

City of Coral Gables City Commission
September 23, 2014
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Jim Cason

Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.

Commissioner Patricia Keon

Commissioner Vince Lago

Commissioner Frank Quesada

City Staff

Acting Interim City Manager, Cynthia Birdsill

City Attorney, Craig E. Leen

City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman

Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speakers:

Josie Legido Correa, Regional Director, Florida Retail Federation

John O'Rourke, Owner, Montica Jewelry

Mark Trowbridge, CEO, Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce

[Start: 10:04:35 AM]

D.-1.

Mayor Cason: We're moving to item D-1. D-1. We have with us today Mark Trowbridge, president and CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of the Coral Gables chamber of customers; and Josie Legido-Correa, regional director, Florida Retail Federation, to recognize Montica Jewelry owners John and Marichi O'Rourke for being named Florida Outstanding Retail Leaders by the Florida Retail Federation. Congratulations.

Applause.

Josie Legido-Correa: Just wanted to say a few words. The Florida Retail Federation is very proud to recognize John and Marichi, among the retail industry's elite in Florida. Their commitment to Montica Jewelry and the Coral Gables community have earned them success and honors, and the Florida Retail Federation applauds talent and dedication. John and Marichi O'Rourke have nurtured their business, founded more than 30 years ago, by Ms. O'Rourke's parents, and remain committed to offering the best styles and design in fashion forward fine jewelry delivered with stellar customer service. The O'Rourke's are received numerous accolades for their outstanding business operations through the years, including being recognized two years in a row as a jewelry leader by Harpers Bazar Magazine. The couple is equally passionate about giving back to their community. Mr. O'Rourke currently chairs the Coral Gables Community Foundation Community Giving Committee, and has served on numerous boards, including Make a Wish of South Florida and Charting Homes for Children. The Florida Outstanding Retail Leader of the award, is presented to individuals who place in the top tier of scoring for the annual Florida Retailer of the Year Award. The award has been presented by FRF (Florida Retailers Federation) since 1999, and it honors retailers who blend sound business practices with commitments to their communities, customers, and employees. So we are proud to give this award to Montica Jewelry.

Applause.

John O'Rourke: Yeah, I just thank you so much. What a special day. I mean, I sit on a board for the Coral Gables Community Foundation, and we're honoring people for our gala? I mean, what a great community, huh? I've got one of my dear friends, Mark Trowbridge, here. I have told people this publicly for years, that the smartest decision I every made when I came to Coral Gables was joining, joining the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce. Without a doubt, it has been a success and a hit for us, and you're here. And wow, what an honor to have our -- really, our clients of all these years. It's really for them. It's not for Marichi and I. It's

for them, and it's a validation of that. So thank you. Josie, thank you so much for honoring us with this. We're just very grateful and thank you all.

Applause.

Mark Trowbridge: While you all are assembling, I will just echo Josie's comments. One, we truly value the partnership with the Florida Retail Federation. They take great work each year to support the efforts of retailers. They work with us on "Small Business Saturday", small business programming, and they certainly honor our community leaders, like John and Marichi. And I would be remised if I didn't remind you that Montica is having a sale for a couple more days, so get by there and see John and Marichi in person and offer your congratulations for the good work that they do.

Commissioner Quesada: I got to say something real quick, because I'm also a customer, and I love going into the store because every time I go, it's probably about five minutes before the birthday dinner with my wife or Christmas morning, so they're great, and they're all -- they're so very involved in the community. We see them absolutely everywhere. And again, it's a great example of why we love living in Coral Gables, and they're a great example of that. So thank you so much.

Applause.

Mr. Trowbridge: So, while you all are heading back to your seats, I wanted to bring up two little items for you on the heels of this presentation. In front of the Mayor and next to the Vice Mayor, you see an award there called the 2014 Yelpies. And for those of you that are not familiar with Yelp, it's an online community where folks can rate restaurants and retail. Coral Gables, about two months ago, was named the 'Best Community in the 305', and so we want to thank the good folks at Yelp, and the 2014 Yelpies for recognizing Coral Gables. So if you guys want to pass that down. We're very proud of that distinction. We had some online

love. I know the Mayor likes to talk about the Livecom Awards and some of those other great accolades; that we're a "Tree City" and a "Walkable City", but we're also a "Yelp City". So for those of you that are fans, go on and become a yelpster. And then the last thing is many of you know that we have worked for some time on our visitor center, and so I'm pleased to tell you that on Thursday, October 2, we will be inaugurating our Official Visitor Center at the Coral Gables Museum. It'll be done in conjunction with Miami Attraction's Month, with the Convention and Visitors Bureau. So for those of you listening at home and at work and for those of you here in the chambers, we want to invite you to join us that evening, Thursday, October 2, at the Coral Gables Museum, at 6 p.m., for what's going to be a terrific event and a really special opportunity to inaugurate our official visitor center. And with me today, we have some of our partners that's been working on this. Of course, Cindy Birdsill and her team and Michelle Cash, Leonard Roberts, Marina Foglia is here from the BID (Business Improvement District). They have been partners; and, of course, Chris Rupp from the Museum. So we look forward to seeing all of you there and inaugurating our official visitors center Thursday, October 2. Thank you all for that opportunity to share.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you.

Commissioner Lago: Thank you, sir.

Applause.