

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item F-10
January 11, 2022
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

Deputy City Attorney, Cristina Suarez

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item F-10 [Start: 4:16 p.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission extending through May 31, 2022, the authority granted to the City Manager to relax current standards for outdoor/open-air dining and signage in order to provide for expanded outdoor seating opportunities at restaurants and suspending all applicable fees. (Sponsored by Mayor Lago) (Sponsored by Commissioner Anderson)

Mayor Lago: Moving onto F-10.

City Attorney Ramos: A Resolution of the City Commission extending through May 31, 2022, the authority granted to the City Manager to relax current standards for outdoor/open-air dining and signage in order to provide for expanded outdoor seating opportunities at restaurants and suspending all applicable fees. Deputy City Attorney Suarez.

Deputy City Attorney Suarez: Good afternoon, Mayor and Commissioners, Cristina Suarez, Deputy City Attorney. This resolution extends the authority that was previously granted to the City

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Agenda Item F-10 – Resolution extending through May 31, 2022

The authority granted to City Manager to relax current outdoor/open-air dining

[Date]

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Manager regarding relaxed standards for outdoor dining and signage, and also suspending the applicable fees. And the authority would be extended through May 31, 2022.

Mayor Lago: I'll entertain a motion.

Commissioner Anderson: I'll move it.

Commissioner Menendez: I'll second.

Commissioner Menendez: Yes

Commissioner Anderson: Yes

Commissioner Fors: Yes

Vice Mayor Mena: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Lago: Before we move on, I just want to mention one thing really quickly that I'd love for you to give me your feedback in the near future. As people push more and more to make the outdoor dining permanent, we are going to run into a little bit of a situation, and that is that the ADA concerns that we are having. There are some landscape bushes that you'll see in front of restaurants, we're at a crossroads. Either those bushes have to go, obviously, because we are going to bring back the parking. If the parking doesn't go and you continue to have some sort of hybrid dining on the street, which I don't recommend, something's got to give, because you cannot traverse those sidewalks with the landscaping that's there, We need to figure something out; relocate the landscaping to an area where there is more of a bulb-out at the edge, whatever that may be, but just start thinking in your mind, because we are discussing it now because we are going to start working with Deanna to really redo all the landscaping on Ponce, as we had the other day when we had our walk and I'll show you some pictures. Please give me any ideas that you have, because it's going to be an issue eventually.

City Manager Iglesias: You're correct Mayor. We do need 3 feet clear for handicap, for ADA accessibility.

Commissioner Anderson: Yes, we do need that. For future designs for restaurants, they really need to think forward if they want to have outdoor dining, they may want to have those flexible spaces.

City Manager Iglesias: We will discuss it with PW, and they will be looking at the right-of-way issues with Deanna in our green space division.

Mayor Lago: In certain areas once you've given it, it's going to be very tough to take it back.

Commissioner Anderson: It is. It is.

Mayor Lago: And by the way, I love it. I think its great. I think its great, but we need to figure out what we are going to do in regard to the little, small hedges and stuff like that, that's there.