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May 8th, 2023

Letter to Coral Gables Commission

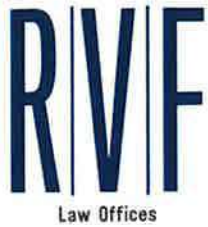
Esteemed Commissioners,

As you know, one of our city's newest commission members, Ariel Fernandez, wishes to remove City Manager Peter Iglesias from his current position — this despite Mr. Fernandez just being sworn into office and not having worked with Mr. Iglesias for even a month. This action was part of Mr. Fernandez's campaign platform, and he claims it is the will of the voters of our city.

While Mr. Fernandez may have personal disagreements with the city manager, there is absolutely no basis for Mr. Iglesias to step down or be terminated. He has served 5 years in his current position — and 2 years as assistant city manager — with a high standard of ethics and integrity. I have known Mr. Iglesias for 20 years and worked with him closely during my two terms as mayor. At no point in time has his job performance or conduct been anything less than exemplary.

Under Mr. Iglesias's leadership, Coral Gables has become a model for the management of operations and city services such as law enforcement, fire rescue and waste pick-up. Our Fire department ranks among the best in the county, with a top-five customer service rating and a six-minute response time. Our Police department ranks second highest in the county among cities with populations over 40,000. The City Manager has worked collaboratively with the heads of these departments and the commission to ensure that our residents consistently receive high-quality services.

Mr. Iglesias has also worked to ensure that Coral Gables is a leader in technology and the environment, expanding public access to EV charging stations and providing the Fire Department with resources like lifesaving telemedicine services for emergency responders. He has presided in the construction of our Public Safety Building under budget and in advance of the scheduled time. All the while, he has also focused on supporting our residents with a relentless focus on maintaining the city's comparatively low millage rates and property taxes.



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I respectfully request that the members of the commission consider the motives by which Mr. Fernandez is making his claims, as well as Mr. Iglesias's successful record, and make the right decision — to retain Mr. Iglesias in the position of city manager.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RVF', is written over a circular scribble. The signature is positioned above the printed name 'Raúl Valdés-Fauli'.

Raúl Valdés-Fauli