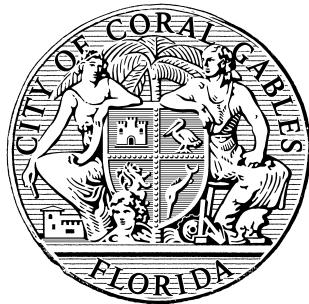


City of Coral Gables

City of Coral Gables
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134
www.coralgables.com



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

9:00 AM

City Hall, Commission Chambers

City Commission

*Mayor Donald D. Slesnick, II
Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Commissioner Maria Anderson
Commissioner Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Commissioner Wayne "Chip" Withers*

*David L. Brown, City Manager
Elizabeth M. Hernandez, City Attorney
Walter J. Foeman, City Clerk*

Present: 5 - Mayor Slesnick II, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Cabrera Jr., Vice Mayor Kerdyk Jr. and Commissioner Withers

INVOCATION

[Note for the Record: Mayor Slesnick informed Dr. Gaton that he appreciates his presence and his inspirational prayer; further requesting that he would like to get a copy of the prayer that was delivered by him on this same date; also requesting of Dr. Gaton to take back the City's greetings to the entire administrative staff of Doctor's Hospital; further conveying to those recovering patients, on behalf of the City of Coral Gables Commission, its best wishes for a speedy recovery].

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Mayor Kerdyk led the Pledge of Allegiance.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

The following minutes summary includes all presentations made, and actions taken which information is supplemented by the following exhibits on file in the Office of the City Clerk, and which are by reference made a part of the record herein: (a) Resolution(s) adopted (Resolution No. 2008-52 and Resolution No. 2008-53); (b) Video; (c) Audio Recording; (d) Minutes Folder with Agenda and back-ground information, including items which were submitted at the meeting.

A. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

A.-1. 08-0153 Presentation of a Proclamation declaring April 8, 2008 as Baptist Health South Day in Coral Gables

This Presentation/Protocol Document was Deferred

City Clerk Item No. 1

A.-2. 08-0258 Congratulations to the University of Miami Basketball Team and Coaching Staff for the 2007-2008 winning season

[Note for the Record: Commissioner Withers in reflecting upon our forefathers, stated that Coral Gables Mayor George Merrick, in his infinite wisdom felt that great Cities would have a great university; further noting that what he felt is also important to a great university is having a great athletic program; further acknowledging Frank Haith, head basketball coach for UM, who has raised the bar for the entire University of Miami's Athletic Department; further stating that he is very impressed with Coach Haith's work ethic; further pointing out that what has been most impressive is the

character of his players.

Coach Haith in accepting said recognition, thanked Coral Gables for this invitation to come before the Commission; further stating that he is honored to have himself, along with his coaches recognized; further commenting that the City of Coral Gables has been awesome; further recognizing the good 2007-2008 basketball season that the Hurricanes have experienced, starting out in the Top 25 in the NCAA, losing on a last second shot in two contest, namely North Carolina State and Wake Forest; further reminding Mayor Slesnick to try to obtain those seats in the Convocation Center for next year; further reminding the City Commission that next year, the McDonald's High School All American Basketball Classic will be hosted by the University of Miami Hurricanes at the Bank Atlantic Center].

This Presentation/Protocol Document was Recognized

City Clerk Item No. 3

A.-3. 08-0237

Recognition of Morris Smyle, of Grand Western Brands and Mitchell Kaplan, of Books and Books, Farmers Market Sponsors for the Year 2008

[Note for the Record: Mayor Slesnick requested of Development Department's Director Cathy Swanson, to address the podium, who appeared before the Commission and informed the public that the City has just completed its 17th Anniversary of the Farmers Market; further acknowledging the success of said event as being attributable to all of the departments' working together (including but not limited to Fire Department who provided blood pressure readings; Historical Resources, which assisted with Merrick Day at the Farmers Market; Parking Department which provided handicap parking signs; Public Works assumed responsibility for closing of the streets; Public Services (by their hard work, giving so much to the community); further noting the new community outreach initiatives (i.e. Coral Gables Museum; Patron of the Arts); Green Initiatives, including the distribution of biodegradable bags to the vendors, etc.; Earth Hour Event (i.e. one hour without power); further asking of the City Manager to help her unravel the two plaques requested to be presented to the City's private sponsors; further commenting on the request placed upon our residents to select 60 things related to a good green experience; further acknowledging the grand finale to the Farmer's Market event, namely a picnic, which ended the market with a great deal of fanfare (ending with the American Institute of Family Affair); further asking, Emily D'Amour Pardo of Kaplan, Books and Books, to join Morris Smyle, of Grand Western Brands, on behalf of the American Institute of Wine for a photo session].

This Presentation/Protocol Document was Recognized

City Clerk Item No. 2

Items A.-4. and D.-1. are related

A.-4. [08-0254](#) Presentation of a Proclamation declaring the month of April 2008 as Water Conservation Month in Coral Gables

This Presentation/Protocol Document was Presented and Filed

City Clerk Item No. 18

A.-5. [08-0236](#) Presentation of a Proclamation declaring the Week of April 13-19, 2008 as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week in Coral Gables

Attachments: [Agenda Request ref Proclamation April 2008 \(3\) \(2\)](#)

[Note for the Record: Chief Hammerschmidt informed the Commission that National Telecommunications Week, was initially introduced in Congress through the efforts of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials International in Calendar Year 1991, further pointing out that said event is typically recognized during the second week of April, annually; further pointing out that said event is dedicated to the public safety telecommunicators, who aid in providing 9-1-1 emergency assistance to those in need; said individuals also provide assistance to countless numbers of people, by responding to emergency calls, dispatching emergency professionals and equipment, thus providing moral support to those in distress; further noting that this cadre of professionals represent a special group that goes unnoticed 360 days a year, typically recognized as that other voice on the other end of the telephone, responsible for handling requests with much grace].

This Presentation/Protocol Document was Presented and Filed

City Clerk Item No. 5

A.-6. [08-0235](#) Presentation of the 2007 Communications Operator of the Year Award to Claudia Luna

Attachments: [COMMISSION MEMO RE OPERATOR OF THE YEAR 2007](#)
[Nomination of Claudia Luna Memo](#)

[Note for the Record: Coral Gables Police Chief Hammerschmidt informed the public that Claudia Luna began her tenure with the City of Coral Gables in January of 1997, having set a career goal of becoming a police officer; further noting that notwithstanding her mission, she has given 100 percent toward becoming the best Communication Operator she could be, thus learning the necessary skills until ultimately becoming as proficient as those operators whom were senior to her; further acknowledging Ms. Luna's personal attributes, including but not limited to her engagement in voluntarism (i.e. committee projects; off-site assignment); group participation through membership in countless numbers of committees; voluntary efforts within the department such as Christmas gift wrapping for children in shelters; providing assistance to the departments' Victims Advocate Office with the stuffing of envelopes; attending fairs in furtherance of our recruitment efforts; volunteers as a Guard Ad Litem in her spare time, helping make countless numbers of banners for those who are to be honored or are retiring, etc.; further stating that Ms. Luna is active in the department's Certified Training Operator Program and is recognized as one of its best trainers; further emphasizing that Ms. Luna is constantly seeking ways to have those dispatchers within her department recognized and noticed, embedded in the belief that the telecommunications profession is important and should be recognized; finally noting that Ms. Luna was chosen as Employee of the Month in June of 2005, and has been nominated as Operator of the Year for three years in a row].

This Presentation/Protocol Document was Presented and Filed

City Clerk Item No. 4

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

B.-1. 08-0253 Regular City Commission Meeting of March 25, 2008

Attachments: [Verbatim Transcript - Agenda Item H-4 - Update on Coral Gables Country Club](#)
[Verbatim Transcript - Agenda Item H-3 - Update on Police Patrol](#)
[Verbatim Transcript - Agenda Item F-1 - Discussion Item.pdf](#)
[Verbatim Transcript - Agenda Item F-2 - Discussion Item.pdf](#)
[Revised Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

[Note for the Record: Commissioner Anderson made the following correction to the meeting minutes of March 25, 2008:

1). On Page Number 19 (Agenda Item E-2), City Clerk Item Number 28, Note for the Record, it inadvertently says: 1024 Austria Avenue. It should be corrected to read: 1024 **Asturia** Avenue]; whereupon following said amendment to the minutes being read into the public record, the Mayor instructed the City Clerk to call the roll on said item].

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Anderson, that this motion be approved as amended. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas : 4 - Commissioner Anderson, Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., Commissioner Withers and Mayor Slesnick II

Absent : 1 - Commissioner Cabrera, Jr.

City Clerk Item No. 6

C. CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed within this section entitled "Consent Agenda" are considered to be self-explanatory and are not expected to require additional review or discussion, unless a member of the City Commission or a citizen so requests, in which case, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered along with the regular order of business. Hearing no objections to the items listed under the "Consent Agenda", a vote on the adoption of the Consent Agenda will be taken.

Presentation of Boards and/or Committees minutes requesting no action from the City Commission:

Passed the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., to Adopt the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yeas : 4 - Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., Commissioner Withers, Commissioner Anderson and Mayor Slesnick II

Absent : 1 - Commissioner Cabrera, Jr.

C.-1. 08-0174 International Affairs Coordinating Council Meeting of February 28, 2008

Attachments: [IACC Minutes 2-28-08](#)
[International Affairs Cover pdf](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 7

C.-2. 08-0229 Public Safety Committee Meeting of March 11, 2008

Attachments: [Minutes of 03-11-2008](#)
[summary of minutes 3-11-08](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 8

C.-3. 08-0233 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of March 21, 2008

Attachments: [Cover Memo 03-21-08 Summary](#)
[Min 03-21-08](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 9

C.-4. [08-0238](#) Economic Development Board Meeting of March 5, 2008

Attachments: [Commission cover no action 4-8-08](#)
[minutes 3-5-08](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 10

C.-5. [08-0239](#) Cultural Development Board Meeting of March 3, 2008

Attachments: [CDB Minutes March 3 2008](#)
[Commission cover no action 4-8-08](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 11

C.-6. [08-0240](#) Insurance Advisory Committee Meeting of March 24, 2008

Attachments: [CoverMemo_MtgMin.](#)
[IAC_DraftMin_032408](#)
[AON_CoverageComparisonFinal_032108](#)
[AON_2008_FinalRate&ValueComparison_Updated032108](#)
[AJG_Premium_Summary_from_Proposal_032008](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 12

C.-7. [08-0247](#) Landscape Beautification Advisory Board Meeting of March 27, 2008

Attachments: [BC Cover Sheet 3-27-08 na](#)
[Minutes BC 3-27-08](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 13

C.-8. [08-0252](#) Communications Committee Meeting of March 20, 2008

Attachments: [Microsoft Word - minutes march 2008.pdf](#)
[Microsoft Word - communicationsminutesagendaapril08.pdf](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 14

C.-9. [08-0256](#) Pinewood Cemetery Advisory Board Meeting of March 10, 2008

Attachments: [04.08.08CCMtgNoAction03-10-08.pdf](#)
[Pinewood minutes March 10 2008.pdf](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 15

C.-10. [08-0257](#) Coral Gables Merrick House Governing Board Meeting of March 3, 2008

Attachments: [Merrick House Board Minutes-March 3 2008.pdf](#)
[MARCH 08 CURATOR REPORT.pdf](#)
[CGMHNoAction-03.03.08Minutes.pdf](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 16

D. PERSONAL APPEARANCES**Items D.-1. and A.-4. are related**

D.-1. [08-0234](#) Lewis J. Beilman, III, Senior Intergovernmental Representative of the South Florida Water Management District, to speak about the water shortage

[Note for the Record: Nestor Yglesias, South Florida Water Management District, addressed the Commission, stating that he was appreciative of the work performed by our Code Enforcement Section, in furtherance of water restrictions; whereupon Commissioner Withers mentioned that it was reported in the newspaper that in anticipation of an active hurricane season, that millions of gallons of water were dumped out of Lake Okeechobee.

Mr. Yglesias responded by stating that the Army Corps of Engineers, dumped between six inches and one foot of water from Lake Okeechobee, following the Calendar Year 2004-2005 Hurricane Season; the Calendar Year 2006 Hurricane Season was forecasted to be an above average season; further stating that the dike had suffered some damage following the 2004-2005 Hurricane Season; further noting that the reason that the lake is 5 feet below normal today, is attributable to the lack of rainfall; further noting that he will continue to keep the City updated on the South Florida Management District's conservation efforts.

Mayor Slesnick stated that he appreciates the work performed by the South Florida Water Management District, which has done so much more than just worry about water related issues; further presenting said representatives of the South Florida Water Management group with a proclamation, declaring the month of April as Water Conservation Month, thereby encouraging all citizens, businesses, media, private agencies, to support said agency's water conservation efforts and its continued coordination of same].

This Agenda Item was Discussed/No Action Taken

City Clerk Item No. 17

D.-2. [08-0255](#) Vincent E. Damian, Jr., President of the Coral Gables Citizens Political Action Committee, to present two (2) proposed Amendments to Article II, Section 8 of the Coral Gables Charter regarding terms of Commissioners.

Attachments: [Vincent Damian Letter of April 1, 2008](#)

This Agenda Item was Discussed/No Action Taken

City Clerk Item No. 19

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS**ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING****None****ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING**

E.-1. 08-0248 An Ordinance of the City of Coral Gables amending the Zoning Code, Appendix A, "Site Specific Zoning Regulations", "Section A-12, Biltmore Section", also known as the David Williams Hotel/Condominium located at 700 Biltmore Way; providing for a minimum residential unit size for the property legally described as Lots 6-22 inclusive, Block 10, Biltmore Section; providing for repeal, providing severability, providing for codification thereof, an effective date, and repealing all ordinances inconsistent herewith. (PZB Vote: 6-0)

Attachments: [04 08 08 City Commission Cover Memo:David William ZC text amendment 1st reading](#)
[04 08 08 Exhibit A: Ordinance - David Williams site specific ord 1st reading](#)
[04 08 08 Exhibit B: 03 12 08 David Williams Staff Report and attachments](#)

[Note for the Record: **Planning Director Eric Riel** stated that this agenda item, is a Zoning Code Text Amendment; further stating that the Zoning Code currently reflects the minimum size of a unit as being 575 square feet; further noting that within the David Williams Hotel, there are seven (7) efficiency apartments and 66 units that are substandard, or 400 square feet; further pointing out that this site specific amendment would only apply to these properties; further clarifying that because this measure is only site specific to this site and block, it would provide for said units to be that size, thus making them legal; further stating that during Calendar Year 2006, the David Williams Hotel experienced a fire, following identification of certain health and safety issues the City has been working diligently; further noting that the Planning and Zoning Board, at its March 12, 2008 meeting voted by a unanimous (6-0) vote for approval, as well as staff recommended approval of same.

Commissioner Withers inquired of Planning Director Riel as to whether there were any more Zoning Code issues, other than minimum habitable space requirements, parking requirements, etc.; whereupon Building and Zoning Administrator Martha Salazar Blanco stated that when the David Williams Hotel was built, there were no parking requirements; however, with the changing hotel use, from hotel units to apartment units, there will be parking requirement related issues; further noting that among those issues being looked at are how many parking spaces per bedroom units, etc., which her departmental staff people are currently researching.

Other Commercial Issues: Commissioner Withers inquired as to whether there were other commercial uses involved? Whereupon Ms. Salazar Blanco responded by saying that since the restaurant no longer exists, there being no hotel, the answer would

be no.

Commissioner Withers further inquired as to whether those people whom were desirous of selling their units, could do so with the existing parking related issues, whereupon Ms. Salazar Blanco pointed out that it has not been an issue as far as lack of parking; as far as zoning requirements (the number of spaces one needs), it has not been a problem.

Mayor Slesnick mentioned that all members of the Commission have listened to the anguish of the David Williams residents; further pointing out that if one were to go back to that tragic fire incident, that our Fire and Police Departments all have saved lives; previous to this tragic event, the City had been working on life/safety related issues; further realizing the issue of time constraints, since all of the health/safety issues have been addressed; all of the undersized apartments that did not meet our definitional/standard of single family residences; further including within the scope of those health/safety issues that of wiring, watering, utilities, kitchen, etc.; further stating that one does not establish a precedent for what is established as a undersized apartment, that cannot support life/safety; further stating that said issue responds only to a site specific demand; further instructing the City Manager to direct the Planning Director, that before Second Reading, there must be included in said proposed ordinance, two additional Whereas clauses that the City is addressing a specific issue, a specific problem, and that the City is not reducing generally the size of single family residences that could be permitted in this City; further instructing the City Manager to provide the Commission with a report regarding those other projects that had proposed selling condo units (i.e. St. George) at a similar size, etc.

A motion was made by Commissioner Withers, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, that this motion be approved as an Ordinance on First Reading. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas : 4 - Commissioner Withers, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Cabrera, Jr. and Mayor Slesnick II

Absent : 1 - Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr.

City Clerk Item No. 20

Items E.-2 and E.-3 are related

E.-2. [08-0249](#) An Ordinance of the City of Coral Gables, Florida, repealing Ordinance No. 1515, relocating a dedicated easement for public use from Lot 10 to 9, Block 17, Industrial Section (Gables Gateway); providing for a repealer provision, a savings clause, a severability clause, providing for codification; and providing for an effective date. (PZB Vote: 5-0) (Passed on First Reading April 8, 2008)

Attachments: [04 08 08 City Commission Cover Memo re: Gables Gateway](#)
[04 08 08 Exhibit A: Draft Ordinance - easement relocation 1st reading](#)
[04 08 08 Exhibit B: Draft Resolution - mxd site plan review](#)
[04 08 08 Exhibit C: 03 12 08 Staff Report \(w attachments\)](#)
[04 08 08 Exhibit D: Excerpts of 03 12 08 PZB Meeting Minutes](#)
[04 08 08 Exhibit E: CC - Gables Gateway PPT \(no video\)](#)
[04 29 08 Gables Gateway CC Memo w exhibits \(legistar\)](#)

[Note for the Record: A copy of the verbatim transcript of Agenda Item E-2 is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office and in Legistar].

A motion was made by Commissioner Withers, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, that this motion be approved as an Ordinance on First Reading. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas : 5 - Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Cabrera, Jr., Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., Commissioner Withers and Mayor Slesnick II

City Clerk Item No. 21

RESOLUTIONS

E.-3. [08-0250](#) Resolution of the City Commission of Coral Gables approving an amendment to a mixed-use site plan, for the proposed mixed-use project referred to as "Gables Gateway", located on property legally described as Lots 1-23 and Lots 76-88, Block 17, Industrial Section (intersection of LeJeune Road, Granello Avenue and Ponce de Leon Boulevard), Coral Gables, Florida; and including required conditions; and providing for an effective date.

Attachments: [04 08 08 City Commission Cover Memo: Gables Gateway](#)
[04 08 08 Exhibit A: Draft Ordinance - easement relocation 1st Reading](#)
[04 08 08 Exhibit B: Draft Resolution - mxd site plan review](#)
[04 08 08 Exhibit C: 03 12 08 Staff Report \(w attachments\)](#)
[04 08 08 Exhibit D: Excerpts of 03 12 08 PZB Meeting Minutes](#)
[04 08 08 Exhibit E: CC - Gables Gateway PPT \(no video\)](#)
[04 29 08 Gables Gateway CC Memo w exhibits \(legistar\)](#)

This Resolution was Continued

City Clerk Item No. 22

F. CITY COMMISSION ITEMS**None**

City Clerk Item No. 23

G. BOARDS/COMMITTEES ITEMS**Items G-1 and H.-1. are related**

G.-1. [08-0245](#) Presentation of excerpts from the Insurance Advisory Committee meeting of March 24, 2008, requesting the following action from the City Commission:

The Insurance Advisory Committee is recommending that the City accept the AON Risk Services renewal quote for property insurance coverage, effective May 1, 2008.

Attachments: [B&CCoverMemo_AON](#)
[IAC_DraftMinExcerptAON_032408](#)

This Agenda Item was Discussed/No Action Taken

City Clerk Item No. 24

Items G.-2. and H.-2. are related

G.-2. [08-0246](#) Presentation of excerpts from the Insurance Advisory Committee meeting of March 24, 2008, requesting the following action from the City Commission:

The Insurance Advisory Committee is recommending that the City accept the Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. renewal quote for casualty and excess insurance coverage, effective May 1, 2008.

Attachments: [B&CCoverMemo_AJG](#)
[IAC_DraftMinAJG_032408](#)

This Agenda Item was Discussed/No Action Taken

City Clerk Item No. 26

G.-3. 08-0218

Presentation of excerpts from the International Affairs Coordinating Council Meeting of February 28, 2008, requesting the following action:

That the City Commission approve a \$1,500.00 sponsorship from the Sister City Account for one (1) student from Carver Middle School in Coral Gables to travel to La Antigua Guatemala as part of a cultural summer excursion organized by the Spanish International Parents Association.

Attachments: [International Affairs Requested Action 22808 Cover.pdf](#)

[IACC 2 28 08 Excerpts.pdf](#)

[International Affairs Requested Action 22808 Cover.pdfRevised Copy.pdf](#)

[Note for the Record: Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce President Carolina Rendeiro explained to the Commission that although she was not present for the International Affairs Coordinating Council's (I.A.C.C.) Meeting of February 28, 2008, Aduna Miranda, Trade Commissioner Commissioner for Guatemala, being part of the Sister Cities Cultural Arts and Education Program, the International Affairs Coordinating Council's Board voted to pass this motion to support the requested \$1,500 sponsorship for one child to travel to La Antigua, Guatemala(i.e. summer cultural excursion); further realizing that the City is addressing budgetary cuts, etc.

City Manager David Brown informed the Commission that his recommendation was not to fund this request, pointing out that the process was somewhat skewed-there being no selection criteria, competition, etc; further stating that said request would be an example of a public private partnership, whereby the option exists to raise funds for said individual.

Inquiries by the City Commission: Commissioner Cabrera informed Madam IACC Chairperson Rendeiro, that she must tell the Commission more about this student, because he has not received a clear picture of how said individual from Carver Middle School was selected; further querying of Ms. Rendeiro, as to whether the student is a resident of the City of Coral Gables; whereupon Ms. Rendiros stated that said individual was selected based upon financial need and criteria by the Trade Commission; further noting however, that more structure is needed; further clarifying to the Commission that said sponsorship request is in fact something that the Chamber of Commerce as a board is desirous of doing; however, more criteria still needs to be established, and funds will have to be made available; further mentioning that last year, there was a presentation before the International Affairs Coordinating Council regarding a sponsorship request for a student from Carver Middle School.

Commissioner Cabrera informed Ms. Rendeiro that there is a Scholarship Program in the City of Coral Gables that he oversees; further stating that former Commissioner Jim Barker is the Chairperson, who handles most of the workload through the Administrative Assistant to the Commission, namely Ms. Candy Solis; however, this year there was a request for financial support for one student from Carver Middle School to travel to La Antigua, Guatemala as part of a summer cultural excursion,

though the Sister Cities Program Account; whereupon, City Manager Brown confirmed that said request was to use a portion of the \$10,000 allocated to the Sister Cities Program. Mayor Slesnick stated that any request for sponsorship should include a specific program with specific guidelines; further pointing out that it is much more comforting to the Commission to know how one chose this student; further thanking Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce Chairperson Rendeiro for her continuing efforts on behalf of the IACC.

IACC Chairperson Rendeiro informed the Commission that the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce was joining forces with the Beacon Council for an upcoming trip to Italy; further stating that during said visit, the group will be promoting South Florida, as well as Coral Gables as a destination city for travel and tourism, a business destination, and for educational purposes; further mentioning that the trip itinerary includes visits to our Sister Cities of Pisa, Italy, as well as business meetings in Milan, and Florence, Italy; further mentioning that in all three cities they will be conducting business relationships.

Finally, Mayor Slesnick mentioned the upcoming visit by the Mayor from Granada, Spain; whereupon Chairman Rendeiro stated that a member of the Coral Gables Chamber had sponsored said visit, which will bring the Mayor of Granada, as well as the President of its Chamber of Commerce to partake in the placement of the statute of Granada at Alhambra Circle, including participation in the celebration of the Pomegranate (April 30 -May 2, 2008)].

This Agenda Item was Discussed/No Action Taken

City Clerk Item No. 28

H. CITY MANAGER ITEMS**Items H.-1 and G.-1. are related****RESOLUTION NO. 2008-52****H.-1. [08-0241](#)**

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to renew the property insurance coverage contracts with AON Risk Services, Inc. in the amount of \$1,034,274 for a one (1) year term, effective May 1, 2008.

Attachments:

[CoverMemo AONResolution](#)
[Resolution to renew Aon - Prop.Ins.- 05012008](#)
[AONRenewal Proposal 2008](#)
[Resolution 2008-52 Final.pdf](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO RENEW THE PROPERTY INSURANCE COVERAGE CONTRACTS WITH AON RISK SERVICES, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,034,274, FOR AN ADDITIONAL ONE (1) YEAR TERM, EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2008.

[Note for the Record: A copy of the verbatim transcript of Agenda Item H-1 is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office and in Legistar].

A motion was made by Commissioner Withers, seconded by Mayor Slesnick II, that this motion be adopted by Resolution Number 2008-52. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas : 4 - Commissioner Withers, Commissioner Cabrera, Jr., Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr. and Mayor Slesnick II

Absent : 1 - Commissioner Anderson

City Clerk Item No. 25

Items H.-2. and G.-2. are related**RESOLUTION NO. 2008-53****H.-2. 08-0242**

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to renew the casualty and excess insurance coverage contracts with Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. in the amount of \$1,397,385 for an additional one (1) year term, effective May 1, 2008.

Attachments: [CoverMemo AJGResolution](#)
[Resolution to renew AJG CasualtyIns. -050108](#)
[AJG Proposal 2008](#)
[Resolution 2008-53 Final.pdf](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO RENEW THE CASUALTY INSURANCE AND EXCESS INSURANCE COVERAGE CONTRACTS WITH ARTHUR J. GALLAGHER & COMPANY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,397,385 FOR AN ADDITIONAL ONE (1) YEAR TERM., EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2008.

[Note for the Record: A copy of the verbatim transcript of Agenda Item H-2 is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office and in Legistar].

A motion was made by Commissioner Withers, seconded by Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., that this motion be adopted by Resolution Number 2008-53. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas : 5 - Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Cabrera, Jr., Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., Commissioner Withers and Mayor Slesnick II

City Clerk Item No. 27

H.-3. 08-0251

City Commission discussion on the reports from Board of Architects and Planning and Zoning Board on metal roofs.

Attachments: [04 08 08 City Commission Cover Memo: Metal roofs](#)
[04 08 08 Exhibit A: Draft proposed metal roofs ordinance](#)
[04 08 08 Exhibit B: 03 12 08 Excerpts of PZB Meeting Minutes with attachments](#)
[04 08 08 Exhibit C: 03 17 2008 BOA Recommendation Metal Roofs](#)
[04 08 08 Exhibit D: 03 17 08 PZB Staff report with attachments](#)
[04 08 08 Exhibit E: Metal Roofs Comments UPDATED- 4.2.08](#)
[03 12 2008 Metal Roofs Progress Report \(for web\)](#)

[Note for the Record: A copy of the verbatim transcript of Agenda Item H-3 is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office and in Legistar].

This Agenda Item was Discussed/No Action Taken

City Clerk Item No. 29

H.-4. 08-0230

Discussion setting forth future City Commission Meeting dates.

[Note for the Record: The essence of this discussion regarding future City Commission Meeting dates is contained as a subcomponent under the Discussion

Items, as more particularly identified as City Clerk Item No. 32A.

This Agenda Item was Discussed/No Action Taken

City Clerk Item No. 32B

I. CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

None

City Clerk Item No. 30

J. CITY CLERK ITEMS

None

City Clerk Item No. 31

K. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mayor Slesnick: Ms. Anderson.

Commissioner Anderson: I think a few of our residents have already spoken for me today, so I'm going to pass on any comments. Thank you.

Mayor Slesnick: Mr. Cabrera.

Commissioner Cabrera: Yes, I had the opportunity to attend the Senior Advisory Board meeting yesterday, and the matter that I wanted to bring to their attention had to do with the ordinance that we have deferred on providing for a - let's see - senior citizens ability to have two garage permits on an annualized basis for free; and we got into discussion about age, and when would it be most appropriate to identify this senior citizen to qualify for the permit. Here's what I did; I brought the item up, and I discussed both Mr. Slesnick's idea which was seventy (70), I think, you had mentioned seventy as one of the....

Mayor Slesnick: Or seventy-five (75).

Commissioner Cabrera: ...Yes, or seventy-five (75); your morbidity tables are way advanced, way advanced; we're just not there yet; its that human growth hormone morbidity table that gives you that seventy-five you're still out there working hard; but the bottom line is when I brought up the issue and the fact that we had discussed number of ages that it may be appropriate, the Chairperson that we should just take a vote and go around the table, and I have to tell you, every single member in attendance, I think there was one member who did not make it yesterday, one absence, decided that sixty-five was the most appropriate age. Interesting though, my appointment, Dr. Schiff, suggested sixty-seven; but the others came back with sixty-five and then I went one step further and I asked several members of staff and they felt most comfortable with sixty-five; but this is something that was very interesting that was said, whatever we end up doing, if its sixty-five or seventy, or seventy-five, or ninety, we should be uniform across the board. So, if that's the age we deem appropriate for a senior citizen in our City to receive a two garage permit, garage sale permits for free and/or what we do with the false alarms...

City Manager Brown: ...False alarms.

Commissioner Cabrera: ...Courtesy that we should just come up with whatever that age is and be uniform about it, it would be easy for all parties to be able to manage it.

Mayor Slesnick: Right now it is uniform at seventy.

Commissioner Cabrera: Because we only have one.

City Manager Brown: False alarm is seventy.

Commissioner Cabrera: And now we are introducing the garage permits and that's why they came back with sixty-five, but I happen to have my notes here, and the votes that were cast were done by Mrs. Cabrera who said sixty-five, Mrs. Lemberg, which is I think the Chairperson, Dr. Schiff said sixty-seven, Carol Brock said sixty-five, Kay Fahringer said sixty-five, and Ginger Jochem said sixty-five, and then two members of staff are joined in that number. I don't know how we want to proceed, but for the legislative purposes I believe it's an ordinance that I am sponsoring; I'd like to bring it at sixty-five and then decide - all the Commission to debate it and decide it at that point in time, how does that sound?- OK, good. Can we get a status on the implosion, the famous implosion at 2801 Ponce, is that coming up?

City Manager Brown: I don't know Commissioner, Maria had to step out, but I'll find out.

Commissioner Cabrera: I'm sure its not coming up this weekend.

City Manager Brown: No, no, no, no. I will let you all know by e-mail if I have a date on the new implosion.

Commissioner Cabrera: OK, and last I wanted to - I think most of us already know that we lost one of our long term employees of our City to - we had an employee of our City leave us to go work for a law firm, Lourdes Cuzan, and I think Lourdes worked diligently in your office...

Mayor Slesnick: As the Mayor's assistant and then as the International Coordinator.

Commissioner Cabrera: I would love to recognize her for her efforts having worked here in the City for as many years as she has.

Mayor Slesnick: And you are about to hear my office is planning something to recognize her.

Commissioner Cabrera: OK, alright, good; I figured you were doing something like this.

Mayor Slesnick: Olga is working on that.

Commissioner Cabrera: OK, good.

City Manager Brown: You still want to recognize her here?

Commissioner Cabrera: No, you know what?- I really should have deferred it to Mr. Slesnick.

Mayor Slesnick: No, no, we are doing something, and you'll hear about it; we don't have the exact plans yet, we are working with Lourdes.

Commissioner Cabrera: Oh good. And last but not least, next month, the beginning of the month on May 3rd and May 4th, Coral Gables is going to be kind of a busy place with lots and lots of cyclists, because the National Multiple Sclerosis Society is going to host its twenty first bike ride to Key Largo for that weekend right from the University of Miami's Convocation Center, BankUnited Center; so a couple of reasons that I wanted to bring this up, I'm a participant, this will mark my, I think tenth or eleventh year participating in the event; but interesting enough we will get lots and lots of cyclists that day, and the following day so I want citizens to be aware of it because many of them, Commissioner Withers, are going to go right by your street...

Commissioner Withers: Great.

Commissioner Cabrera:...on Granada...

Commissioner Withers: I'll ensure bottles of water.

Commissioner Cabrera: There you go, there you go...

Commissioner Withers: ...sell I said.

Commissioner Withers: Sell it, sell it; maybe we can get the MS people to come by here the next Commission meeting and tell us more about it during the first part of it, and I know one of our City employees, I forget the gentleman's name, but he sits on the committee that's doing this event. So, just want to warn you that Saturday, May 3rd and Sunday, May 4th you are going to see lots of cyclists all through the Gables; they start off in the Gables and end in the Gables on Sunday from their ride back from Key Largo. That's it for me.

Mayor Slesnick: Thank you. Mr. Kerdyk.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Really just a comment, I think it would be appropriate since the City has lost two of its fine residents recently, when I say lost, passed away, and I think it would be appropriate that we just mention those two, that's Charlie Terry who served for me on one of my Boards, and he was an individual that really got involved in the Community when he came here about seventeen - eighteen years ago, and I know each one of you know him very well, and I think its appropriate that we just think

about his family a little bit, and then also the last one is Frank Poe; Frank lived in the City of Coral Gables probably for seventy years, passed away at the age of ninety-four (94) just recently, and as many of us had visited and knew Frank Poe from his hardware store there on U.S.-1, another fine individual, and both of those people are long term interested individuals in our community, and we lost two great people. Thank you Mayor.

Mayor Slesnick: I have to tell you as you know your Dad, Frank Poe and I were very loyal members of the Tenth Holers at the Country Club of Coral Gables, and those were good days...

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Great guy.

Mayor Slesnick: ...Frank was a person that always contributed to the City when he could.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Always contributed.

Commissioner Anderson: And I was the only woman ever asked to go to a Tenth Holers meeting, that's what I heard.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Really.

Mayor Slesnick: Mr. Withers.

Commissioner Withers: Just one announcement of an upcoming event; finally, demolition is actually going to start to take place in full force at the Museum site, and there's an event aptly named "Demolition in Denim and Diamonds", Saturday, May 3rd; from what I understand its going to be quite an event. Anyone interested can either check on the website or contact the City or Coral Gables Museum for it, but the Commission has an open invitation; should be quite an event, May 3rd at the site.

Commissioner Anderson: Diamonds and Denim.

Commissioner Withers: Demolition in Denim and Diamonds, so to get in you have to wear denim, no suits, no ties, which should make me very happy.

Commissioner Cabrera: Can I wear spandex, because I ride back from Key Largo that day.

Commissioner Withers: Wear a bicycle outfit the one that says seven-eleven (7/11) on the back of it. That's it sir.

Mayor Slesnick: Mr. Brown:

City Manager Brown: Mr. Mayor, several items, but I passed out earlier today the calendars for June, July and August, and wanted to start the process to schedule the summer meetings. In June, if we follow last year's schedule, it should be in the bottom right there, to your left Mr. Mayor; if we follow last year's agenda, and I'm just going to put these dates out because I know I want you to check your schedules, June 10th and 24th would be regular meetings; in July the 15th would be a meeting with a workshop on the 16th, and then in August it would be the 26th of August. So I know you probably don't have the ability to check your calendars now, but I'll visit with each one of you to see if those...

Mayor Slesnick: Isn't the 26th Election Day?

City Manager Brown: I don't know, Mr. Mayor.

City Clerk Foeman: Yes it is Mr. Mayor.

City Manager Brown: It is.

Mayor Slesnick: That means we all want to be here anyway.

City Manager Brown: I will visit with you and bring back at the next meeting the tally of those dates. The next thing is just the notice, because of our educational compact for the Dade County Public Schools, just wanted you to know that on Saturday, April 12th between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., is Coral Gables Family Day at the Coral Gables Library. I have sent you a flyer so you can be aware of that. Number two, we did start to talk about it earlier today, but I'm passing down...

Mayor Slesnick: Where was that?

City Manager Brown: It's Coral Gables Library Day at the Coral Gables Library on April 12th 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and I sent you a flyer in your e-mails.

Mayor Slesnick: It's not at the Police Station?

City Manager Brown: No, it's at the Library.

Mayor Slesnick: OK.

City Manager Brown: I'm sending down now, we talked about it, but you can now get Legistar through the web, and if you dial Legistar.CoralGables.com, hit calendar and you'll see the calendar of all the meetings, punch on the meeting you want, and you'll have your legislative agenda and all the backup that goes with it. So, I'm passing down

a cheat-sheet on how to put that on your desktop so that you can get quickly to your agendas. Just want you all to know that I'll be bringing to you, as a result of the old Zoning Code, and the new Zoning Code there was an eighteen month span or time period where all the projects that were in the Code, the old Code, were given to get their project going or loose their ability to use the old Zoning Code. There are a group of projects that are in that area, so what I'm going to do is bring back an amendment to the Zoning Code that basically would allow the City Manager, if he sees that these projects are making a concerted effort to move forward, to give them an additional six month period, grace period to get going. If they haven't made a motion to go forward at this point, we wouldn't be considering them; but if they are really trying to go forward, I'll bring that back to you for consideration.

Mayor Slesnick: Excuse me, what is this? What do you mean we are going to give extra time?

City Manager Brown: Mr. Mayor...

Mayor Slesnick: Isn't that a legislative decision?

City Manager Brown: Yes.

Mayor Slesnick: We make legislative decisions.

City Manager Brown: Yes, I'm advising....I'm bringing back to you an amendment to the Zoning Code; there are a group of projects that have fallen in between the old Zoning Code and the new Zoning Code. Some of them haven't moved at all, I'm not worried about those; some of those are really trying to move forward and...

Mayor Slesnick: Are we talking about houses...

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Entitlements.

Mayor Slesnick: ...and the "McMansion" pieces that we...

City Manager Brown: We're just talking about projects.

Mayor Slesnick: Commercial or residential or both?

City Manager Brown: Both.

Mayor Slesnick: Homes?

City Manager Brown: ...well I can't...Martha they're all commercial aren't they?

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: They are entitlements.

City Manager Brown: We are trying to get to the bottom of those projects that are just stuck in limbo.

Mayor Slesnick: A year and a half later.

Ms. Salazar-Blanco: Basically the projects that David is talking about are big projects, mixed use projects, commercial, residential, but no single family, just commercial.

Mayor Slesnick: OK, because I continue to get people who absolutely just rake me over the coals about...we thought you did something about "McMansions", and look at what's being built, look at this, look at that.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: I think this is more of an entitlement issue.

Mayor Slesnick: I know...I don't know what we'd do...

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Isn't it entitlement? This is when a project has gone ahead and gotten the approval and we have given them, the City Commission has given them eighteen months to pull the permit, correct?

Ms. Salazar-Blanco: Correct.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Alright, if they do not pull the permit within that eighteen month period...

Ms. Salazar-Blanco: They loose it.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: ...They loose the permit. Now, do they have the opportunity one time to get an extension of six months, in addition to the eighteen month period?

Ms. Salazar-Blanco: For the building permit, I believe so, but we are not talking about the building permit, we are actually talking about approval, zoning approvals, Board of Architects approval.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: You know, I'm not so sure I'm for giving the City Manager that discretion; if somebody wants an extra six months, I think it may behoove them to come in front of the City Commission to get the approval of that.

Commissioner Anderson: How many projects are there?

Ms. Salazar-Blanco: I would say over a dozen; we started over forty, but then looking at the list we saw that many of them, or the majority of them the Board of Architects approval had expired, so we had...

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Is that because we instituted this and they are just caught between the cracks, or is this because...I'm not quite sure.

Ms. Salazar-Blanco: The one's that had Board of Architects approval expired, no, those are out of the list; the one's that are still valid are projects that really tried to get into getting permits and there are delays because they have gone to the Board of Architects several times, they've gone to the Board of Adjustment, perhaps they've gone to Planning and Zoning Board, they've been going back and forth, changes back and forth, but its not that they haven't done anything about it, its still in the process; so those are the projects that we are trying to bring forward.

City Manager Brown: We are trying to bring to resolution one way or another, whether it's....

Mayor Slesnick: If I walked in with an unacceptable project just to beat a time deadline, and that requires me to go to the Architects two or three times, go the Planning and Zoning Board a couple times, why should I be given extra time just because I turned in an insufficient project in the first place?

Ms. Salazar-Blanco: Well, I wouldn't say it's insufficient.

Mayor Slesnick: No, you wouldn't say that about a specific project, but that could happen.

Ms. Salazar-Blanco: It could happen.

Mayor Slesnick: And all we are talking about is who is making the decision.

City Attorney Hernandez: But remember those projects - the projects that are presently in line, I don't think that staff has made the determination that any of those have been deleterious in their actions, or you know, but they have been moving forward in a reasonable manner, that's what professional staff has determined; we are coming up on deadlines and the question is upon a showing of good cause is should those projects be extended for a period up to six months?- that's really the question because as we drafted the Code, we drafted it very stringently - eighteen months, its eighteen months.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Eighteen months, with a six month as far as building permits go.

City Attorney Hernandez: As far as building permits, but not Zoning Code approvals, you need to understand, if you Zoning Code approvals go away that six months on the building permit doesn't do much for you....

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Here's what we are trying to prevent; we are trying to prevent people from getting entitlements and then never building the project, I mean that's essentially what we are trying to do here; and then possibly - that's what we are trying to do here is make sure....

Ms. Lubin: But these people that have gone to the Board of Architects just to get in on the Old Code, these kind of people that never did anything, they are over, they are gone; this is not intended to help them.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: I understand that perfectly.

Ms. Lubin: I just didn't want you to think that we were trying to entitle those people; its those people that have gone on and were told to do something, they went back and did it, they went back to another Board; those people have invested a lot of money and a lot of time trying to get the projects built, and....

City Manager Brown: There is no authority to go forward after those eighteen months, and whether the Commission wishes to do that, or you wish to grant me that authority that's OK, but we are just trying to dispose of those projects and give them an answer one way or another.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Well, it will dispose of those projects now, but it will also affect any projects done in the future too.

City Manager Brown: No, no...

City Attorney Hernandez: They have to have gotten the preliminary Board of Architects approval before the effective date of the Zoning Code in order....there is a definite number of projects.

City Manager Brown: There are only a certain number of projects.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Alright, I see, very good.

City Manager Brown: I just wanted to alert....The next item - its kind of sensitive; last year when the Biltmore Golf Course closed for renovations, we had to cancel the 4th of July, and at that time I was "gung ho" to bring that 4th of July process back to the Biltmore and have it in its grandeur, but times and conditions have changed, and I wanted to explain some of those times and conditions. We went through the budgetary

process and the amount of funds that we have now, discretionary to put on the 4th of July had been reduced greatly, but what has happened on top of that is since the golf course came out so well that there is an additional cost to protect the golf course from the crowds during this upcoming 4th of July, and that cost is about fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000) to have people out there to protect the sandtraps, to protect the greens, to protect the T's that are now everybody is raving about. Coupled with a twenty-six thousand dollar (\$26,000) amount of overtime that's already budgeted, that's a seventy-five thousand dollar (\$75,000) cost in labor just to protect the golf course. I've told all of you and I've told staff that I'm very, very concerned about next year because I think that we are really going to have to look at what we do, where we do it, how we do it, with regards to the budget that we are going to craft this May for next October. I foresee that we not going to be able to budget the golf course's 4th of July next year.

Commissioner Withers: You mean this coming July?

City Manager Brown: No, the next one; that one I'm sure we are not going to be able to budget for.

Commissioner Cabrera: When did you come up with that, when did you come up with this?

City Manager Brown: Well, I've been working on it since March, I've been trying to figure out about this 4th of July, but I'm pretty sure that we are going to have some problems funding outside items in '08-'09, so its my recommendation now that because of the increased cost of fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000), because that I think its run its time that if we are going to close off the 4th of July as we know it, that we do that this year. Now, I wanted your input, because I just don't think it's the right thing to do to spend an additional fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000) to protect that golf course when there is twenty-five, to thirty-five to forty thousand people, a good portion are Coral Gables residents, but a greater portion are not. So, it's my recommendation that we say goodbye to a wonderful tradition that we have had, but not go forward this year, and I'd like your comments.

Commissioner Cabrera: Well, I tell you what, since you brought it up in a public forum, I'm going to take the opportunity to respond to you in the same manner. I would like for you - I can only speak for myself, I don't know how my colleagues are going to react to this, but I would like for you to come back to us formally or to me, and not only look at the 4th of July, but look at everything else. I want to look at Christmas, I mean, you know, I'm the Grinch, whatever, the point is I want to look at all the special events including Farmers Market, and I want you to then show us what all the events as a...

Commissioner Anderson: Total.

Commissioner Cabrera: ...as a total, thank you ma'am, as a total represent to the City because I think to look at it from the standpoint of the golf course because of the cost involved in maintaining it, well we did this for so many years and we had a pretty fine golf course until things went by the wayside; one summer when we had problems with rain and whatever happened, I don't recall the specifics. So, I would feel more comfortable if you came back to us with a complete analysis, as Ms. Anderson said, a total analysis of all our special events where we are spending money.

City Manager Brown: I couldn't agree with you more, and that analysis I'll expedite and bring it back forward to you very, very shortly because of the thought process on the 4th of July, which is coming up, but you are right Christmas, the Easter Egg Hunt...

Commissioner Cabrera: I mean it - all of that, everything.

City Manager Brown: All of those are things that make our quality of life superb, but they all have to be looked at for the future. So I'll be glad to bring that analysis forth.

Commissioner Cabrera: The problem I have about this coming 4th of July is, I think we were all lead to believe that we were not going to have last year's 4th of July because of the renovations, and I think the majority of us told our constituents that we would be back this year.

City Manager Brown: I agree Commissioner, and in my wildest dreams did I think that I would be making this speech, but if you look at what that event is now going to cost...

Commissioner Cabrera: I understand.

City Manager Brown: ...and what it really does for the City, it's a great, great PR tool, but when you are talking about seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) in just labor to start, you have to look at it closely, and if I can save that this year, then that's going to be my recommendation.

Commissioner Cabrera: OK, and then to piggyback on my comments, I want you to also look at events that we make other organizations - that we let other organizations come to the Gables, like Carnival on the - the weekend, the Carnival weekend; I want to know from the standpoint of how much do those events cost us, and by golly, if they are costing us money, well, but if they are....they've got to be costing us to a degree, because people walk on hedges and mess up parts of the City, then I want to do a reassessment of that, and if in fact we want to continue in that trend, then let's charge for the use of our City if organizations are going to come into it.

City Manager Brown: Commissioner, we do charge.

Commissioner Cabrera: I know, but maybe we don't charge enough, because you told me what we charge, and it doesn't sound to me like it's a lot of money.

City Manager Brown: That number is for movement in this budget cycle, too.

Commissioner Cabrera: Well, I know....

City Manager Brown: I understand what you are saying; I can speak to the Carnival on the Mile...

Commissioner Cabrera: I don't want to nitpick one event, but I want to look at it from a macro standpoint, not just pick on one event.

Mayor Slesnick: Well, no one likes special events better than me, and I support all of our special events but you know, I do think we have to give serious thought to this particular one, not only because of the cost but because of the golf course and the importance of that course to the Biltmore complex and to the City; and even if we spend the money, I have to tell you I think that we are going to have a good deal of damage to the golf course even if we put the extra people out there and the extra things out there. So, I too Ralph, told people last year when they asked me if we would come back, I said yes of course we would come back, of course that was before, I must say that was before the legislature really drove a wedge into our budget and that was before the citizens of our City voted 70-30 for Proposition 1, which they choose to do, and...

Commissioner Cabrera: I was one of them.

Mayor Slesnick: I was not.

Commissioner Cabrera: OK.

Mayor Slesnick: Well, I'm just saying so that's a million and a half dollar hit just off the top for the added Homestead Exemption, so I'm just saying for all those reasons, I am certainly willing to go back and look again at it, but I share with you, I'm going to have to face people I said we are definitely coming back, but I think we have good reasons to rethink it.

Commissioner Cabrera: I don't disagree, what bothers me is that also we had this epiphany because we fixed up the golf course, but I remember even before taking office having the 4th of July event at the golf course and we had a fine golf course then;

yes, have we spent some money?- absolutely, we've spent some serious, you know, cash to bring it back; has the State put some real obstacles in our way?- yes, but the bottom line is that I want to look at it from a macro standpoint and I don't want us to have a knee-jerk reaction, that's all.

City Manager Brown: I agree with you, it's not going to be just a knee-jerk reaction on just the 4th of July.

Commissioner Cabrera: And you know what gets me also, I'll tell you what really bothers me, I don't care about the Biltmore Hotel as far as you know, if the course is got to be in immaculate condition for them, that hotel belongs to the citizens of Coral Gables, so quite candidly if that's a tool that they use...

Mayor Slesnick: Ralph, Ralph...

Commissioner Cabrera:wait, wait, wait, let me finish my thoughts, I mean really, come on, if we are trying to take such good care of it because they are managing it for us, well that's just too bad, you know, they just have to deal with the issue that its still a public facility and not a private one, because you know what, they market the darn golf course as a private facility, and I don't personally like it, but I have no choice in the matter. So, I'm done now.

Mayor Slesnick: But if you thought, and I was going to say, that I was saying it for the Biltmore.

Commissioner Cabrera: No, I didn't.

Mayor Slesnick: OK, I'm saying it for the golfer's sake.

Commissioner Cabrera: No, I was talking in general because of the Biltmore and the way they tout the course now, that its part of their complex, whatever it is.

City Manager Brown: I was speaking on the residential side for another fifty-five thousand dollars on top of what we already spent.

Commissioner Cabrera: OK, alright, well.

Commissioner Withers: I forgot an item, may I?

Mayor Slesnick: Yes.

Commissioner Withers: Because I really don't have many items, but I thought we had agreed, and this came up in my discussion with David and Eric on the affordable

housing. I thought that we had talked very seriously to put together some kind of citywide traffic study from a bird's eye perspective on a macro view, instead of asking developers to come in with traffic studies within a one block area, I thought we talked about putting together a larger perspective and then developers would donate into a fund and as their developments came on line we would plug in their traffic study and the big picture.

City Manager Brown: And we embarked on that thing, we argued with the County because we wanted impact fee monies to pay for that.

Commissioner Withers: But why if we are going to get funded by developers, why are we waiting on the County to pay for it; if we wait for the County to pay for it David, we'll never get paid for it, unless your buddy our County friend helps us out, but I doubt that's going to happen. So, I mean, I'd like to thrust to move forward on it especially in lieu of the fact that we probably requested traffic studies from some of these fraudulent developments.

City Manager Brown: I don't have enough information to be dangerous right now, but I'll get back to you, I know that when you brought that up a meeting or two ago that we were starting to move on that to where we were, I'll get back to you.

Commissioner Withers: But then again, if you are waiting on the County to pay for it, it won't ever happen. That's it, thank you.

Commissioner Anderson: And I'm OK with no 4th of July, and I'm also supportive of looking at it on macro level, not a problem.

Commissioner Withers: I think it should be at the University of Miami over Lake Osceola.

Commissioner Anderson: Doesn't matter. I just think...

City Manager Brown: That's the only other place in the City that can take up to...

Commissioner Anderson: You know, actually I had broached that with the President last year or year before, and I think they have problems with liability issues as well, if you want to explore that.

City Manager Brown: The intramural field can take a....

Commissioner Anderson: I actually had approached the President just as a casual conversation and there were issues of liability if you all, the management staff wants to look at it, but I think that's what their issue is.

Mayor Slesnick: That's not a bad idea.

Commissioner Cabrera: Hey, since we are binging back stuff that we forgot to talk about, don't forget to give the Commission the memo on the meetings with Commissioner Sosa and Gimenez, because Mayor Slesnick asked me about that if we were making some headway and I think the Commission needs to get a full update on that, a written update...

City Manager Brown: Alright.

Commissioner Cabrera: No verbal updates.

City Manager Brown: Alright. Last item...

Commissioner Withers: Sorry David, I didn't mean to jump in.

City Manager Brown: That's OK. A lot has been said about the issue of purchasing cards here lately, and usually I don't respond to items of that nature, unless I see there has been some injustice. Recently there has been some inaccuracies printed, there's been some untruths printed, and it's just a spread of, I think, misinformation about the use of purchasing cards, and I wanted to talk to the Commission and the public to let you know what a purchasing card is, it's a tool by which we use to purchase things that we have always purchased in the past for under a thousand dollars; and we used to do that for the last twenty-twenty five years by opening up a hundred to hundred and fifty blank purchase orders for anything and everything that we needed to buy and then we would charge against those blank purchase orders; and we would charge, charge, charge, and then at mid-year and at year's end we would balance those charges versus the budgets they were supposed to go into. This Commission wanted to make purchasing move faster, they wanted to make purchasing move faster, they wanted to be more accountable and more transparent. So we decentralized purchasing, and we use the cards. Every major City, County, University, vendor, corporation use procurement cards, and they are within the guidelines of our Code to purchase things under a thousand dollars. Having said that, have we made a couple of judgments in error?- yes, and we are correcting those; this Commission has asked me to review who has, who needs, and we are doing that right now, a flock of memos on my desk about who needs to turn those in, who doesn't need....

Mayor Slesnick: Excuse me David, somebody has a cell phone on, I would appreciate they turn it off.

City Manager Brown:...and so we are correcting those errors and those judgments; there had been very, very few. Mr. Benedict was quoted in the paper as saying an

abuse, and that was misinformation, it was an incorrect quote, and I have advised you all of that. He is the proponent that the system is working so well, we should issue more; I'm in disagreement because you should be able to control less better, and we are looking to do that. But I wanted this Commission to know that we are doing very well with that system, we will make the changes, we will tweak down our policies, so that we don't make mistakes. If you looked in the paper two days ago, the Veterans Administration has a huge problem on their hands with the same issue, Miami Beach has had that problem, and so I just wanted you to know that we are on top of the situation, it is not - and those numbers that were requested are the same numbers that we would purchase under blank purchase orders. It's not an increase in spending; it's just a matter of how we do it. I want you to be confident, and I want you to be knowledgeable that we are not behind the curve, we are not out of control, and we are getting better as we speak, and that's just what I wanted to bring up.

Commissioner Cabrera: When are you going to bring something back to us?

City Manager Brown: Within thirty (30) days. I want to personally sit down with each director and go over their requests; some of them I don't have any problems with, some I still do, and I'm going to go over those. I can tell you the speed at which we purchase things is improved dramatically and that was one of the big "bug-a-boos" along time ago before we decentralized purchasing, was that we were so slow in purchasing, and so slow in getting things out, and we have increased that; and I will make sure that we stay on top of this, and provide you the changes to the policies that we need. I just want to thank you for your time. That's it Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Slesnick: David, is your policy going to include the review by the Audit and Budget Committee?

City Manager Brown: Thank you, Mr. Mayor, it was either the Mayor or someone who had gone to the Mayor about utilizing the Budget Advisory Board to review the Procurement Card purchases on a monthly basis like we've been doing overtime since 2001, and I can tell you that, that change of reviewing overtime has proved wonderful, and we have reduced overtime year, after year, after year, we are going to do the same thing with Procurement Cards.

Commissioner Cabrera: I think you also, Don, you sent an e-mail where you copied us where we asked the Manager for clarification on the policies that relate to employees drinking alcohol while on duty.

City Manager Brown: I have those on my desk and I'll return that in a memo to you within - I'm going to Tallahassee tomorrow, but it will be on your desk before Friday.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: I just came back into town last night and somebody gave me this

Herald article, but also the editorial, and it talks about how many P Cards that we have issued and you already addressed that, and it also addresses the pricy tabs for business related meals, and I think you should mention that, and the wine that accompanies them; is there any thoughts as far as that?

City Manager Brown: That will be my memorandum to you on Friday.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: I think its important that you address everything in this article since you brought it up, I'd like to hear what your thoughts are and the fact that maybe we should be doing business in City Hall instead of necessarily out in the restaurants.

City Manager Brown: Now that you bring that up, I have made myself available on my own breakfast hours and my own lunch hours; now I can knock that off and not be available, but I think in the best interest of the City and the residents and the people who want to get a hold of me, that I can spend some of those times. Is it a business cost?- it always has been, it is now transparent through a P Card, and I'm not ashamed of that; before we just submitted a receipt and got it reimbursed.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: We went recently with Commissioner Gimenez and....I have no problem with that, because we are trying to get something for the City, but I think that things that you can do on an office level maybe should be done in the office itself. When you are entertaining trying to get something from somebody, that is in my opinion a necessity, and then furthermore, we could talk about the wine issue, and you and I have had that discussion before and the alcoholic issues, but your memorandum I would like to have address all of that - encompass all that.

City Manager Brown: It shall.

Mayor Slesnick: And I would like to say, since you brought it up Bill, that the Miami Herald had a good editorial, a lot of points that were pertinent, but at least I was pleased that if you go back to the dates of a lot of things we have spoken about, a lot of direction that was given by the Commission to the Manager preceded their editorial, it was not caused by their editorial. David, I would like an explanation too, you kept talking about under a thousand dollars according to the Herald's articles there's major purchases being made by P Cards.

City Manager Brown: Not true.

Mayor Slesnick: OK, I'd like...

City Manager Brown: I'll give you a quick...quickly...the Procurement Code provides anything under twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2,500) you can make three calls, three quotes; under a thousand dollars you can purchase it, and that's what the Procurement

Card does; once you get above twenty-five hundred dollars, then you got to go to the informal bidding system; above twenty-five thousand dollars it's a formal bidding system; this is for things like knapsacks, I always think about the knapsacks that were purchased by the Police when we had the requisition, it took more money to process the requisition than to buy the knapsack; this is under a thousand dollars per purchase.

Mayor Slesnick: Then when I read about large computer purchases on P Cards, is that correct?

City Manager Brown: Can't answer that, but I'll get back to you on that. I know that we had bought computer parts, but not large purchases, I'll find out.

Mayor Slesnick: Well, I think this just goes to the point of consistency, and what you've said is the policy, and if someone is doing something other than that...

City Manager Brown: Then we'll correct that.

Mayor Slesnick: ...we need to correct it, but I am still encouraged to know and haven't been shown to me yet that no purchases were made that were immoral or illegal.

City Manager Brown: No, and that's not the case. We are trying to do our very best to get purchasing up and moving in an expeditious efficient manner, and that's happening, and you need to be assured of that.

Mayor Slesnick: Just David, I think that the main thing that this has said is that I just hope that you understand the Commission's desire for you to stay on top of this.

City Manager Brown: That's why I made this speech; I want you to know I already have.

Mayor Slesnick: Just a few things I passed out - I was traveling to...

City Manager Brown: Mr. Mayor, I'm sorry to interrupt; I just got an e-mail, there have been no computer purchases on P Cards - none.

Mayor Slesnick: Alright. I don't know where people get this information then. OK. I shared with you the article from the Tallahassee Democrat on the City's pension issues and problems, and I apologize that the date from the Tallahassee Democrat was left off; I don't know what happened to that in the copying process, but it was just within the last two weeks that this...as you'll notice the City of Tallahassee is facing some of the same similar issues. In Gainesville, the Gainesville Sun talked about these merit bonuses and longevity bonuses costing the City one point five million (\$1.5M); I share

that with you because to see that other Cities, there's problems within the City administration about doing certain things, and I was glad to know that we have a better handle on our perks, if you will, than Gainesville does. The two letters from the Mayors of Coral Springs and Mayor of Apopka; I thought were very good about pieces of pending legislation and our tax commission things. If it hasn't been said, or you haven't read it, we are finalists in the U.S. Conference of Mayors for the 2008 Livability Award. We've been there before, we've ended up with Honorable Mentions, but we are one of only about twelve small cities that are competing for the final Livability Award, and ours this year is based on historic preservation of our neighborhoods. I mentioned before if you all didn't see, I thought it was wonderful that our City was mentioned in Parade Magazine, as one of the spots to visit in Miami when they were featuring great American cities; and Dave I'm going to give this to you for the Chief, but this is something I'd like if you may get back, the City of Tampa Mayor sent out a letter talking about her pride in reducing the violent crimes and crimes in general, a forty-five percent reduction since 2002, dropping ten percent in 2007. It was one of the most crime-ridden cities supposedly, according to their own information, but they went to a system of patrol somewhat akin to what Chief Hammerschmidt has instituted, and of course it is all modeled after the "Compstat" in New York, but I think this is something that if some people would analyze and maybe you could send that out to us.

City Manager Brown: I'd be glad to pass that along.

Mayor Slesnick: If you all didn't see, the City Clerk sent us a thing, which I think we should consider down the road. It's a resolution trying to save money for cities and make it one common date for City elections in the spring. This was a way of saving money by not going to the November 7th General Election date, but by retaining that spring date for Cities, but having all the Cities on the same day. They suggested the fourth Tuesday, that's not quite our Tuesday, but I think we should consider that.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Makes sense; makes a lot of sense.

Mayor Slesnick: I mean we could suggest backup, whatever it is for us the second Tuesday.

Commissioner Withers: The Carbonell Awards, don't forget that's usually up your...

Mayor Slesnick: The Carbonell Awards - yes - how many have we nominated...

Commissioner Withers: No, they won, it was a couple nights ago, I think they won seven or eight - once again lead South Florida.

Mayor Slesnick: The Actor's Playhouse - Miracle Theater leading South Florida with

Carbonell award win, and we thank them and appreciate....what we will try to do, I'm sure maybe New Theater and GableStage got some so we try to get that out in our E-News, congratulations to them, and thank you all for being with us today and see you next meeting.

City Clerk Item No. 32A

ADJOURNMENT

[Note for the Record: There being no further business on the Regular Commission Meeting agenda, the Commission of the City of Coral Gables adjourned its meeting at 1:00 p.m. on April 8, 2008. The next regular meeting of the City Commission has been scheduled for April 29, 2008, beginning 9 a.m.]

DONALD D. SLESNICK
MAYOR

ATTEST:

WALTER J. FOEMAN
CITY CLERK