

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-24
August 24, 2021
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Michael Mena

Commissioner Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

Assistant City Manager, Ed Santamaria

City Attorney, Miriam Ramos

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Zully Pardo

Agenda Item G-24 [Start: 4:08 p.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission directing the City Manager to explore the purchase of the property located at 142 SW 37 Avenue (Folio No. 03-4105-050-0200) by the City. (Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

Mayor Lago: Okay G-24.

City Attorney Ramos: G-24 is a Resolution of the City Commission directing the City Manager to explore the purchase of the property located at 142 SW 37 Avenue.

Mayor Lago: I've been working on this property for probably about a year and change. I have some of the residents that are here. This is the most northern piece of property in the Gables and its prime on 37th Avenue for a nice little entrance feature; and I've already met with the owners and I've had discussions with our team, and this could be a great opportunity to do something that we missed out on Bird Road, and hopefully we'll get back one day, but it would give us a nice,
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beautiful, and give the residents of that area the respect that they deserve, because sometimes they say it all the time, hey you guys forget about us – we never forget about them. But this is an opportunity for a little bit of green space and a very small entrance feature saying, this is Coral Gables, this is not the City of Miami. We love our neighbors, but there is a difference. So, will anybody move this?

Commissioner Menendez: I'll make the motion.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor we do have someone from the public wishing to speak on this.

Mayor Lago: Whatever they like.

City Clerk Urquia: Ms. Zully Pardo.

Mayor Lago: Just a resident I've been working with for a long time.

Ms. Pardo: Good afternoon Mayor, Vice Mayor and Commissioners, it's a pleasure to be here and thank you Mr. Mayor. My name is Zully Pardo, my family and I have resided at 49 Campina Court for a little over 40 years. Our home is part of the Campina Court Historic District, designated by the Preservation Board on November 17, 2005. The residences were built during World War II. They represent a shift from small Mediterranean-style bungalows constructed during the early days of the city's development to minimal transitional designs of affordable housing. The gateway property in question is designated as part of that district to protect the integrity of the whole entity. Exploring the purchasing of this gateway property would benefit, not only the district, our neighborhood, the Flagler Section, street section neighborhood and the City of Coral Gables. This is an opportunity to safeguard the integrity of our historic district and the character and charm of our low scale neighborhood. The possibility of intrusion from any type of conflicting info architecture would be precluded present and future. In addition, the entry at Ponce and Douglas would reflect a gateway green area or park worthy of the City Beautiful, as envisioned by the residents for so long and still be afforded historical protection under the National Park Service. This is a win-win situation, a step in the right direction. Further your commitment to our city and its residents and support Mayor Lago's initiative. We appreciate it. Thank all of you for your hard work and for always listening to me.

Mayor Lago: The Commission has been huge advocates of open space, green space, the environment. We've just got to get it to the finish line, and we are going to do that right now with a motion from Commissioner Menendez and a second from Commissioner Anderson, if there are any other comments.

Commissioner Menendez: By the way, I think its great that I know so many neighbors, residents have been so supportive of this, but the fact that a solution has been found, I think its great when people come together and find solutions. So, kudos to you, Mayor and everyone involved.

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Ms. Pardo: Thank you Mr. Menendez, I know we met; and by the way, I have your ratio, 31 percent of the residents of that area were against a project that could possibly endanger our district.

Commissioner Menendez: Thank you.

Ms. Pardo: Thank you all.

Commissioner Anderson: Thank you for the efforts you made to bring it to our attention, because without the residents bringing these matters to our attention things get missed.

Ms. Pardo: Thank you Mrs. Anderson and to all of you for your time.

Mayor Lago: Anybody else?

City Clerk Urquia: No, that's it.

Mayor Lago: Take a vote.

Commissioner Menendez: Yes

Commissioner Anderson: Yes

Commissioner Fors: Yes

Vice Mayor Mena: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)