

**City of Coral Gables  
Virtual Commission Meeting  
April 21, 2020  
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

**City Commission**

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

**City Staff**

**City Manager, Peter Iglesias  
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos  
City Clerk, Billy Urquia  
Fire Chief, Marcos de la Rosa  
Police Chief, Ed Hudak**

**Public Speaker(s)**

**Dr. Fred Keroff  
Javier Banos  
Vicky Alvarez  
Evie Valdez  
Maria Cruz  
Barbara Ines**

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**Agenda Item H-1**

**Time Certain - 9:30 a.m.**

Update on the City's efforts relating to Corona Virus/COVID-19

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Alright. It's 9:30 and we have a time certain item, the City Manager, H-1, please. Mr. City Manager.

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City Manager Iglesias: Yes, Mayor. We have our (INAUDIBLE) Director, (INAUDIBLE) who is our medical director for our Fire Department and for paramedics, along with Chief De La Rosa. And then, of course, at the end, it will be Hudak discussing Police. So, with that, I will turn it over to De La Rosa.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Can I -- before you start, there's an echo. I mean, sometimes there's -- I don't know if it's an echo or some kind of noise. Can we get rid of that? And we could barely hear Stephanie. Are you guys having the same problem I am?

Commissioner Fors: I haven't heard an echo. Sometimes if somebody's running the same Zoom meeting on two different devices, that could be causing an echo.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay, maybe that's it. Anyway, go ahead, Mr. City Manager.

City Manager Iglesias: Yes, Mayor. We have our Medical Director, Director Fred Keroff, to discuss this issue concerning COVID-19. And then we -- on this item, we also have Chief De La Rosa concerning our response to COVID-19, and Chief Hudak to talk about any policing issues that we've had in the past (INAUDIBLE). So, with that, I will turn it over to Chief De La Rosa, our emergency (INAUDIBLE).

Fire Chief De La Rosa: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the Commission, and Mayor, good morning.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Good morning.

Fire Chief De La Rosa: I have asked Chief -- I've asked Dr. Keroff to join us today in our Commission meeting and to give his perspective as a physician on where we are with the curve regarding the COVID-19 outbreak. And he is going to briefly discuss for us the difference between the testing that's out in our community right now, whether it be the swab or the antibody testing. And I've asked him to give a brief discussion on that. As the City Manager mentioned, Dr. Keroff

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is a renowned physician in our community. He is currently the medical director for Memorial Health Systems emergency rooms, as well as the medical director for Coral Gables Fire Rescue, Miami Beach Fire Rescue and City of Hialeah Fire Rescue. With that, I present Dr. Keroff. Good morning, Dr. Keroff.

Medical Director Keroff: Good morning and thank you for the renowned. Good morning, Mr. Mayor. Good morning, Commissioners. I'd like to be seen as a resource to all of you to try to help answer any kind of questions that anyone might have. I'm going to talk -- two parts here; one is just where are we on the curve and what does that mean. If you look at models, they still talk about the curve in terms of resource consumption, hospital beds, ICU beds, as being about two weeks away in the first week of May. I don't think that we're going to see -- and I'm speaking for myself -- anybody's guess is as good as anybody else's, but for myself, I don't see a spike occurring where you're going to have one day that it's going to be the highest point and then you're going to be on a downward slope. I think this is going to be a curve where you're going to reach a plateau and it's going to be flat and it's going to be that way for a period of time, and then you'll see a gradual drop off. I think we're seeing that to some degree in Dade County and in Broward County, where it's been relatively flat. And by that, I mean when you see additional people testing positive on a regular basis, but that is very much dependent on the number of people that you can test. And as we test more people, we're going to find a certain percentage that turn out to be positive. We've been running about 17 -- 16, 17 percent positive rate. So, it means that one out of every six people that we test has tested positive for the Coronavirus. The focus really needs to be the number of rescue calls that are made related to COVID, the number of hospital beds that are consumed and the number of ICU beds that are being used and the number of ventilators that are being used. So when you look at these models, particularly the one that the federal government is using out of the University of Washington, they're talking about that they're looking at the maximum number of ICU beds, hospital beds and ventilators that are being used, and when they think that maximum time or day is going to be. Let me talk a little bit about the kind of testing that's available out there. There's basically two broad categories of testing that is available. One is the swab, and it could be done either through the nose or through the mouth. This actually tests for presence of the virus. If you have one of these swabs done and it tests positive, it means that you are shedding the virus

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and you are infectious. The other is the antibody testing that has made a lot of noise in the media recently. (INAUDIBLE) become infected with a virus, in this case, your body's own immune response starts to generate cells and fight the infection. And there's two major groups that come on board. One comes on more quickly; that's the IGM, as in Mary. And then one comes on later and that is the IGG, as in girl. The IGM is a temporary one that (INAUDIBLE) with the SARS virus and it starts to show itself maybe five days in and peaks at about ten to twelve days and then drops down within two to three weeks. The -- so that's short-term immunity. The IGG is long-term immunity. That kicks in at about two weeks. And if -- it will continue on indefinitely. We still don't know whether if someone has had the COVID-19 disease, whether they will have life-long immunity or not, but they certainly will have immunity for some specific period of time. We've seen cases growing in frequency where individuals who have been positive for the COVID disease and recover, their plasma can be used and given to individuals who are very sick with the COVID disease in helping them to recover because they've already created the antibodies for the disease. So, that's just a brief overview. I'll gladly answer any questions that anyone might have. Chief, back to you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Chief, you're on. Chief De La Rosa.

Fire Chief De La Rosa: Yes, thank you, Mayor. I was just waiting to be unmuted. Thank you, Dr. Keroff. With that, I'm going to now present where we are with our -- and where our response has been with regards to COVID-19 and specifically when it comes to our outreach programs with our community. When I took over Emergency Management, we reviewed the Blue-Ribbon Committee report following Hurricane Irma, specifically on how to best communicate and identify the needs of our seniors during an emergency. As soon as we began to look at the Coronavirus outbreak, we started our outreach to our seniors. First week of March, we met with our senior groups, such as the Senior Advisory Board and the Crime Watch groups. Actions taken with specifics to our seniors and helping them address their needs and their protections with regards to COVID-19. We identified CDC communications that were specific to them, and we looked at means to disseminate that information that was above and beyond the social media outreach. So, a lot of the findings during the Blue-Ribbon Committee was that a lot of the communication was

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based on social media, so we looked for ways to communicate with our senior community that did not -- was not dependent on social media. So, for example, we devised a protective information in a letter of form. So, dear sir or madam, and it read from top to bottom and left to right like a traditional letter would. Informational flyers that were easy to read. We put information on our Sunday newspaper ads. Flyers with protective actions were hand delivered in paper form to 28 residential buildings that had predominant senior populations. The same information was sent electronically to 48 HOAs throughout our community so that they could use their distribution methods to their residents. In addition, we provided protective measures to these HOAs on how their building management can protect their residents, such as frequent cleaning of high-contact areas, social spacing in general areas, including elevators and to remove opportunities for groups to congregate and limit visitations or areas in the lobby. All that information was sent out. In the early weeks of March, we established a call center that all our residents can call for COVID-19 information and guidance and access to City services with regard to COVID. The call center staff also devised a database of approximately a thousand residents that were of age 65 or older, including our hurricane vulnerable population list. Those residents we called more than one time throughout this month, month and a half that we've been in this. The calls were used as a means to provide information on COVID, as well as conduct a needs assessment of what our needs or inquiries our seniors may have had regarding this event. Those that we were not able to reach on the phone, firefighters conducted wellness checks at their residence to make sure that they were okay, to validate if that number was a good number to reach them or if, in fact, they still lived there. A handful of our residents have asked us to check on them on a weekly basis and that has been accomplished every week. The calls that we have received into our call center are varied. Some have asked about shopping times that were set aside for seniors we've provided that information to them. Some inquired about how to obtain medical supplies, additional medical supplies, and we facilitated that information. We've had calls assisting them in registering for food or grocery delivery services as they wanted to limit their exposure to going to the grocery store. We have facilitated that. In one instance, the gentleman had -- when we did a follow-up call, the gentleman had an issue establishing his profile on the computer. Our firefighters, with protective gear remaining outside of his house, went there and guided that gentleman on how to establish his profile and make a grocery list. When they've inquired about food delivery, we have paneled -- or

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excuse me, partnered with the Gables Foundation to provide hot meals to that residence. All calls into our call center received a follow-up call to ensure that their issue had been resolved. Specifically, with regards to testing, all calls regarding testing through our call center have been addressed. Staff's provided direction on how to schedule an appointment for testing, and when needed, we have assisted in obtaining that appointment. A follow-up call was conducted to each of those residents to ensure that their testing needs had been met. Our residents have scheduled testing from the site that best fits where they live. Some used Marlins Stadium; others, South Dade Government Center and the Youth Fair grounds. We've always had a system in place to address any needs our seniors or residents have had, including testing. I realize that there's been a question in our community as to whether Miami-Dade County was going to conduct testing in our City. That is not the case. The addition of Miami-Dade County through their 311 number has expounded our reach to our residents. Miami-Dade County routes any calls from 311 hotline to our call center. They have posted our information on their website to inform our residents where they can call for services within our City. Miami-Dade County Outreach Program for testing enhances our system because we now have access to their infrastructure. If a call comes into our call center in which a senior is home-bound, has no means to accessing testing, our Fire Department will address that need. That has always been the case. Miami-Dade County enhances our ability to get that done. Regarding the question of community testing. We've had a system in place since early March in which we've advertised our numbers in all forms from print to social media. Our call center and outreach program have addressed not only testing needs, but a varied array of inquiries and needs that have come into our center, as I previously described that included food delivery, questions on supplies, and guidance or information on the disease itself. Our decisions recording testing have been based on the need's assessments conducted to our seniors as well as the fact that all testing needs identified through our call center or outreach have been addressed. We have verified this through the subsequent follow-up calls that we've made after the fact. This assessment has not indicated a need for community testing within our City with the inventory of test sites surrounding our City. There is no indication that our residents have not been able to address their testing needs. There have been many calls regarding testing in which the patient (INAUDIBLE) any calls regarding testing, the patient has been met -- their needs have been met, including the testing of homebound patients. We've accomplished or addressed those needs. Our aim has been to provide

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for the needs of our community based on the evidence and the assessed needs. I'm open for questioning now, or if you want to do Chief Hudak's briefing and then we can come back.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Why don't we do Chief Hudak's and then we'll come back.

Police Chief Hudak: It's a pleasure to be in front of you today. Our working side by side with the Fire Department since the beginning of this continues. Real briefly, I believe the focus of our efforts right now has been around the Granada Golf Course and trying to maintain some sense of normalcy there between the residents and the neighborhood. We've looked at it from several different angles because of just the mere attraction to our beautiful city. The curfew that was ordered in place, I believe, has been effective. We've had about 18 interventions. And when I say intervention's it's because we've come across these people. We have not arrested or charged anybody with curfew violations, but we have documented the individuals. Most of the individuals that the officers have come across between the hours of 11 o'clock and 5 a.m. have been either on their way to essential businesses or they have been residents just trying to get out from the middle. The anticipated call increase that we've seen, or the incident has been what we anticipated would be with the cabin fever, if you will. We have seen a slight uptick in domestic cases. None have risen to the level of extreme injuries or anything else like that. Our other -- accidents are down; however, severity of accidents are increasing. We continue to monitor that and enforce as we have to with our motorcycle unit. As far as the workforce is concerned, most of the officers or civilian employees that have been tested positive are now actually starting to come in. The anticipated 14 days has really turned into more like 30 as we continue to work with the Fire Department in getting our first responders tested. They are in good spirits. But I will tell you, you know, we have lost some family members. Some of our employees' families -- excuse me, extended families. So, we -- our prayers go out to them at this time and we continue to work with them and the Human Resources Department for any other kind of counseling they need. It is a difficult time. Our next ramp up as we have in any emergency is to start working into the return to normalcy. As I stated earlier on a previous item, my concern is that now as we start to open things up, getting the social distancing and the enforcement of such, including on the waterways, is going to be very labor intensive for all the police departments. I've been on phone calls with both the State of Florida

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Police Chiefs Association, as well as Miami-Dade County, and we continue to put the plan in place for how we're going to assist in the enforcement efforts. As we've seen, this is going to come down to both a code enforcement, as well as a police enforcement tactic or how we're going to go about that. We've seen very few disturbances at some of the restaurants or grocery stores here in the Gables. One of the biggest issues we've had as far as -- is shoplifting of desperation and where we've made arrests on a lot of those cases. Other than that, I'm happy to announce that, I mean, our crime is still trending in the downward direction. The way we're dealing with our issues, we'd come in, we deal with it, we address it, and we move on. The one thing that we are concerned about looking forward is the long-term effect, as the doctor talked about, about how we're going to come out of this and the fact that a lot of the decisions being made now are going to be enforcement coming from the police departments throughout Dade County. That's all I have.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you, Chief. Thank you. Are there any comments or questions from the Commission? Questions?

Vice Mayor Lago: Yeah, I have a few questions. Am I on mute or it's fine?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Go ahead. We can hear you.

Vice Mayor Lago: Okay. Chief De La Rosa and Mr. City Manager, we've had some discussions back and forth over the last two weeks in regard to the concerns that we've been receiving from residents in regard to testing, testing sites in the city, who's eligible. I made a request. And obviously, this is a great opportunity to get some consensus from my colleagues on the Commission and get their input in regard to who is eligible. Who are the individuals? What is the number that we're using? Where are people reaching out? Are we depending on the County to do this testing? Are we going to have a -- like I requested -- and I know that Chief De La Rosa's been working on it -- a document which will go out which will educate the residents in regards to how to properly get testing or at least find out if they meet the CDC protocol for testing for the most vulnerable, people who are over 70 years old, people who are having symptoms. Those are my biggest concerns right now here in the city. And I want to make sure because I personally have

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called 311 and I've shared this information, and we ran through an exercise the following day at 9 o'clock in the morning to try to get appointments. We were successful about 50 percent of the time to get those appointments within the next -- within the following 24 hours. I want to make sure that nobody falls through the cracks. Staff is doing an incredible job. I've gotten multiple emails, and I know my colleagues have been copied on those emails to a certain extent, where residents have even said, "Stop calling." "You're calling me too many times." "Stop calling me. We're fine." You know, "We'll reach out if we need something." But I think my biggest concern -- and I think some of my colleagues would, I think, carry the same concern is that is we want to make sure that nobody falls through the cracks and make sure that any resident that needs or requires testing that they have a path forward, that they're not caught in the bureaucracy in the County which we know is evident. So, I just -- I want some guidance on that. I want to make sure that we're all on the same page. I want to know the number that people have to call. Are we going to put out that document that I requested which gives the criteria and a path forward for anybody who's interested in getting tested?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Mr. City Manager, you want to answer that? And then Chief.

Fire Chief De La Rosa: Can I...

City Manager Iglesias: Yes, Chief De La Rosa.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah, Chief.

Fire Chief De La Rosa: Alright, so first, the number that you can call for testing we have posted on our website. It's gone out on all of our flyers. It's been in our newspaper ads. And that is 305-460-5401.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Say it again.

Fire Chief De La Rosa: 305-460-5401. That has also been posted on, as I mentioned earlier, the Miami.gov website, and it is the number that is given when one accesses 311. Now with regards to testing, the criteria have remained the same, which is 65 years or older and signs and symptoms or someone with signs and symptoms. However, most of those criteria in a lot of these sites has been relaxed. As they have been relaxed, it has been posted on our website. And when you call our number, we facilitate the testing for you, regardless if you meet the official criteria or not. We've again followed up to make sure that those residents requesting testing have obtained an appointment and an opportunity to test. And that has been the case with everyone who's called our center. As Commissioner Lago stated, we conducted a test for him with regards to the testing or calling the number. We called the number, as he stated, 50 percent of the time, we were able to access. We communicated that to the County. They've added more folks to their 311 line.

Vice Mayor Lago: Can you -- can I -- can you just be a little bit more clear on that? Because I want people to understand that there were about 200 appointments that were given within a 24-hour period, and now they've ramped up to about 300, correct? Is that the number?

Fire Chief De La Rosa: In some facilities, they've ramped up higher as they lower...

Vice Mayor Lago: Okay.

Fire Chief De La Rosa: The criteria or the age group. So, there was appointments set when the criteria were very tight, and it was signs and symptoms or 65 years or older. When the criteria have lowered to 55, then 45, and so forth, they've added more lanes and they've added more access to testing. So, as I stated...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Chief, I have a question.

Fire Chief De La Rosa: Yes, sir.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Chief, I have a question. Was the criteria expanded because there were not enough takers when the criteria was more severe?

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Fire Chief De La Rosa: I couldn't hear your question, sir. I'm sorry.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Was the criteria expanded because there were not enough people when the criteria was stricter?

Fire Chief De La Rosa: As the demand decreased for that criteria, yes, the criteria was expanded.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. I hear that the criteria at some point was 19 years old and higher.

Fire Chief De La Rosa: It is the case now.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Nineteen years old and higher, which means that they were not -- go ahead.

Fire Chief De La Rosa: Mayor, there was a question in the chatroom regarding the antibody testing University of Miami is conducting. That's -- to just explain on that process. The University of Miami is conducting an epidemiological study. So, it is a study to find, using an antibody test, how many people throughout our entire community may have been exposed to the virus and not been aware of it. That study, they're using numbers within all the communities, but let's talk specifically within Coral Gables. They're using random phone numbers. They call that number and they invite the resident to participate in this study. If a resident agrees, then an appointment is scheduled, usually on Tuesdays in our city, for that test to occur, and that is an antibody test. So, I would ask Dr. Keroff to please elaborate briefly on the difference between the types of testing and the type of testing specifically that UM is participating.

Medical Director Keroff: Good morning again. Can you hear me?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Commissioner Keon: Yes.

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Medical Director Keroff: Okay. Antibody testing does not test for the disease, meaning does not test whether someone is infectious at the moment. What it tests is the body's response to the virus. So, if you had someone who tested positive on the antibody test, you still need to follow up with a swab through the nose or through the mouth to determine whether that individual is infectious. All it tells you is if someone has been exposed to the disease, contracted the disease, developed an immune response to the disease, and at some point in time, depending on which of the antibodies shows up, can tell you that this person was exposed and now presumably is immune. But again, it's not a very good tool to tell you who in the moment has the disease and can expose other people to the disease. The only test that you can do for that right now is the swab.

Commissioner Keon: Can you address the issue -- Dr. Keroff, can you talk a little bit about the availability or what the problem is with having great access to the swab testing and the issue with regard to (INAUDIBLE) the various machines and things that are available and what their needs are and the difficulty in the supply chain to mass test people.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Hello.

Vice Mayor Lago: Chief De La Rosa.

Medical Director Keroff: No, I'm unmuted now. Okay, I'll try to answer that question. So, very quickly, there are about five or six different platforms or machines that can test through the swabs that are available on the market. There are some that give you results -- or a positive result within five minutes. A negative result on that test on that machine would take about 15 minutes. The problem with that machine is you can only do one test at a time. So, it's good for small populations, not good for large populations. There are other platforms that you can test larger numbers of people who could be tested and there's machines now that can turn around 45-minute results, four-hour results and seven-hour results. The advantage of the machine, what they called the CDC platform, is the four-hour turnaround time because you basically can do 100 people at a time. So, you can do 100 specimens at a time. The problem really has been availability in turnaround time.

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A number of the -- early on, only -- there was only one private hospital in South Florida that was doing testing, and there was the Health Department. Lab Corps and Quest came online, and a number of the hospitals and other healthcare facilities are using Lab Corps and Quest for their own testing at this point. And unfortunately, what's happened is they've been so backlogged with testing that the last time I heard at the end of last week, it was taking about seven days for the results to come back. I hope that answered the question, Ms. Keon. Was there a second question?

Commissioner Keon: Yeah. The other was just, you know, not only the backlog in testing but the availability of the (INAUDIBLE) and the (INAUDIBLE) and everything (INAUDIBLE). there is (INAUDIBLE) I guess there is (INAUDIBLE) obtaining all of those supplies. (INAUDIBLE) they were able to do about 500 tests a day just because of the materials they had, where they would like to be able to run (INAUDIBLE). But the problem with widespread testing (INAUDIBLE) through the swabs, which is the most accurate way of testing. It's just the materials are not available to be able to do that. Is that the case?

Medical Director Keroff: Yes, it is, very much so. I was just on a call earlier this morning. Not only do you have to have the machine, you have to have the reagents in order to be able to do the testing, but before you even get there, you need to have the swabs and you need to have what they call the transport material and vials in order to be able to get that specimen from the patient to the machine. The biggest issue has been -- and it's obvious that you're very knowledgeable about all of this. But the biggest issue has been the swabs, the pipettes. A pipette is where you draw up the material to be able to put it into the machine. But the biggest issue has been the swabs and the transport (INAUDIBLE). And there's just a national shortage, so people may have the machine and the reagent, the testing materials available to do large number of tests, but simply don't have enough swabs to be able to collect the kind of specimens that they could collect and test if the swabs were available. So that is an ongoing issue, and there's nobody locally who is manufacturing them. And nationally, it's been a very big problem.

Commissioner Keon: Right, so I -- the (INAUDIBLE), you know, people keep writing and asking us, you know, that they want the -- they want an accurate (INAUDIBLE) to see if they are

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infectious if they have a fever or whatever and that's why the testing sites are being operated the way that they are because they're trying to test the number of people that they actually have the ability to test based on the supplies available to them. So, even if we wanted to, we wouldn't be able to, in a city like Coral Gables, you know, set up that test for residents because we -- because there just is not the availability of the product to be able to do that. Is that true?

Medical Director Keroff: It's a very good observation. Yes, it is true. But you can tell both nationally and locally, since the COVID crisis began, that (INAUDIBLE) changing rules on who gets tested has always been (INAUDIBLE) not necessarily who needed to be tested, but the availability of the test materials in order to be able to test people. So, as Chief De La Rosa talked to earlier, that the criteria that expanded initially was only for those people who were symptomatic and had significant risk factors. As more and more testing materials have become available, they've changed the criteria so that they expanded the age range, and now they've removed the risk criteria. So, basically, if you have the material available to test people you can test everybody who's symptomatic, but the obstacle or hurdle, if you will, at this point in time is just the availability of the testing materials.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you. (INAUDIBLE)? I mean, because we're getting calls from people also about purchasing the serum tests and why don't we use the University of Miami. I know that the University (INAUDIBLE) what they're doing is theirs is for an epidemiological study to look at how -- you know, what the (INAUDIBLE) across the county and its more study (INAUDIBLE) not for -- the purpose is for the purpose of tracking and not for the purpose of (INAUDIBLE). So -- and we also know -- can you talk a little to -- about the reliability of the serum tests on the market. I know the market is flooded with them now and I think the FDA (INAUDIBLE) a couple of them, and yet, many, many more are on the market. And could you talk to their reliability? Because it would be -- you know, if we can't buy reliable tests, you wouldn't want to go out there and do that. So, could you talk about that for a second?

Medical Director Keroff: Yes, thank you for the very good questions. Let me start by saying that the antibody test is not a test to diagnose somebody with the disease. It is a diagnosis -- it's a test they use (INAUDIBLE) an individual's response to disease, not a diagnosis of the disease. So,  
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you can't go and test your entire population and find out who currently has the disease because you would still have to follow up with all of those people who test positive to the antibody testing with a swab to say, yes, you have the disease, and yes, you are potentially infectious to other people. Unfortunately, with the antibody testing that's out there right now, there is only one test (INAUDIBLE) platform that it hasn't been approved by the FDA. It has been allowed to be used under the emergency use authorization which is a lower standard than getting official approval. Unfortunately, a lot of the test kits that are out there in the market at this point in time have all been made in China and basically been repackaged in the United States. The problem is with a lot of these is they -- there's a phenomenon called cross-reactivity. What you're looking for, the ideal test only tests for the COVID-19 virus and nothing else. So, when it's positive, you know it's positive just for the COVID-19 virus and no other kinds of viruses or other kinds of bacteria. We have Coronaviruses in the community all the time, seasonal Coronaviruses that are not the SARS, COVID-19 virus. They're always out there, and it's basically like having a head cold. Some of these tests that are coming from China and being repackaged here, these antibody tests also pick up the seasonal Coronaviruses, so you get false positives, meaning that somebody will test positive with this antibody test, but what they're really being -- testing positive for is not the SARS virus, the COVID-19 virus. It's for another Coronavirus or some others virus (INAUDIBLE) false negatives, where somebody can actually have the disease and test negative for -- on some of these antibody tests. So, a negative test with the antibody test really doesn't tell you anything at all. Remember, it takes five to ten days for your antibodies to mount up, so you could be infected, have the SARS virus and test negative on the antibody test. And again, a positive, there's probably a five percent false positive rate so that one out of every twenty individuals, one out of every ten individuals that tests positive with the antibody test actually doesn't have the COVID-19 disease; it's something else. So, the current products that are out in the market are unreliable. It may be more useful in high-risk populations where you expect the prevalence to be higher. But to do it in the general population, this particular test is not going to help you and give you a lot of useful information. Does that help?

Commissioner Keon: Yes, thank you. Now, I...

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Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Commissioner Keon: A question (INAUDIBLE).

Vice Mayor Lago: Chief.

Commissioner Keon: I think there were some (INAUDIBLE) that asked if -- you know, what's it going to take to get (INAUDIBLE). From what I keep hearing it's that it's the -- some federal regulations that need to change to be able to increase the production of some of these (INAUDIBLE) go in to test. (INAUDIBLE) also the (INAUDIBLE) with regard to (INAUDIBLE) but the actual swab that is (INAUDIBLE). There's a lot of (INAUDIBLE) needs to come into play in order to increase that supply. Is that the case?

Medical Director Keroff: I don't know if it's necessarily federal regulation as much as just the manufacturing process and people getting into it. The swabs that you need in order to obtain a nasal (INAUDIBLE) swab have very specific specifications, and I think this whole crisis just caught the entire marketplace -- caught them unaware. So, I think people are beginning to manufacture these things but there still seems to be a very considerable shortfall in the availability of the materials. We are still seeing that the labs that can test for the Coronavirus are very much dependent on their supply chain. And that changes from week to week, day to day. They can be told they're going to be getting a shipment tomorrow, and then tomorrow they get a call, no, not going to get it for another week or so. So, it's really hampered the ability to do consistent significant testing in the community.

Commissioner Keon: (INAUDIBLE) there. So, really, they're also prioritizing hospitals and first responders and frontline workers for those tests also, as opposed to the general public, when the supply is limited. Is that...

Medical Director Keroff: Yes. Yeah, first priority, obviously, is patients who are getting admitted to the hospital and then the first responders. (INAUDIBLE) very diligent with the Coral Gables  
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Police Department and Fire Department that anybody -- we've instituted a number of measures more than a month ago, trying to protect everyone who's on duty and anyone who becomes ill, making sure that they get tested quickly so that we can protect them, protect their families, protect their co-workers and protect the patients that they serve. So, we've been -- the Chief has been very, very good about keeping on top of all of this.

Commissioner Keon: Okay, thank you.

Commissioner Mena: Could I...

Commissioner Keon: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Why don't we go on? I mean, we've covered this. Any other comments from the City Commission?

Commissioner Mena: I have a comment and a question.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Go ahead.

Commissioner Fors: I have one when Mr. Mena's done.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Go ahead.

Commissioner Mena: Well, a couple things...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Mike, go ahead.

Commissioner Mena: Yes, thank you. A couple things. Before my question on the specific topic, I just want to note that somebody brought to my attention that our Zoom plan is capped at 100

people, so I just wanted to bring that -- make sure the City Clerk is aware of that and hopefully can work on that so that for future meetings, we have greater capacity.

City Clerk Urquia: Commissioner, we are aware. And we're going to make a statement to the Mayor and let him know we've gotten multiple comments that, you know, a hundred is the maximum, and we're working to increase it to up to a thousand right now.

Commissioner Mena: I understand, and I know this is a work in progress, and we're doing the best we can. So, I just wanted to make sure you were on it. Thank you. With respect to the testing, a lot of interesting comments, obviously, about specifically the antibody testing and some of the sort of macro level issues with respect to the availability of testing, et cetera. I think what is important -- and maybe Chief De La Rosa can address this or maybe the gentleman who was speaking. I think what our residents are asking and what we're being asked by our residents is not so much necessarily about the antibody tests, but about the actual testing relating to people to determine whether or not they may have it or not. You know, and I've been told that University has more than one test ongoing. So, I think what I'd like Chief De La Rosa to address is, you know, one thing is availability of testing. Okay, obviously, if we don't have enough test -- there's only -- if you can't get testing, then you can't get tested.

Vice Mayor Lago: Right.

Commissioner Mena: If we can get testing and there is supply, obviously, the decision has been made that the City, at this point in time, is not providing that. And I want to make sure that Chief De La Rosa clarifies a couple of things: One, that the discussion he was having about the availability of testing in the City and when people are referred to the County or however it is that that works, one, that he's limiting that discussion to sort of government-provided testing as opposed to being able to go to a private practice or a hospital, or other places within the City that are providing testing because I know there are several. And then too, just walk through the decision at this point in time, that the City's not going to be providing testing to residents directly and why. I think we need to address that head on and then move forward. So, whether it's Chief De La

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Rosa, the Manager, whoever the appropriate person is to answer and address that, I think that's what people are looking for answers to. I think the discussion; the broader discussion is very insightful and helpful in terms of not only the antibody testing but the sort of macro level issues facing society. But our residents are asking what's our decision-making process and why are we doing what we're doing. And I think it's important that we answer that very clearly and communicate that very clearly.

Commissioner Fors: And I just want to build on Commissioner Mena's comments. My question was essentially the same question. The way I see it, there's three types of testing. There's testing based out of necessity, testing to study the virus, like UM is doing, and then testing as a service, as a convenience to our residents, which is what I think they're asking for, and I think that's what we have to answer straight on because we had a conversation about it, myself and Chief De La Rosa, and he explained various different obstacles for us to be able to offer that testing as a service, apart just from the supply of testing. So, if you could please give those reasons, the actual logistics behind offering testing, even though we may not need to because the address -- the need is being addressed by the County.

City Manager Iglesias: Chief De La Rosa.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Chief.

Commissioner Mena: They have to unmute him. Give him a second.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yeah.

Commissioner Fors: And finally, an even more direct way of answering the question while we get Chief De La Rosa unmuted is what do we say to the resident that says, "Well, how is Key Biscayne doing it?"

Vice Mayor Lago: Yeah. And Commissioner, if I may add to that, that was what we were discussing before we got into a very granular level of testing and swabs and all kinds of things, which, I mean, I think that we all see it on TV every single day, that there's a shortage of products. But I think the biggest question here in this community is not whether, you know, the swab is being produced and where it's being produced. I think people are very concerned, like you mentioned, and Commissioner Mena mentioned about the issue of "If I want to get tested today, what do I need to do?" And there's confusion on why the City can't provide that. And I think some of us have been asking the questions about, "Is there a way to push some sort of document or some sort of email that basically provides all the information and provides a step-by-step guidance for those people to get testing?" And if there is a hiccup in the process, if we're pushing people to Miami-Dade County and calling 311, then I want to make sure that we hold every person who needs testing, their hand, to make sure that nobody falls through the cracks. And that's -- that I'm still waiting for that document so that we can send it out to the residents. Because if we're not going to provide testing here in the City, I also want to understand why we can't provide testing because that's -- again, like Commissioner Mena mentioned, it's the constant question that we're asking -- that they're asking, City residents.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Let me address that. We had -- there was a threshold there of 65 years old and not enough people were getting tested. And the threshold was 19 years old. I think it is frivolous, frivolous for us to test everybody 19 years above who wants to get tested just because they have nothing better to do. If they have symptoms or if it's a vulnerable population, I fully agree with you that they should get tested and we should provide that. And I think that, you know, 305-460-5401, we will provide that, and we will go to homes, our rescue people and our firefighters will go to homes and we'll provide those tests. But I'm not sure that I agree that anybody who wants to get tested, be he or she 19 or 21 or 22 years old, should get tested and that we should dedicate our resources away from those that need it in order to test everybody who wants to get tested.

Commissioner Mena: But nobody...

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Vice Mayor Lago: I don't think...

Commissioner Mena: But nobody suggested that.

Vice Mayor Lago: Nobody is saying that.

Commissioner Mena: Nobody has brought up the age. You're talking about what the protocol should be, which is a much more...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: The protocol (INAUDIBLE)...

Commissioner Mena: Is a much more specific discussion. The question is, right now, the protocol is we're not providing testing to anybody. And so, the question people are asking us is why, so that's what we'd like the Chief to address...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Go ahead, Chief.

Commissioner Mena: Because I think it's important for people to understand...

City Manager Iglesias: I'd like the Chief to...

Commissioner Mena: His thought process.

City Manager Iglesias: I would like the Chief to address that because he's done extensive work on that.

Fire Chief De La Rosa: Okay, so...

Commissioner Mena: Thank you.

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Fire Chief De La Rosa: So, folks, just -- I want to make sure that we're articulating the City's position correctly or to better explain it. The City of Coral Gables is facilitating testing for its residents. When you call the 5401 -- the 460-5401 number, we assist you in scheduling your appointment. So, as we stated before, everyone who's called our call center, regardless of age, regardless of demographic, when you call, we assist you in identifying the closest testing facility for you, and then we ensure that you're able to obtain an appointment at that facility, whether it be Marlins Stadium, whether it be the Youth Fair or down south at the South Dade Government Center. Everyone that's called us, we have successfully gotten them or made sure that they have had the access to testing that they required. If someone has called and identified through our system that you needed home bound testing, we have facilitated that. With regards to Commissioner Mena...

Vice Mayor Lago: Can you go back? Can you go back to...?

Fire Chief De La Rosa: Let me just finish my train of thought and I will.

Vice Mayor Lago: I would like for you to explain more about the homebound testing, which I think is important. I mean, that's what people are most concerned about. How are you meeting those...?

Fire Chief De La Rosa: Okay.

Vice Mayor Lago: How are you meeting a person who is homebound and getting them to test?

Fire Chief De La Rosa: When someone calls our call center and describes a need for testing that is within the group of homebound -- so, for instance, 90-year-old patient with a fever and he's bed-bound, that call gets referred to a paramedic. The paramedic has an algorithm that we ask questions on. We determine what their situation is and then we schedule them for a homebound test, so we've accomplished that already. We identified one gentleman that we actually felt that it was best for rescue to respond, then we facilitated that. So, if you call and you say I just -- "What's

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the best way for me to get tested? This is why I want to get tested.” Based on where you live, we say, “These are the available places. This is the number that you call. Which one seems the best for you?” And they go ahead and make the phone call. Afterwards, we do a follow-up call to or call center staff. you called our number. You inquired about testing. We’re just following up with you to make sure that you've obtained a testing. Most of them tell us, “Yes, I got an appointment with -- at Marlin Stadium or South Dade Government Center.” Some have said, “Actually, my doctor called me back and I got tested at my doctor’s office.” Going back to Commissioner Mena’s inquiry, one physician in our city organized testing for their -- her patients. They called us, and through the Manager's Office, we quickly facilitated their ability to do that. The hospitals in our city -- so whether it be Tenet or Baptist, have discussed with us -- UHealth as well -- that they are concentrating their resources, whether they be physical resources or human resources to emergent testing or the testing of patients that are sick or going to the hospital. They said that they were not going to get into community testing. One of the reasons they were not was because of the availability of testing surrounding our city. So, I hope I answered Commissioner Mena’s question this way. The City facilitates testing for its residents through our call center line. When you call that call center line, we assist you in getting tested at one of the testing facilities within our city -- surrounding our city. If you need homebound testing, then we facilitate that as well.

Vice Mayor Lago: How many homebound testings have we done up to date?

Fire Chief De La Rosa: Up to date, I believe we've done about three. That is more or less the numbers that other cities have done. So, for example, Miami Beach’s experience, they started at the beginning with a larger volume of people interested in homebound testing. When the same telephone algorithm for interview that we used -- that we’re using, they used, that list was narrowed down and I believe they've done like either eight on one day, six on another occasional day, but their numbers are coming down as they get better and better experienced with that algorithm. So, they're using the same algorithm that we are.

Vice Mayor Lago: So, to bring this full circle because I've been asking -- and I know that my colleagues have also been asking for this, can we get a one-page position paper, basically, that we could send out to the residents on social media, on some sort of platform to explain the process because, obviously, we're not going to be offering testing in the city. I think it's important. I think we've had that discussion for the last two or three weeks we've brought up that this could be an opportunity to alleviate some concerns in the city. But if we're going to go the route of pushing everybody to 311 unless they're homebound, which is -- in three cases, we've been able to offer the testing, I think we need to make it as clear as possible, providing the numbers and providing a directive for these residents to make sure that they can move in that direction.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Well, I...

Vice Mayor Lago: I mean, I've said it very clearly. I've said it very clearly before. I'm in favor of testing. I continue to be in favor of testing. I see other cities like Key Biscayne doing it. But again, if we're not going to move in that direction, I want to make it as easy as possible so that people can read one piece of paper or can read one email or can refer back to that email and it tells them all the numbers they need to call. And if they hit a road block, there needs to be a contact person in the City of Coral Gables that will hold their hands, like we do on a litany of other situations here in the City because that's what we're really good at. Reach -- you know, reach out to these individuals who have serious concerns about testing, whether they're asymptomatic or not, whether they meet some sort of CDC protocol and make sure that, again, it's an easy step-by-step process.

City Manager Iglesias: Well, let me just say that we have a city -- the City of Miami -- that's about ten times our size, and then we have a city that's in Key Biscayne that's probably, with their actual population, about one-tenth of our size. If Chief De La Rosa has contacted -- I don't know how many different hospitals and agencies to go ahead and try to do this and has not been successful, there are issues besides getting testing as to -- they're other issues as to how many tests are really going to be performed. If we want to do testing at whatever (INAUDIBLE) whatever issue it is, then we can look at it from that perspective. We just have hospitals inside this city who don't --

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who are not doing it. We have got clinics in this city who are not doing it. We've talked to labs and so forth who don't feel there is probably going to be enough testing in this city to warrant it. So -- and so we really are -- it's just been very difficult to find anybody who really wants to do it. And so, this is Chief De La Rosa's problem, and this is my problem. And if we are willing to say to -- I mean, we have had people say, "Well, bring the people here and we will test them here." That doesn't resolve the problem. That doesn't -- you might as well just go to one of the testing sites in the county and do it. What we have done is we've had our emergency management do an actual needs assessment as to what the City wants, as to what these residents need, over a thousand residents, and we're trying to provide that as best we can. We are -- our size is interesting. We're 51,000 people. We're not a one-tenth of the population or ten times the population. So, we are at this level where we really have an issue as to who can actually do the assessment here, besides the fact that we can't get materials to do it. So, these are the -- this is what actually happened. And whether we want to say we want to have testing here at whatever cost it is doesn't matter, just get it here, we can certainly do that. I mean, we deal with these issues in hurricanes. We deal with these issues in everything. But I do think that our emergency management folks have done an outstanding job, outstanding job in trying to find the best solution to the problem at hand. We've looked at every single way of trying to get testing here. What is best for our city? How can we get the best testing? How can we facilitate it? And this is what we have. So, I want to say that our emergency management folks have done an incredible job in this. And I don't -- these solutions are not simple. They're not very simple. They are not very straightforward and they're not (INAUDIBLE).

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

Commissioner Lago: Peter...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Let me -- we have a lot of people waiting to speak and waiting to participate. Are there any other Commission -- I mean, we've been at this for an hour, which is very well spent. Any other Commission comments?

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Vice Mayor Lago: Yeah, I have one last comment.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Please.

Vice Mayor Lago: And this is for, obviously, the City Manager. When you mentioned the issue of other cities, you know, whether we can get the testing, I mean, obviously, Hialeah, Key Biscayne, they're doing it. So, obviously, they were able to find testing and reliable testing because I don't think they would offer their residents testing that's not reliable. So, I think there's still an opportunity to do that and I think that we should explore every option to get testing here. One thing that I want to make sure -- and just let me -- let me just put this on the record. And I ask my colleagues to do their own homework and reach out to see how we can offer this. If you read clearly, the biggest concerns are for nursing homes and ALF facilities, where you're seeing a lot of the vulnerable population gets sick. My understanding is that general effort from the National Guard just released through the Governor mobile testing teams, opportunities for mobile testing to be dispatched through different ALFs and nursing homes. I know that we have some here in the city, and I think it's a good opportunity that we should maybe explore that to make sure that all our residents are taken care of in those nursing homes and ALF facilities. A lot of them can't be visited. They're alone. They can't be visited by their parents, by their friends, by their children. So maybe we could take advantage of these mobile testing teams which is being offered now through the National Guard. Maybe we can offer up a resolution requesting that the Governor offer us that type of resource for our residents.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you, Commissioner.

Commissioner Fors: Mayor...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I mean, Vice Mayor.

Commissioner Fors: I think Chief De La Rosa was about to say something in response...

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Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Please.

Commissioner Fors: To Vice Mayor Lago's comment about the fact that other cities are doing it. You know, I don't know if we're trying to not hurt anybody's feelings, but you know, if it -- is it the case that some of our neighbors are testing and it's really just to make them feel warm and fuzzy inside and it's not really being effective or reliable or -- again, what's the answer to the direct question of why is Key Biscayne doing it? Is it what the City Manager said, that they have a much smaller population than us, therefore, it's more feasible? I know, for instance, they've only tested -- last time I checked, they've tested less than 300 and that was just a few hours ago. Is that the real reason why Key Biscayne is able to do it and we are not? Is it the numbers or is it the fact that maybe the testing they're doing is not exactly reliable, and they're doing it just to make...?

City Manager Iglesias: Well, I'm going to answer that, Commissioner Fors. We have close contact with all the agencies and we're not going to really say anything negative about any other city or any other testing. That's not where we're at. But I think -- I believe Chief De La Rosa is in contact with all those agencies. We know what the negatives are. We know what the actual testing -- it's not quite what everybody thinks, and that's all I'm going to say about that because I don't think we should be here, you know, discussing what other cities do and what they don't do. But we are in direct contact with everybody that's actually doing it. We know the pluses and minuses of what they're doing, and we know where they wish they would be, but we really are not going to be here, you know, saying -- talking negatively or in any other way about any other city. But I will say that our emergency management is in contact with every other city and we know what the pluses and minuses of what they've done and what things have been accomplished. And for the most part, you know -- well, that's all I'm going to say.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Let's hear from the members of the public. We have 100 people that wish to speak.

Commissioner Keon: Right. Can I just...

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Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And give them -- come on. Let's finish the Commission and not repeat ourselves.

Commissioner Keon: (INAUDIBLE) my understanding is Key Biscayne had, through the Community Foundation, a contract with (INAUDIBLE) to do the testing and were given a starter kit because of their number of (INAUDIBLE) whatever else (INAUDIBLE) testing and they have tested only a very limited number of people because of the availability of the product that they need to do the testing. That testing is reliable (INAUDIBLE) but it is the availability of product to do the testing.

City Manager Iglesias: And Hialeah, Commissioner, was being tested through Larkin Hospital.

Commissioner Keon: Yeah. I don't know about...

City Manager Iglesias: Yes, Hialeah was Larkin Hospital that was actually testing.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yeah. I mean, we all read the same article that came out yesterday in regard to Key Biscayne. I mean -- but they're not having -- I've spoken to several individuals who live on the Key and it's not an issue of whether they have enough test kits. I mean, it's reliable, it works. So, I think it's still an option, an opportunity. I don't believe we should discard it. I think we should use Key Biscayne as an example of someone that's actually, I think, you know, offering that final opportunity for somebody who may want testing. So -- and if anybody -- I mean that article, it's pretty clear and to the point that it's actually working.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay, let's hear from members of the public now, unless there are other comments from the Commission.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor, just really quick...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Mr. Urquia.

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City Clerk Urquia: Before we go to the members of the public. The chatroom has been very active, and the public has made a lot of comments on there. Would you like me to read the comments to the Commission or is the Commission able to see the comments and has been answering them as they go along?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I have been seeing the comments. And Miriam, what do you suggest? There are people that wish to speak and maybe we should take those first. There is a three-minute limit on the speakers, but we should hear the people that want to speak first.

Commissioner Mena: I think if we give people an opportunity to speak, there's no reason to then read their chat message (INAUDIBLE).

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Well, there are others -- some that won't.

Commissioner Mena: Right, but those...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: (INAUDIBLE).

Commissioner Mena: Who are present and would like to...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: But they deserve to be heard too.

Commissioner Mena: Those -- nobody said otherwise. Those who are present and would like to speak, we should let them speak.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: That's what I said, Commissioner.

Commissioner Mena: Right. But then we do not have to...

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Mayor Valdes-Fauli: That's exactly what I said.

Commissioner Mena: Then we do not have to read their chat message if they already spoke.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Not theirs, but there are others. Go ahead.

Commissioner Mena: That's what I said.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Billy.

Commissioner Mena: That's what I said.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Right.

City Clerk Urquia: Alright. I believe Javier Banos had said that he wanted to speak, and he was one of the first ones to voice that.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Mr. Banos, three minutes. Will you keep the time, Mr. Urquia?

City Clerk Urquia: Yes, sir, I will.

Javier Banos: Hello. Hello? Hello?

Commissioner Mena: Yeah.

Vice Mayor Lago: We can hear you. We can hear you.

Mr. Banos: Yeah. I appreciate the many instances in which Commissioner Keon and others have said what we cannot do. What I would really like to hear is the things we can because, in the future, we would like to return to some semblance of what we used to be normal. And clearly, we

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won't be able to do that if we don't test people, have the proper resources in place. But what I want to hear from my two chiefs, from the rest of the City management is what's the plan. What's the future going to look like? What are we doing? So, when we actually have to open the City back up in some limited way we're not, you know, invaded by clusters of the virus. We can trace back people who actually are sick, and then we can go ahead and test them. I'll take my answer (INAUDIBLE).

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Peter.

City Manager Iglesias: Chief De La Rosa, can you comment, please?

Fire Chief De La Rosa: So, the answer to that question is, we continue to provide testing to our community through our surrounding testing facilities. We facilitate that testing. We've done it. We held their hand, as Mr. -- as Vice Mayor Lago has said before. When we provide the follow-up calls to make sure they have addressed whatever testing issue they may have. Those that need to be tested at home have been tested at home. The process for reopening our city and those decisions as to how and what phases have been done the same way that we reached public protective actions up to this point, based on CDC guidance in conjunction and in collaboration with the County and their protective actions and their executive orders. As you've noticed throughout this process, as we began to make public protective decisions at the county level, our City followed through. In the times that we felt that we needed to go beyond that, such as curfews, we followed through. Currently, all our city department heads and emergency management continue to be in collaboration with the County and their discussions as to how to phase opening back up and to do so. So, we -- to summarize the answer to you, Mr. Banos, is we continue to work within the CDC guidelines and our county and state officials on how to phase the City back in. City residents have access to testing through the area testing sites that surround us. In addition to that, they have for homebound patients through our Fire Department in conjunction with Miami-Dade County's infrastructure.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Mr. Banos.

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Fire Chief De La Rosa: Anyone who needs testing, anyone who wants to follow that algorithm, the 460-5401 number is how we facilitate that.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Mr. Banos, let me assure you of one thing, that regarded of how politicized this is, national, the state or the county level, we are Coral Gables and we will not open up fully without assurances that we will not fall again into a contagious contagion downward spiral. I can assure you of that. Billy, next question, the next comment.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor, Vicky Alvarez has requested to speak.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Please.

Vicky Alvarez: Good morning, everyone. My question is regarding the County testing, you cannot get tested unless you have symptoms or have been in contact with somebody with symptoms, correct? Is that correct? No, I'm just asking is-- can you get tested if you don't have any symptoms? Because I think that's the key that everyone is saying. I mean, it's okay for somebody with symptoms to get tested, but how about the asymptomatic people who could be contagious and are spreading the virus? Especially in regard to construction sites that are open in the City, I don't see any enforcement there regarding masks or social distancing. I'd like you to speak to that.

Fire Chief De La Rosa: So...

Ms. Alvarez: I guess I have two questions in that.

Fire Chief De La Rosa: So, ma'am, let me address your first question.

Ms. Alvarez: Yes.



Fire Chief De La Rosa: The testing at all the sites have been consistently reduced as far as the criteria with regards to age as testing resources have become more available, or the sites are able to ramp up.

Ms. Alvarez: Yes, but you still have to have symptoms in order to get tested, correct? You can't just go in unless you have symptoms, correct?

Fire Chief De La Rosa: That's correct.

Ms. Alvarez: Okay, so...

Fire Chief De La Rosa: Asymptomatic testing...

Ms. Alvarez: Is not available.

Fire Chief De La Rosa: Has not -- no, it is not available.

Ms. Alvarez: Okay.

Fire Chief De La Rosa: (INAUDIBLE) the city sites doing asymptomatic testing.

Ms. Alvarez: Right. And I believe Dr. Fauci and the CDC said that in order to reopen businesses and everything, we need to have asymptomatic testing; is that correct?

Fire Chief De La Rosa: I can't comment on Dr. Fauci's...

Ms. Alvarez: Okay, or the CDC that we need more widespread testing in order to open up; is that correct?

Fire Chief De La Rosa: The CDC guidelines up to this point have been for symptomatic testing.

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Ms. Alvarez: Okay.

Fire Chief De La Rosa: And your second question, could you repeat your second question?

Ms. Alvarez: My second question is regarding the construction sites that are rampant throughout this city, I -- there's one right in the next block over. There's a couple around my neighborhood, not just in the city center. I don't see any enforcement regarding social distancing or masks being required, you know. We don't have -- I mean, this is not a closed city. We have people from other places that come to this city and, you know, they could be spreading the virus also. So, what is being done regarding that?

Fire Chief De La Rosa: You mean the construction sites?

Ms. Alvarez: Yeah, construction sites. In fact, the other day I was around City Hall, and there were like a whole bunch of contractors and they -- some of them didn't have masks on. They were near each other. They weren't six feet apart. What is being done to enforce any kind of, you know, COVID protocols there?

City Manager Iglesias: We have -- I will answer that. We have Code Enforcement officers and our inspectors. They're going site by site.

Ms. Alvarez: Okay.

City Manager Iglesias: If you were at City Hall and you saw people without a mask on, they weren't coming to City Hall because we don't allow anybody to come into City Hall. But we don't...

Ms. Alvarez: I didn't say -- they weren't inside. They were outside, but they were all congregating. And it was like -- you know, it was like a normal day. It wasn't like there was anything going on.

City Manager Iglesias: But that's not a construction site. We don't allow anybody into City Hall. I mean, that's not a construction site. A construction site is a physical site and we have -- if that site is not compliant, then the site gets closed by the Building Official. Anybody -- we don't allow anybody in City Hall right now. We are processing plans from the outside, and we don't process plans of anybody who does not come with a mask on. And we also provide a temperature check. So, if they're congregating outside in the street, I'm not sure -- that's different. That's not a construction site.

Ms. Alvarez: It's not a construction site...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Ms. Alvarez: But they're still congregating. It's -- I mean, it's...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We're doing whatever -- we're doing what we can concerning Code Enforcement, Madam.

Ms. Alvarez: Okay. And let me...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Next question.

City Manager Iglesias: Yes, we are, Mayor, but...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Your time is up, Madam.

Ms. Alvarez: Thank you.

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Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Next question.

City Manager Iglesias: (INAUDIBLE) without a mask, it's not -- that's not the requirement right now. So, it's not prudent but construction sites are what we control.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Next question, Mr. Urquia.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor, the next question is Evie Valdez.

Ms. Alvarez: Hold on. I'll call you back.

Evie Valdez: Hello. Can everyone hear me?

Commissioner Keon: Yes.

Ms. Valdez: Yes, hi. So, yeah, thank you for the opportunity to speak. I just wanted to, I guess, like go over (INAUDIBLE)...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Can you give us your name and address, please?

Ms. Valdez: Oh, hi. Sorry. So, my name is Evie Suarez. I live at 2000 Salzedo Street, aka the Sofia.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Ms. Valdez: So, I just wanted to go over some of the comments I'd left in the chat. So, Commissioner -- sorry -- Vince Lago, thank you so much for being an advocate for widespread testing. I just wanted to know if the City has come to any or is arriving to any conclusion as to what the threshold would be for reopening businesses. Like is there a plan to -- I don't know --

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test at least half the Coral Gables population, 60 percent? Just considering that Vince Lago has made the point before that we're just -- we're so porous. It's so many people, I think upwards of 700,000 passes through Coral Gables on a daily basis. What's the threshold for determining (INAUDIBLE) reopen fully public spaces and businesses?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I -- Mr. City Manager, you can answer that, but my -- I mean, and I'm the one that signed the order to close businesses. This is a very, very new situation. We don't have, you know, a threshold under 17 or under 70 or under whatever we open. It's flexible, and it depends on what the national government, the state, the county and also our view of the situation, given advice by medical experts. We have to be very, very careful that we don't open beforehand and then create another downward spiral of contagion. I don't think that we have a threshold at this point. I'm sorry to answer that.

City Manager Iglesias: Mr. Mayor, as you were saying, the County, number one, has to open it first. And then we can react by looking at our experts, like Dr. Keroff, and epidemiologists and make sure that what we're doing fits for us. So, first the County has to allow it, and then we will look at it from our perspective to see if that fits our city. And that would be in discussion with the Mayor certainly before anything opens.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Next question.

Ms. Valdez: Okay.

City Clerk Urquia: Next we have Ms. Maria Cruz.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Again? Our little ray of sunshine. Maria, you're on. Maria. Maria.

Ms. Cruz: Can you hear me?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Now we can. Now we can.

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Ms. Cruz: Alright. This is not related to what I was -- what I discussed before. This has to do with listening to the people. I do not know why we have to be so defensive. I do not know why we have to hear the process time and time again. I think what we're saying, from what I'm reading the comments and what I -- we're trying to avoid the big elephant in the room. Our residents are used to being taken care of by our city. We trust our people. We trust our elected officials. We trust the people that work here. We -- I'm sorry. This business of facilitating us to go to other places is not what the residents want to hear. We don't want to be facilitated to go to Marlins Park. We don't not want to be facilitated to go to Hard Rock. We are being told that for our sake we should be quarantined in our homes. Now we're being told, "Oh, no, no. But if you want to get tested, you have to leave your house, go where other people are walking around and maybe get exposed or maybe not," because the City of Coral Gables Administration has decided that no, we don't need to do it. Okay, it's time to listen. Read the messages and listen to the people. This is not what we want to hear. And I appreciate bringing in the doctor and I appreciate Chief De La Rosa speaking, but that's not what we're saying.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you, Maria.

Ms. Cruz: You're welcome.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much. Next, Billy.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor, I have no one else has requested to speak. Please know that all the comments that have been made through the chat will be made part of the public record.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Commissioner Fors: Mayor, I'd like to add something or propose something or...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Of course.

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Commissioner Fors: Put something out there. You know, we've heard of (INAUDIBLE) testing, many of which are valid. At the same time, we've heard that, in essence, at the end of the day, nothing is impossible and there could be a plan to offer testing. It may have a steep price tag and it might be so steep that it's something the Commission's not willing to consider. But are we able to leave from this meeting and have a directive to put that plan on paper so the Commission can make a decision of whether it's feasible or whether we're prepared to pay the price for it? If it comes back and it says, look, testing like the type being done in Key Biscayne, for Coral Gables, it's going to cost \$10 million, I would probably not support it. But we don't know, as we stand here today, whether something that we -- a cost that we would be willing to pay. Can we -- I'm looking to get input from my colleagues -- consider because I would support it going forth from here and putting that plan on paper so this Commission can decide if it's something we want to do or not.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you, Commissioner.

Vice Mayor Lago: I would...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright. Mr. Urquia.

Vice Mayor Lago: If I may, if I may, Mayor. I support...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Let's finish this up, please. Go ahead.

Vice Mayor Lago: I support Commissioner Fors' comments and I just want to add a little caveat to his statement. I mean, for example, even if it's an issue of cost that we're looking to save money, people who are -- again, do not have any symptoms, maybe those individuals are willing to be a portion or the entire test, and we can -- I mean, obviously, meeting certain thresholds. Obviously, the elderly wouldn't pay and the people who are symptomatic. But if we're looking for -- I think

it's an opportunity I think that should be explored and at least put on paper, like Commissioner Fors said, and brought before the Commission for a decision.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Alright, we'll go on.

City Manager Iglesias: Mayor, can I ask a question?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very, very much.

City Manager Iglesias: Let me ask a question. Are we looking at all the testing to be homebound or are we looking to set up a testing site?

Commissioner Fors: I think both options have to be looked at. From what I understand from speaking to you, homebound testing is a much burdensome (INAUDIBLE).

City Manager Iglesias: It is. It is, and we probably do not have the facility -- our Fire Department's not really big enough to have -- for a city of this size -- to do all of them homebound. So, we could look at...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

City Manager Iglesias: Homebound testing for those that require it, that cannot leave their homes, they cannot -- that are home -- that are truly homebound. And then we could look at trying to find a site that would do it, and we can certainly look at those costs and look at -- see if somebody -- first, if somebody's -- if we have a lab that's willing to do it because we certainly -- our Fire Department is not a lab. They're not a testing site. And then we can -- we could work from there so we can facilitate that and see if there's anything available now that was not available before. We can certainly go ongoing and then certainly look at whether we increase the cost to a level where it might be feasible to do so, regardless of the number of people who do the test. So -- and we can look at various options like that, Commissioner Fors, and look at that from that perspective.

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It's not that -- I just want to make sure -- it's not that we haven't looked at it. It's that we've had no feasible way of doing it now because of the population size. So, we can certainly look at that and we can certainly look at, you know, the cost perspective, at the cost, which is probably something that if the Commission feels that's acceptable, then we could go that route.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Thank you very much.

Commissioner Fors: And I hear from Mayor Valdes-Fauli and I see it from all of the news that it is true that even when testing is available, not as many people as you would think are taking advantage of it. So, maybe we don't need that many tests. Maybe that puts us in...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Commissioner, I -- which is (INAUDIBLE) of what you're saying. I understand that in the first week, only ten people got tested in Key Biscayne.

City Manager Iglesias: Which is one of the issues.

Commissioner Mena: But so, what's -- but what's the problem then?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: You know, first week, ten people.

Vice Mayor Lago: But what's the issue?

Commissioner Mena: That's the thing I don't understand. And I keep hearing that...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: The issue is that...

Commissioner Mena: The availability is an issue, from the Manager and from the Fire chief. I just want to make sure I understand that clearly because I've been on record and I've stated I brought a lab to the City Manager a few weeks ago and they were going to communicate with that lab, BioReference Labs, who was one of the two labs that's providing testing for City of Miami.

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There was a price associated with it. I think the price is a bit of a secondary issue. I understand that funding is important, but I assume -- I don't know this for sure -- that on some level our residents would be willing to pay some reasonable amount if they had to, if it was made available to them in a safe and reasonable fashion. So, the cost part, you know, there's ways to offset that. That's a secondary issue from availability. Because I keep hearing, "Well, if it's available, if it's available." Either it's available or not. And if the point is, well, not as many people are using it as you would think, great, you know. It's available and they can either use it or not, but at least it's something that gives our residents peace of mind that if they are having symptoms or they have a concern, they have that option. Now, to be clear, I understand what the Chief has said, which is there is an option. They can call. We can make an appointment for them. We can refer them to it. But I think what our residents are asking for is more of a localized option that's available to them without having to go to the County site. And again, is the answer -- I don't want to hear about funds right now because that's a secondary issue -- is the answer that they're not available or is the answer that it's not necessary at this time because, you know, it's not something that's going to allow us to open back up for some reason. You know, I think we have to have that discussion. And I'll just add some -- as we had the discussion about opening back up, I think something everybody needs to keep in mind, which is obvious, but it's important is, you know, a lot of the people that work and visit our downtown are not Coral Gables residents. So, we need to have a plan that considers not only our residents, but the broader implication. I work in downtown Coral Gables and I would say that 90 percent of the people in my office of 100-plus are not Coral Gables residents. So, even if we provided testing for our residents, that's not the magic bullet to opening back up. It's a good first step, but we need to have a broader plan than that to be able to determine how to open up our businesses and how to reopen our society. So, I just want some of those things addressed. I keep hearing about availability, but my understanding is there's availability. So, what am I missing here?

City Manager Iglesias: I think that -- to answer one of your questions -- having very little testing is also a problem. (INAUDIBLE) has contacted various labs and they think that there won't be sufficient number of testing in Coral Gables to really start up a facility here. So, the fact that low testing is good for getting availability of the actual testing material, it's also bad from the lab's

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business perspective, which is how many people -- why set up a lab and there's only 20 people, so that works both ways. And so, we are dealing with that also. So, it's not only just availability of the materials. It's actually getting a lab. And the Chief has talked to various labs here that simply do not want to start one here because they think there won't be enough demand and that's another issue. So, yes, that does help from the product perspective, but the demand issue is also there. So -- and we can overcome those demand issues. There's -- we can -- and I'm not bringing up the price. I'm just saying those demand issues that we have come up with because to come here and do ten tests is not something a lab is going to do. It's not worth it for a lab to do so. And that's some of the issues that the Chief has -- and I have actually discussed. I just want to make sure that you all understand that we have been looking at this since the very beginning because we knew this was going to be an issue. I'm not surprised this is happening. We knew this was going to be an issue. And so, we've been looking at this since the very beginning to try to get somebody here to see how we can do it, and there's multiple things involved here and it's not just price. It's not just testing, and it's not just -- so there's multiple issues involved. We can certainly address them all and come back and address that with the City Commission. We'd be happy to. Because we have...

City Attorney Ramos: So, I'd like to chime in on steps forward. Commissioner Fors, if that's what you'd like to do, you should probably move that as direction to the Manager. And then we have to figure out procedurally how we move forward because of the date. So, the next time this Commission is scheduled to meet is May 12. I suspect the Commission would like to make a decision about testing before that. So...

Vice Mayor Lago: Why don't we just...

City Attorney Ramos: Is the direction to have a special Commission meeting? Because otherwise, the power lies with the Mayor during the state of emergency.

Commissioner Fors: Yeah. And I was just about to ask...

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Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Commissioner Fors, make a motion. Let's -- make a motion that we look at this and get a recommendation from the City Manager and then we'll discuss it.

Commissioner Fors: I move to direct the City Manager and staff to formulate a plan for offering testing here in Coral Gables. And I don't know if I can couple this, Miriam, Madam City Attorney, with a proposed special meeting before May 12 to discuss it and make a decision.

City Attorney Ramos: You may want to have them...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: (INAUDIBLE) meeting.

City Attorney Ramos: As two separate motions for clarity.

Commissioner Fors: Alright. So, we can strike the second half and just move to direct the City Manager and City staff to formulate a plan for offering testing here in the City of Coral Gables.

Vice Mayor Lago: So moved.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And I will call for a meeting...

Commissioner Keon: Can I ask...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: When we have that plan.

Commissioner Keon: Can I ask...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Is there a second?

Vice Mayor Lago: Second.

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Commissioner Mena: There's a question.

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

Commissioner Keon: Could I...

Commissioner Mena: I think there's a question from Commissioner Keon.

City Clerk Urquia: I believe Commissioner Keon has a question.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Come on.

Commissioner Keon: I have one question, please. When you're looking to -- for a plan, are you looking for testing of anyone who wants it? Are you looking for testing for vulnerable populations? Are you looking for testing for people with symptoms or you want them to come up with the parameters?

Commissioner Fors: I want them to come up with the parameters.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: (INAUDIBLE). Let's...

Commissioner Fors: Really, whatever's feasible, whatever's feasible.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: No, let's let the City Manager come up with suggestions and then we will discuss those and add to them or take away from them.

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: But let the City Manager do it versus us imposing on him what he should come with.

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Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you call the roll, please?

Commissioner Mena: Yes.

Commissioner Fors: Yes.

Commissioner Keon: Yes.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes.

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright, next item is H-2.

City Clerk Urquia: Commissioner Fors, would you like to make a second motion?

Commissioner Fors: No, I agree with the Mayor, that we can call for the special meeting separately once we seen.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I assure you that I'll call for a special meeting when we have that.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor, we have one more resident who wanted to speak before you moved on. It's up to you. It's Barbara Ines.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Go ahead, three minutes.

Barbara Ines: Hi there. My question is regarding the wearing masks and the social distancing. Is that going to be enforced at some point in the city? Because to me that seems like it's a huge concern. That's a big way that the virus is spread. I don't know, you know, to what level it can be

enforced but maybe with ticketing, with something so that people truly understand the seriousness of this virus.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I will let the City -- I mean, our Chief or City Manager address that, but it would be very, very difficult to ticket everybody who is not wearing a mask. And we...

Ms. Ines: Or the groups that are larger than five.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And we have had complaints about intrusion into people's lives. That will be the ultimate intrusion. Go ahead, Chief or City Manager.

City Manager Iglesias: So, Mayor, I'm going to allow Chief Hudak to answer that because he's been dealing with some of the issues in certainly Granada and some of the other areas. Chief Hudak, please respond.

Police Chief Hudak: Yes, sir. We are getting calls about social gatherings or trying to keep them away. Again, the point forward for the department obviously is to try and get passive assistance with that. We are finding that a lot of the businesses, because of their vulnerability and being responsible for people inside those businesses wearing masks has been happening. Again, I think if you listen to the experts about what it is, the social distancing and the masking is keep the virus in. Again, we preach to everybody. If you see somebody that's not masked up or a group, to stay away, let us know, and then we put our officers to go by there and try and get compliance with the law. The last thing that we want to do is arrest somebody for not wearing a mask. That's not really our intention from the law enforcement side for a lot of these different issues. However, if you do see it, you can always let us know. I mean, over the weekends with birthday parties and staging and things like that, we are getting a lot of phone calls. We have had about 99 percent compliance since this has started with just us kind of insisting that they mask up or they practice the social distancing.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Thank you, Chief. Alright, now we'll go to H-2.

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