

CORAL GABLES

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 18, 2024

Location: Fink Studio
2506 Ponce de León Blvd., Coral Gables, Florida

Members:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Commissioners
Olga Ramudo	P	E	E										Mayor Vince Lago
Vicky Rua	P	P	A										Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Sadia M. Raja	P	P	A										Comm. Kirk Menendez
Raoul Cantero	P	P	P										Comm. Ariel Fernandez
Richard Montes de Oca	P	E	P										Comm. Melissa Castro
Alejandra Collarte	E	P	E										Peter Iglesias, City Manager
Rafael Gavarrete	E	P	E										Council-at-Large Appointment

A = Absent P=Present E= Excused UA= Unexcused Absence X= No Meeting - =Former Member

There was no quorum in the room for the International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC). An informational meeting took place instead.

Ms. Leticia Perez informed Board members of a new attendance policy. Board members no longer have to vote to excuse any members from IACC meetings. The staff liaison for the Board will make the determination on behalf of the city as to whether an absence is excused. Absences would be excused only if the Board member is ill, has jury duty, or is out of town.

Ms. Leticia Perez also spoke about the City of La Asuncion, she told Board members that she received another email from Consul Ruben Esquivel from Paraguay requesting that Coral Gables and La Asuncion become Sister Cities.

COUNTRY REPORT

CARTAGENA DE INDIAS, COLOMBIA

Board member Cantero reported that he is assisting Maria Mercedes Abondano, from the office of the mayor in Cartagena, with the coordination of a training for 5 Fire Fighters coming to the City of Coral Gables from Cartagena, Colombia. He also reported that Maria Mercedes is in the process of getting the approval for those fire fighters to come for the training. He added that as of today, a date has not been determined yet.

QUITO, ECUADOR

Board member Montes de Oca reported that he is still waiting for Quito to confirm their interest in continuing a Sister City relationship with the City of Coral Gables. He asked Ms. Leticia Perez if they were able to meet with the Consul General of Ecuador; Leticia told him that Belkys and she met with Consul General Baquerizo back in January, and the main things that were discussed were events that she would like to do in Coral Gables and all the available venues in the city. Board member Montes de Oca added that he would like to partner with the Consulate of Ecuador and see how they can activate the Sister City relationship with Quito. In the meantime, he would like to ask Mayor Lago to send a letter to the Mayor in Quito. He also asked about a letter to the City of Manta. Ms. Perez informed Board member Montes de Oca that the letter is ready, and the mayor's office is preparing to send it soon.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Leticia Perez
International Business Development Representative
Economic Development Department
City of Coral Gables