my estimation, now I'm bias because it's my officers, but it's coming together.

Commissioner Lago: Let me give you my opinion, I'm sorry to interrupt you, why that's occurring, and I'll tell you why that's occurring. It's because the individuals that have contacted me via the phone or via e-mail have told me that the police presence on their street, which has not happened in a long time is giving them the initiative to make that extra look; look out for their neighbor, the garage door hasn't closed, why is that person's front door been open for such a long time. I think a lot of it has to be tagged on to the fact that they see the police going up and down their neighborhood, which is something that hasn't happened in a long time, so they are taking that extra initiative, which I think is great.

Interim Chief Hudak: And honestly, I've known a lot of these cops for many, many years. I had the opportunity, speaking of the museum, to swear in the first 6 of our 7 and promote two more, and having to explain that this was the original roll call room at the museum – there was even people like 10-15 years on the job that didn't realize, but I agree with you Commissioner that the officers are engaged and that's probably one of my proudest accomplishments in a month is that we have seen a difference and our numbers, not that I talk about numbers, but we are going to present a package through the Manager about the cases that we are clearing by arrest. I understand there is still going to be the frustrations, but our response is that as a Police Department it's going to be the same. Again, getting back to the balance is, we are going forward with some FAF requests for technology and the meeting that the Mayor spoke of is, I'm meeting with the other Police Chiefs that are just on the outside of our boundaries to work together as far as using our license plate reader cards, and if our officers can see it and their officers can see it on their computers then we have more sets of eyes going down these perimeter streets. Again, people feel comfortable calling us between the Crime Stoppers, the Crime Watch, and the anonymous tips they give us, and we have seen an increase in the suspicious person calls. The alarm ordinance, I know we are still meeting on. I believe, as I've sent you all out communications from time to time is that is going to increase our probability of getting their faster and when that's done and I think the steps that you all have taken and the City Attorney's office and the Manager's office is going to give the officers even that much more of an impetus. We are going to dispatch those differently, in other words, the officers are going to know that the apprehension level or percentage goes up because we are getting called first. So we put that in place yesterday, as we continue to change our policies. So when the individuals that reside in our City or businesses get that we are going to know that this is the expedited response. So the

officers and the supervisors will say, OK, this is something that we don't have 10 minutes or 10 minutes is our actual time, so we need to continue to get in there. Again, we hear it time and time again, and I'll give you a quick story is, the alarm goes off and with the alarm systems that people have they can see the cameras on their iPad, which is fantastic, that changes our response, so as the homeowner calls us and said there is somebody walking in their backyard after the alarm goes off, that changes our response. So now we send in everybody, we perimeter the area. The miscommunication sometimes goes as the husband needs to tell the wife that the Terminex guy is fumigating, so he doesn't get approached by half the Police Department thinking that there was a problem. Again, those are good problems to have and I think the officers continue to work that way. Our struggles are still – and I met with the Manager again this morning is going to be the staffing issues. We are working on scheduling issues. I've got to continue to work that, to tweak that, as things come forward and the Manager and I are going to work on it, and our recruiting efforts are going full force and we are going to bring out some initiatives that we think will help us get the best of the best.

Mayor Cason: Can you tell us where you are with the videos on crime prevention tips that you had recommended before.

Interim Chief Hudak: We have been putting those out on Channel 77; there is a whole Facebook page. My understanding from MR is that we did do a sit down and talk with me. I haven't seen it yet, so we are going to probably put that up, so the community will still have a chance to see it. For the public face, I've actually had a conversation the other night with the Badia's who live in town as well as the University of Miami and the athletes and coaches, so going forward we are going to have them do some of our PSA's, and again, my goal for that is to get somebody flipping through the channels and sees that face that's going to stop. We've had a lot of people in the Spanish media that are actually going to donate their time as well, so we can put these bilingually out and have a list, and refer to people to the Crime Stoppers type things as they are going, so the officers. The one list that we do have, Major Pedroso got it for me is, now when we actually do the Crime Watch meetings, we are going to have a list of the officers that are assigned to those neighborhoods. There has been a very good response from the community when we show up at Crime Watch, I want to meet my officer, I want to meet my officer, who is that? - so we are going to continue to introduce those one at a time as they come forward. The next big one is down at Gables by the Sea. Again, our deployment strategies are not necessarily putting the fires out, but we are ahead of them, and we are continuing to find that balance in crime and traffic and those are the two things that the residents – the technology things that are coming, I'm looking at FAF accounts as we move forward with that. We are going to continue along those realms, I believe when we are finished, and I know we are close with the Manager's office that our public policy as far as our outreach from Tweeter and some of the things that we can do. Eventually, I want to have a Town Hall-type Tweeter meeting, where people can ask me

direct questions. There are thousands and thousands of people that I've started following, media people that live in our City on a regular basis. This is better than sitting down one-on-one with them and just having their followers know so when something happens like a helicopter overhead in the middle of the night, the supervisor at the scene can put that out instead of a Code Red that they are going to know, this is what's going on. We are still going to have those other redundant safety checks, but to get the message out and I believe the last two cases that we had and the successes of taking somebody who is very dangerous off the street so women and children can still walk around the north end and not be victimized by somebody who doesn't live near our City. It's the contact with the community that has brought this together and then we do have the resources to follow that up, and that's what we are going to continue to do.

Mayor Cason: And don't forget that we are awaiting your suggestions on some new red light cameras, they've been very effective the five that we've had.

Interim Chief Hudak: We are ready to move forward to make recommendations to the Managers office to go to five additional intersections on that. That's something that was before September 11th that we were working on before. I believe once we do the cost analysis we already have the intersections pretty much drilled down to where we would put them. Again, that does not to make money, but that does after the initial response of everybody stopping, which is a lot of rear-enders, we do see the numbers come down and dealing with everything that Meg Daly's project going on there, that's going to bring more people down underneath the Metrorail, that's the policing strategies that I think the City-Wide Anti-Crime Committee is going to help us with their input to see how we are going to go forward with downtown, with streetscape, because we are going to get pulled in other directions. Primarily our goal right now is to get us fully staffed as quickly as I can.

Commissioner Keon: I know we had talked about it one time. I think at some point in our discussions, they talked about the electronic – the ability to site speeding electronically to put up those monitors. Is it not approved – it hasn't been approved by the state, is that right?

Interim Chief Hudak: To write tickets like a red light camera instead of a speeding ticket?

Commissioner Keon: Yes.

Interim Chief Hudak: No, that has not been approved.

Commissioner Keon: It hasn't been approved. Is it under consideration at all by the state?- or has it not even gotten that far?

Interim Chief Hudak: I would probably have to defer to Fausto Gomez, who actually knows...

Commissioner Keon: Is it as successful and is the hardware and software used other places effectively?

Interim Chief Hudak: The only one that I'm familiar with is outside Washington DC and some of the suburbs, Alexandria, Virginia to have those on some of the parts of I-95, and 495. Yes, it does generate a reduction in speed having driven there, not that I was ever cited, having driven there I've noticed how it does impact it. Again, the stop and go traffic, I think with our license plate reader that we are getting, we are going to be able to know who's driving in and out of the City on a regular basis, and continue to patrol. I don't want to rely totally on the technology, but if I can put a trailer on 8th Street and Red Road, we are taking every tag going down, if something happens we can pull every tag that drove by there and that's something that's going to help. That's the additional technology that helps the detectives. Going forward I think the red light cameras are definitely a safer way for us to travel throughout these intersections. Again, the speed issues would be decreased if it were there; again, I will have to defer to the state. In the meantime, we do have the technology which is now we are up and running and I know the Manager and I had conversations about this about a year ago, but we actually have the "Black Boxes", so when we are now taking speed measuring's of different neighborhoods, it's not the trailer that we used to see and then we have an actual blind reflective study of what the speed is, the true speeds are in people's neighborhoods, and that's not to say yes or no, we will respond appropriately. Again, we are using our cost savings to have the traffic units address those neighborhood concerns as well as the burglary task force. Major Pedroso and I met yesterday with the union, we are continuing to try and work out some of the scheduling issues that we see coming forward, not because of anything else but because we are short and we understand that, and we are continuing to work with the Manager every day. I'm optimistic, the days are long, but I really do enjoy coming in every day and talking with the residents because I believe just by some of the arrests these officers have made in the last few days, it's showing that the community engagement component of our policing strategies is working and we are going to continue going along those lines as far as the department is concerned.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you.

Mayor Cason: Thank you. Thank you very much.

City Attorney Leen: Mr. Mayor, I just wanted to add one thing. Regarding the crime committee, the City-Wide Anti-Crime Committee, my office will staff that with an attorney, so that's even better than an appointment, we'll have an attorney there. One thing we'll try to do is come up with laws in conjunction with the City Manager's office and the Chief of ways to address crime

and continue to try to reduce it. One other thing, I did speak with Fausto Gomez regarding all of this very proactive Commission and Police Department and City Manager's office where we've been passing these laws where we are encouraging the Legislature to take action. I believe we've done it three times now, so we are going to put that together and give it to Fausto and do it in conjunction with the City Manager's office, but when the next Legislative Session occurs, we are going to actually push those and I may go up myself to try to push those as well in conjunction with Fausto, to show how important that is, particularly the one originally, the Ray Allen one, how important that was to this Commission, so we are going to try to see that through based on your directive. I just wanted to make that point.

Mayor Cason: Thank you.

Interim Chief Hudak: Thank you sir.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you Chief.

Commissioner Quesada: Real quick for the Chief before he walks out, I'm sorry to jump in a little late here. The PSA's he was talking about, I just want to make sure the app that we recently brought into play, if we can I don't know if you can talk to the IT Department to see how we can work in anything else with the Police Department, see if there is any logical time.

Interim Chief Hudak: As far as?

Commissioner Quesada: Maybe PSA's or anything else that come to mind. It's such a nice thing to be able to reach every resident so easily. I don't know. I don't know. If it's possible or not, if you could just have somebody in your department talks to Gee Ming Chow or whoever, see if there is a logical time.

Interim Chief Hudak: To answer that. When we talked about the Tweeter, those PSA's will be posted on Tweeter which will tie into Facebook, so we are sending those out.

Commissioner Quesada: Just make sure that Gee Ming Chow is in the loop, coordinated because if there is a logical time to the app or any other way just makes sure we are on the same page.

Interim Chief Hudak: Right.

Commissioner Lago: Just so you are aware Commissioner Quesada and also Chief, the app is up and running, but it's not up and running to 100 percent. It's going to be 100 percent hopefully at the end of November through the Manager, she can obviously give us more information, but we

have a kind of a schedule that we are adhering to, so we should have it hopefully by the end of maybe December at some point, all the kinks worked out and the real site up. Right now what they have is currently just a site that's not 100 percent. What do they call it?- a beta site.

Interim Chief Hudak: Beta test.

Interim City Manager Olazabal: But it's a soft launch.

Interim Chief Hudak: I met with them last week; we didn't get into the PSA conversation, as far as the app.....

Commissioner Quesada: No, that's fine. Just make sure you guys are communicating, that's all it is.

Interim Chief Hudak: Absolutely. Absolutely.

Commissioner Quesada: Thank you.

Interim Chief Hudak: Thank you.

Mayor Cason: Thank you.

[End: 11:04:31 a.m.]