

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COORDINATING COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of August 3, 2016

Members:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Commissioners
Lourdes Cuzán	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	E	Mayor Jim Cason
Israel Reyes	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	E	X	P	Vice-Mayor Frank Quesada
Carolina Rendeiro	E	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	Comm. Patricia Keon
Nancy Sanabria	E	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	Comm. Vince Lago
Volker Anding	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	X	P	Comm. Jeannett Slesnick
Steve Edelstein	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark, City Manager
Enrique Monasterio	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	Council-at-Large Appointment

Country Appointed Liaisons:

Pending – Ms. Rendeiro
 Pending – Mr. Edelstein
 Cartagena, Colombia – Ms. Cuzan
 Aix-en-Provence, France – Mr. Anding
 Antigua, Guatemala – Ms. Sanabria
 Pending – Mr. Monasterio
 Granada, Spain – Mr. Reyes

A = Absent
P = Present
E = Excused
No Meeting

Staff in Attendance:

Evelyn Paz, Secretary, IACC

Guest: Alma Kadragic, Chamber of Commerce liaison
 Rafael Gavarrete, Resident

Mr. Rendeiro called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Edelstein made a motion to approve the minutes of the IACC meeting on June 21, 2016 and Mr. Monasterio seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA:

Ms. Cuzan brought a tentative program for the visit from Cartagena as well as a draft invitation. Ms. Cuzan said she has been working with the President of the Colombian Chamber of Commerce. The president submitted the topics of interest to the Mayor of Cartagena for approval. The topics include development, tourism, police and fire, and a few others. Ms. Cuzan submitted the program to the City Manager for approval. Ms. Cuzan has scheduled a meeting with the City Manager to go over the details.

September 8th there will be a presentation by the Director of Economic Development, followed by a presentation by the Chief of Police and the Chief of Fire. Ms. Cuzan said she needs to speak to the Colombian Chamber of Commerce to go over what will happen after the presentations. They are hoping to have a luncheon hosted by the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce and its members followed by a business round table. The topics will be tourism and business development and good business opportunities.

September 9th there will be a presentation on the City's sports programs and the possibility of having a sports exchange. Ms. Cuzan is hoping for a presentation from the Coral Gables Recreation department to discuss sports camp, 2 weeks sports exchanges and sports programs in Cartagena. The Cartagena delegation would like to meet about art and culture. Ms. Cuzan thought about a presentation from the Cultural Affairs Board or someone from the galleries. Ms. Cuzan said after they will have an open lunch. Ms. Cuzan said her firm will be sponsoring tickets for the Marlins game.

Ms. Cuzan said the President of the Colombian Chamber would like to coordinate a tour of the Marlins stadium and of Miami International Airport and the Port of Miami. Ms. Cuzan said that she would not be involved in that because it is outside the City's jurisdiction.

Mr. Edelstein asked is they would still be having the Wynwood tour since they are having so much media attention because of the Zika Virus. Mr. Monasterio said in his professional opinion, on September 8th the whole Miami Dade County will all have it or it will be eradicated.

Ms. Rendeiro asked in regards to the Chamber of Commerce hosting a round table that would be coming. Ms. Cuzan said that has been the challenge because Cartagena would like to see who could be matched with their local people rather than give us the list. Ms. Rendeiro said the Chamber would not send out something to the entire membership. Ms. Rendeiro said this is a priority since it's the start of the new year and that it is a busy week. Ms. Cuzan said that the President of the Colombian Chamber made a program that says what business would be interested in. Ms. Rendeiro is worried about the members of the Chamber of Commerce who do not speak Spanish. Ms. Paz added that the City hosted a delegation last week from South America which had presentations in Spanish from Directors Frank Fernandez and Diana Gomez, Deputy City Attorney Miriam Ramos. Mayor Cason said that Mayor Cason was able to translate. Ms. Cuzan said that they need to have bilingual people present to translate if needed. Ms. Paz offered that Mayor Cason, herself and the office intern could help.

Mr. Edelstein suggested to Ms. Cuzan that they invite a SOUTHCOM representative to be there since Cartagena's police work very closely with their military. Ms. Cuzan asked for a contact so that she could reach out to them. Mr. Edelstein said he could provide the contact. Mr. Reyes said that he could also provide a contact for the Secret Service and FBI. He would be able to contact them.

Ms. Cuzan said that she has tried to make all the talks in one venue so that they do not need to worry about transportation. Ms. Paz said that on Thursday the City has their Board of Architect meetings in the Commission Chamber, but the City Manager said she could relocate them to the building next door.

Ms. Cuzan asked Ms. Paz if the City Manager or she would coordinate with the directors. Ms. Paz said that once she receives the approval from the City Manager with who she should reach out to her would coordinate with the directors. Ms. Cuzan said the times were flexible and Ms. Paz could change them to fit the directors' schedule. Mr. Reyes said that he would be at the police discussion so if there were to be

any changes to let him know. Ms. Paz suggested to Mr. Reyes to advise Mr. Hurtado who is very involved in the security to speak or be present. Ms. Cuzan asked if Ms. Paz could request CGTV be present at the cocktail reception. Ms. Paz said she would bring it up in her meeting with the City Manager.

Ms. Kadragic said that Ms. Cuzan had mentioned Pro-Colombia. Ms. Kadragic said that Pro-Colombia would be putting on a presentation September 8-9 in Hollywood showcasing Colombia. Ms. Kadragic asked if the Cartagena delegation could be involved in that because it's a bigger group for them and they might gain access to more businesses. Ms. Cuzan asked what the presentation would be on. Mr. Edelstein asked if there would be a problem since it's the City of Coral Gables. Ms. Cuzan said they would have to bring the presentation down here. Ms. Kadragic said that they would most likely not be able to do that. Mr. Edelstein said that there would be a very minimal chance that the delegation could visit that presentation in Broward County since this delegation is coming through the City of Coral Gables. Ms. Cuzan said that is the presentation is going to be about what the City of Coral Gables or Miami can offer Colombia. Ms. Cuzan said she would leave it up to Ms. Rendeiro for discussion. Ms. Cuzan said if it would be in Coral Gables then it would be more accessible. Ms. Cuzan said that she is sure the President of the Colombian Chamber is aware of the event and Ms. Cuzan is going to speak to her.

Ms. Cuzan presented the estimated budget for the Welcome Reception. Ms. Cuzan said the Museum is to be the venue. Rincon Argentino quoted \$750 which included food, catering, supply, set up and break down for 50 guests. The food included would be empanadas, sausages, ensalada rusa and penne in pink sauce. The Westin Colonnade gave a rate of \$129.00 a night for the Mayor's accommodations. In total it would be 387.00. The delegates are to pay their own accommodations. The hotel has given a courtesy rate of \$159.00 per night. Ms. Cuzan said she is trying to find a sponsor for the bar. She said to purchase the beverages for the bar it would be \$360 for 3 cases of wine, which does not include a bartender. Ms. Cuzan said that she believed the museum could provide a bartender. Ms. Rendeiro said that they charge an additional fee. Ms. Rendeiro said that it is \$150 plus an additional \$150 for clean-up. Ms. Cuzan is missing the fees for staffing since it is going to be an afterhours event. Ms. Cuzan said there would also be an exhibit that night that we have to pay to be hanged. The paintings would include Emilio Calleja. Mr. Edelstein said that the Foundation would be willing to cover the Mayor's room and the Museum reception. Ms. Rendeiro asked if the Colombian Chamber would be sponsoring anything. Ms. Cuzan said that as of today they are not sponsoring anything. Ms. Rendeiro asked what the total was for the event and the coordination the Chamber of Commerce for the roundtable would be difficult without knowing the delegates. Ms. Cuzan said she would work on obtaining a list but so far she knows there are about 15 delegates.

Mr. Edelstein said that the IACC needs to vote on the Foundation to fund the events then the Mayor would have to request the funds. Ms. Cuzan said the motion to present the cost of the Mayor of Cartagena's stay at the Westin Colonnade for 3 nights—a total of \$387.00—and the catering cost from Rincon Argentino of \$750.00 to Mayor Cason for approval of the Foundation covering those costs. Mr. Edelstein amended the motion to include any fees the hotel may add (not including room service or the Mayor's personal charges). Ms. Rendeiro added to the motion that the estimate should not exceed \$1,300.00.

MOTION: Ms. Cuzan motioned to request funding from the Foundation to cover the Mayor of Cartagena's hotel accommodations and the catering for the cocktail reception to welcome the Mayor of

Cartagena, not to exceed \$1,300.00. Mr. Edelstein seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion was approved unanimously.

LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

Ms. Sanabria said that she was present along with Steve Edelstein and Volker Anding, the Mayor, Dunia Miranda-Mauri and Mr. Gavarrete to witness the second humanitarian shipment of the Salsbury fire truck. Ms. Sanabria said that she received a CD from Coral Gables TV on their coverage of the shipments. Ms. Sanabria said she was going to try to burn the CD to give it to the rest of the board and also take it to Chief Rodriguez when they give him his commendation for his efforts. Mr. Edelstein asked if they knew when the commendation would take place. Ms. Sanabria said that she does not know when it will take place but that the Mayor sent a letter to Chief Rodriguez and his superior.

Ms. Sanabria said that the shoring kits have not come back yet from Guatemala because the plane had to travel to other locations. However, the US Air Force would attempt to bring them back to Miami. Ms. Sanabria said that the most important part is that they now have the equipment to make the shoring kits for future donations. All that would be needed would be wood. Ms. Sanabria thanked Mr. Gavarrete for his hard work in getting the kits built.

Ms. Sanabria said that this mission is not only humanitarian, but also gives the US Air Force an opportunity to train. We received a letter from the Captain of the US Air Force in Guatemala which read, "The operation was completed successfully without any issues thank you for your support to this mission. The Antigua municipal fire department was extremely grateful for the donation of the two fire trucks. The air crew was extremely professional; nothing but good things to say about that team." Mr. Edelstein said that Chief Tony Rodriguez is going to be receiving an award for his efforts. Ms. Sanabria said that the crew had an emergency crew on flight heading to Guatemala. Ms. Rendeiro said that during the Sister Cities Conference many ambassadors told her that they could not get items to South America. Ms. Rendeiro offered them using Miami as a gateway.

Mr. Edelstein said that the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce hosted an event with the military affairs committee and keynote speech, Admiral Kidd (Combatant Commander of US Southern Command) mentioned the humanitarian donation of a fire truck by the City of Coral Gables to the City of La Antigua very favorably.

Ms. Sanabria thanked Mr. Edelstein for coordinating funds through the International Affairs Foundation to make the shoring kits and the custom fees. Ms. Sanabria thanks Ms. Kadragic for helping with the application for the award.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE:

Mr. Anding said he wrote an email to his counterpart in Aix with the suggestions on the internships that were discussed two months ago. He received a response that Aix had decided not to pursue internship opportunity because of social and legislation problems. The email mentioned that they are thinking about the visit of a delegation of business managers to visit our city and vice versa. The gentlemen in Aix asked for some information regarding business opportunities in Florida. Mr. Anding asked for a contact from here to give to Aix-en-Provence so that there can be an exchange of ideas and opportunities. Mr. Anding said they would like to know about the institution that the Chamber is setting up with business opportunities. Mr. Anding said they are interested in relations with different groups and labor union organizations for an exchange of ideas. Mr. Anding said they would be interested in a more traditional exchange through student chorus, student theatre, and schooling for students 13-15 years of age. Mr.

Anding told them he would be in touch and that their ideas would be considered. He mentioned to them a suggestion Mayor Cason had given him to have a 2 week program training their fire and police personnel. As well as a program teaching technology techniques that the City uses to protect against hacks and scams. His counterpart in Aix said that July and August are very slow months and he would try to get back to Mr. Anding by September.

Mr. Anding mentioned in view of the horrible terror act in Nice, which is close to Aix-en-Provence, on July 14, Mayor Cason asked Mr. Anding to draft a letter of condolence to the Mayor of Aix-en-Provence. Mayor Cason sent this letter on July 18.

GRANADA, SPAIN:

Mr. Monasterio said that everyone in Spain was on vacation. Ms. Rendeiro said that during her trip to Washington DC for the Sister Cities Conference she met with the board. Included in the meeting was the Sister Cities liaison, Taylor, who is reaching out to Santander and Aveiro. Mr. Reyes asked if he could see the award the city received. Ms. Paz went to her office to pick it up. Ms. Rendeiro said that the Ambassador from the United States to Guatemala was present and was very thrilled. Ms. Rendeiro said the Mayor told her to mention during the event that the City of Coral Gables would take any donations to send them to Guatemala from all over the United States. Ms. Rendeiro said that the requests have started to come in.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Mr. Edelstein said that last meeting they spoke about compiling a list of sister cities in other regions as potential partners in Great Britain. Mr. Edelstein said he looked in England at Bath. Bath is located on the Avon River. Mr. Edelstein said it has tremendous history and beautiful. They have 4 Sister Cities, one of them is Aix-en-Provence. Mr. Edelstein said that they look like a great potential and offer a great location. Ms. Rendeiro and Mr. Edelstein said it is a great city. There are two universities. Ms. Rendeiro said that the local Consul General is great to work with.

MOTION: Mr. Edelstein motioned to consider Bath, England as a Sister City and contact the Consul General to seek their approval. As well as speak to the Mayor and gain his thoughts. Mr. Monasterio seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Rendeiro recapped the cities being considered. Currently the cities for consideration are Bath, Aveiro, and Santander. Ms. Rendeiro said that Santander and Aveiro are already being worked on. There would be one trip for the formal signing of the agreement. The Port of Miami has already accepted to be part of the trip so that they can speak to the Port of Aveiro.

Ms. Rendeiro was approached at the Chamber of Commerce by the US Ambassador in Quito to do a Sister City program with Coral Gables. Ms. Rendeiro said that currently Quito is in an emeritus status because of the political situation and the Mayor not responding. The Coral Gables Chamber is working with the Ecuador Chamber of Commerce to begin communication. Ms. Rendeiro said that the currently trend includes the US Embassies helping. Mr. Rendeiro asked what the political situation is in Ecuador currently. Mr. Edelstein also suggested that Ms. Rendeiro sit down with Mayor Cason to discuss his views on opening a relationship with Quito again.

Ms. Rendeiro said that she was voted into the Sister City International Board. She is coordinating a Sister City Inaugural Ball for all the ambassadors. It will be on January 17th at the St. Regis in Washington DC.

Ms. Kadragic said that the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce will be hosting an event to discuss Brexit and what happens in terms of the US. The event will take place August 30th from 10AM-12PM at the Coral Gables Art Cinema they will have a panel. The British Consul General, Olga Ramuta, Larry Williams, and Alice Santana will participate. Ms. Rendeiro said it is an important topic for the British Commonwealth islands as well is our local economy.

Ms. Rendeiro said she will be having a video conference with 30 mayors in Brazil to speak about Sister Cities and the strategic impact that it can have on their economy.

Announcement:

The next meeting is scheduled for August 16, 2016.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Paz

Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council