

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-4
January 12, 2021
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 Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-4 [Start: 10:50 a.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Coral Gables, Florida urging the Bahamian Government to revoke offshore oil drilling exploration licenses and permanently ban offshore drilling in the Bahamas. (Sponsored by Commissioner Keon and Mayor Valdes-Fauli)

City Attorney Ramos: G-4 is a Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Coral Gables, Florida urging the Bahamian Government to revoke offshore oil drilling exploration licenses and permanently ban offshore drilling in the Bahamas.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Is there a motion?

Vice Mayor Lago: So moved.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Second?

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Commissioner Keon: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you call the roll please.

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes

Commissioner Mena: Yes

Commissioner Fors: Yes

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Commissioner Keon: Can I just talk for one second. This is for the public's interest. The company, Bahama Petroleum Company, where they are first setting up is only about 150 miles off of the Florida coast to begin for oil exploration. And they have been granted licenses by the Bahamian Government to explore 4 million acres of the Bahamas. It is an extensive, extensive exploration and potential site for oil drilling in the Bahamas, which is one of our most pristine waters that we have in this area of the world, and the concerns of oil spills are real, and we have seen them around the world. So, I think its very important that we as a community keep track of what is happening here. I think the issue went before the Bahamian Supreme Court just recently and I don't know what the – preservation groups brought it to the Supreme Court to try and stay the drilling. I don't know what the result is yet. I thought it was last week, they went, and I don't know the result. But I think its important that we keep an eye on and we help those that are looking to protect those waters to protect them. Thank you. That's all.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Thank you, Commissioner. It is very, very important and everybody says that they have the utmost precautions and its failsafe, and nothing is going to happen, and I call attention to what happened in the Gulf of Mexico with...Petroleum

Commissioner Keon: Deep Water Horizon.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And we are still not over the disaster, billions of gallons of raw oil were poured there and if that happens in these pristine waters, as you say, I think it would be an environmental catastrophe. There is nothing we can do about it, except urge them to consider the consequences of any disaster in offshore drilling exploration and licenses giving. Thank you.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you.