

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting  
Agenda Item D-1  
March 29, 2016  
City Commission Chambers  
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

**City Commission**

**Mayor Jim Cason  
Commissioner Pat Keon  
Commissioner Vince Lago  
Vice Mayor Frank Quesada  
Commissioner Jeannett Slesnick**

**City Staff**

**City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark  
City Attorney, Craig E. Leen  
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman  
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia**

**Public Speaker(s)**

**Andrea Hanley, Vice President of Development, Camillus House**

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Agenda Item D-1[10:09:15 a.m.]

Presentation by Andrea Hanley, Vice President of Development, Camillus House

Ms. Hanley: Good morning. Feels good to be home. Good morning Mayor Cason, Vice Mayor Quesada, Commissioners, City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk. For the record, I'm Andrea Hanley and I work at Camillus House. Created in 1960 to assist men who fled Cuba and had no family in Miami. Camillus has grown into the largest service provider for persons who are homeless in our County. On any given night there are over 1,100 people under our care. Our focus is on the chronically homeless, those who have been on the streets for a very long time. As a refresher, Camillus Board and staff met with community leaders in the fall of 2014, to discuss the issue of helping the homeless in Coral Gables. From that we established a partnership whereby Camillus dedicates three beds to be utilized by Coral Gables Police Officers who assist people in our City who are homeless. City Manager Swanson kindly invited me to speak with you this morning to provide an update on our partnership and I'm happy to do so, mostly because it provides me with an opportunity to publicly and personally thank you for your concern and compassion for the most vulnerable in our community. On behalf of the Brothers of St. John

God, Board Chair Bob Dickenson, our CEO Chad Boren, both Gables residents, and most importantly our clients, I say thank you. Your forward thinking in establishing this partnership with Camillus House is an example of why Coral Gables is such a wonderful community. This is a new program and we look forward to working with Coral Gables Police to ensure we provide excellent service to all involved. This City has moved more quickly than any other municipality in making this happen. Your immediate action is really making a difference in people's lives. While this program addresses the first phase of emergency shelter and is what people typically think of when they are thinking of Camillus House; Camillus has a variety of specialized programs that we can utilize and refer clients to who come in under this program. Some of these new initiatives include a jail diversion program, which helps people who are better under our care than being incarcerated, a new human trafficking recovery program. We have a 16-bed facility to help women who are victims of human trafficking; and we also have a robust substance abuse treatment program that really helps a lot of clients turn their lives around. There is a real human element to this partnership and I'll share two brief stories. Client number one is a 64 year old female, who is living in her car with her pet dog named Nancy. Camillus has provided shelter to her since she has come in, and now that she's stable she will be reunited with her daughter within the next month. And the second story is a 31 year old man who is in need of medical care and also medication management. Mental health issues are a big component of the people we serve and the needs that they have. So once he was stabilized and his medication was set up properly, he was also reunited with his family. In addition to our client stories this report would not be complete if I didn't recognize Officer Rios. Joel Rios is the real hero in this initiative. I've seen firsthand his compassion and kindness toward people who are homeless. You can imagine the trust that the 64 year old woman would have to have of a Police Officer to be approached living out of her car and the compassion that he would have in talking with her and gaining her trust and ensuring her that coming to Camillus House will help her and not harm her. The fact that we also have a kennel – many people who are homeless have pets that they don't want to surrender, because they are their protection, their family, and because we have the kennel this was more appealing to her because she knew that her dog Nancy would be safe as well. So we are really blessed that Officer Rios provides that same level of dignity and Camillus House really prides itself on having compassion and hospitality and charity unlimited, and Officer Rios really embodies that. So we are really fortunate to have him in our community. I would also invite people who are listening to this or watching this, if you are in our City and you see people who are homeless and in need utilize this service, contact our Police Department and they are so good about helping them and referring them to this program. Because of this partnership the City has provided 365 nights off the street, more than 1,000 meals, 40-plus case management visits, and over a dozen career counseling visits. We have a number of socialization hours where people get engaged in activities, there are over 1,000 hours of that as well. So from the bottom of my heart and on behalf of all of our clients, the least, the last, and the lost, thank you so much for

being so forward thinking, especially Vice Mayor Quesada, he was the initial champion on all of this and we just really appreciate this partnership.

Mayor Cason: Thank you Andrea. We have three beds that we fund, right?

Ms. Hanley: Correct.

Mayor Cason: Are they used all the time?

Ms. Hanley: They are not used all the time, it depends on the one client, and she's typically emergency shelter is 30-60 days; this one client has been there for four months. Some are there longer, some are there a few nights, but whenever they are ready to have that care, Camillus wants to be there to help them.

Mayor Cason: Great. Thank you.

Ms. Hanley: Thank you so much.

Commissioner Lago: Great work.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you. That was a very, very humanitarian gesture that you made all of us do, Commissioner Quesada...

Vice Mayor Quesada: I try to get you into it.

Commissioner Keon: I know. But you know when I told them when I knew you, they tell me anytime.

Vice Mayor Quesada: It's a great cause and it's worked out great and they do a great job. I'm just upset that we lost Andrea to...

Commissioner Keon: I know to Camillus.

[End: 10:15:17 a.m.]