

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-4
January 28, 2020
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

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

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Police Chief, Ed Hudak

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-4 [10:52:05 a.m.]

An update on the recently approved inter-local and mutual aid agreement between the City of West Miami and the City of Coral Gables providing for the creation of a Joint Enforcement Zone provision of law enforcement and creating a multi-agency anti-prostitution and human trafficking task force. (Sponsored by Vice Mayor Lago)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: G-4. We have already approved this.

Vice Mayor Lago: I thought he was coming...you got to go, then let's go.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: G-4 – and we have already approved this, Commissioner.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes, I just wanted to give a brief update of where we are in regard to this and how our additional MOU with the City of Miami paying significant dividends, especially now

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during the Super Bowl. And I wanted to also thank Commissioner Padron from the City of West Miami, but I know that the Chief has to leave a little bit early, he's got a prior commitment, so I'd rather have you give the update now and then we'll thank Commissioner Padron when he shows up.

Chief Hudak: Thank you. Commissioner, Mayor, Manager. We just want to update everyone on our continued attack on human trafficking throughout Coral Gables and part of it. We've entered into an inter-local agreement which kind of expands what was already in place to combat and work with the City of West Miami's Police Department as well. We have seen a great success in our previous inter-local agreement approved by this Commission and the City of Miami, along the Southwest 8th Street corridor. This now takes care of the west and north side borders of our streets, to work together. As of last week, we had an operation. We really don't talk too much about it, but we made another, I think it was 12 arrests, along with the City of Miami, where we are actually working both sides of it. All this week because of the Super Bowl, we have about a total of in number, we've been working a week on Miami Beach, as well as here, with the different strike force, with the different task force that are going on human trafficking. So as an update to this, this continues to add the ability for us to work along that corridor of Red Road along with West Miami.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you Chief. I just want to say thank you to the Chief of Police and all the police officers in the department, along with my colleagues for supporting me, not only on this inter-local agreement that was passed with West Miami, but also the one that we passed with the City of Miami two years ago, which has been incredibly successful. We've had dozens of arrests, I think last year was over 100, or close to 100.

Chief Hudak: Yes sir.

Vice Mayor Lago: Close to 100 individuals. This allows us to encroach 100 feet into the City of Miami and to the City of West Miami and allows them the same ability. That type of redundancy allows us to spread our forces and work in tandem with two other municipalities in an effort to secure our borders and that's important, because a lot of the individuals in this community come into the City of Coral Gables to commit crimes – petty crimes, looking for crimes of opportunity. So these type of activities where we go undercover with other municipalities and have the accessibility of stepping into their municipalities 100 feet sends a strong message that the City of Coral Gables is active and that we not only want to protect the fringes of the City of Coral Gables, but also the resident community and the business community as-a-whole. So, I want to say thank you to my colleagues for supporting this. It was approved 5-0 West Miami, it was two weeks ago we went, two weeks ago I went with the Chief, so hopefully if you see something say something, because we are as active as possible. Thank you again.

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Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And I want to bring out the point that in 1995, 25 years ago is when Commissioner Rebeca Sosa was Mayor of West Miami, so it's a great idea and her idea has been around for a long time. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you also to Commissioner Padron from the City of West Miami who sponsored the resolution for the inter-local in the City of West Miami, so I want to give him the credit. He made sure he brought it home. Thank you.

[End: 10:55:50 a.m.]