

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-2
March 23, 2021
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

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

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Assistant Public Works Director, Jessica Keller

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-2 [Start: 12:50 p.m.]

A general discussion regarding the speed limit on Segovia Street in sections of the street that abut locations with high youth activity. (Sponsored by Commissioner Fors).

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: G-2, Commissioner Fors.

Commissioner Fors: I'm going to make this very brief, because I really just wanted to put my colleagues on notice and put this on the radar. Something I've been thinking about for a long time and that is the possibility of reducing speed limits, which I know is something that is not easy to do but reducing speed limits in a very specific area. Billy, if you could put up the map, zoom in on the area I'm referring to is the area on Segovia Street which is kind of a long strip that could lead to increase speed, but mainly because on that street in this very small pocket, we have the Youth Center, Somerset Academy, and the Coral Gables Public Library. I think that a lower speed limit

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in that area would be justified for the exact same reasons that school zones are justified, because there is a lot of youth activity there. Maybe its not a school zone, maybe it's a youth zone. I understand that this is not within our control in the city, at least not 100 percent, this is going to require county involvement. So, I'd like to follow back up with city staff, but I understand we haven't discussed this beforehand. I just want to put it on your radar, to try to see what can be done on that specific strip, in terms of potentially lowering the speed limit further than what it is.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Good afternoon Mayor, Commission.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: May I say something before you start. In the 90's and at the request of then Commissioner Barker, a stop light, I mean a traffic light was installed at the corner of Anastasia and Segovia, they installed a traffic light there. There wasn't one before. And before that, they did a traffic circle there in that intersection and they discovered that trucks couldn't go by it without going over the traffic circle, so they took the traffic circle off.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Good afternoon, Jessica Keller, Assistant Public Works Director, and I actually have good news for you. The last time we talked about this, I think it was a really long time ago, and we had a couple of residents reach out to us since we changed the speed limit on local residential streets in 2018 from 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour, and they were interested in lowering the speed limit further, actually lowering the speed limit on collector streets. So we reached out to the county and the county was interested in entertaining this, to make our roadways safer, and we are planning on bringing a more comprehensive proposal to the Commission in May to explain the process and the impacts of a comprehensive change to the speed limits on collector streets. So, it looks good from the county perspective. They aren't pushing back on the proposal at all.

Commissioner Fors: Excellent. Excellent. And I'll meet with you, I'll request a meeting, we'll set something up.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Sure.

Commissioner Fors: I have some other ideas, which I'll discuss with you, so you can tell me how realistic they are, in terms of the youth zone concept, which would have to do with the speed limit and also with some of the other tools that you see in school zones to put people on higher alert that there is youth in the area, I think there is some stuff there already, but we'll come back to the Commission to discuss this particular area in the future.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: I look forward to doing it. I have seen a significant change at Miami-Dade County since the election and the willingness of staff to implement safe street
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initiatives, and it's a good thing for us to be able to do some of the things that we've been wanting to do here in the city, and have been unable to do in the past.

Commissioner Fors: Great. Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.