

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item A-2
September 13, 2016
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

**Mayor Jim Cason
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Vince Lago
Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Commissioner Jeannett Slesnick**

City Staff

**City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
City Attorney, Craig E. Leen
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia**

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item A-2

Presentation of a Proclamation to Michael Kattou declaring September 13, 2016 as “Code Enforcement Day” in Coral Gables.

Mayor Cason: The next item is a Proclamation, declaring September 13th as “Code Enforcement Day” in Coral Gables. After I read the Proclamation, I’d like to invite Michael Kattou and the rest of the Code Enforcement team that’s here, to come up to receive the Proclamation. Whereas, Code Enforcement officers provide for the safety, health, and welfare of the citizens surround our City Beautiful, through the enforcement of building, zoning, housing, animal control, fire safety, environmental, and other codes and ordinances. And whether everyday assisted by support and program staff, said division attempts to provide quality customer service to the public for the betterment of the community; and many times their efforts go unnoticed even after code compliance has been accomplished due to their efforts and expertise; And whereas Code Enforcement officers are dedicated, well trained, and highly responsible individuals who take their jobs seriously and are proud of their department and local government in which they serve. So now, therefore, I Jim Cason as Mayor of the City of Coral Gables, along

with the members of the City Commission, do hereby proclaim September 13th 2016 as “Code Enforcement Day” in Coral Gables. In observance thereof, I urge the residents of Coral Gables to recognize and express their heart felt appreciation for the outstanding and dedicated service provided daily by those individuals who serve as our Code Enforcement officers.

City Clerk Foeman: Michael.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: And Mr. Mayor, Will Ortiz is the Director of Code Enforcement, the entire team we’re calling up to celebrate this award.

Commissioner Lago: Mayor, if I may.

Mayor Cason: Go ahead.

Commissioner Lago: If you just give me one second, I’d like to say some words in reference to our hard working Code Enforcement guys. When you mention Code Enforcement, a lot of them get a lot of heat in reference to the daily grind they have to deal with. But these are individuals who take a lot of pride in their work and sometimes they don’t get this type of recognition. So, like I told the Manager, probably about a week ago, I see these gentlemen handling some of the most difficult calls in the City and, you know, going out of their way to really help residents - help business owners to the extent where I found this gentleman; he doesn’t know I saw him, but this week I found this gentleman. I was parked getting off at a restaurant and I found this gentleman taking stickers off light posts. Again, with nobody noticing he was doing that and I took a picture of it and sent it to the Manager, because that is what exemplifies an employee of the City of Coral Gables, especially Code Enforcement. Which again, you guys on a daily basis have to deal with residents and business owners who are not very happy, because when you visit them it’s for an issue that needs to be resolved or they’re not complying obviously with a Code. So, I want to commend you for doing your job, being so diligent, and representing the City of Coral Gables. And when you think nobody is watching, somebody is watching. And your hard work and your effort and your leadership is what Coral Gables is all about, so I – you know - I commend you. Thank you Michael.

Mayor Cason: And you know, a lot of times if you look around other cities you see graphite everywhere. Think about it, we really don’t have graphite in Coral Gables because you guys, as soon as you see it, you take it off. Congratulations to that. And also, one of the reasons that I think we don’t have the kind of mosquito problems that some of the other cities do is because of our Code Enforcement. We don’t have stuff lying around that accumulates water. We’re going to have an ordinance today about empty swimming pools. We’ve already had one earlier that will standing bodies of water, that you guys will enforce. So, congratulations for all you do, making the city a really wonderful place to live. Thank you.

Commissioner Keon: You know Mayor, also, often we have found that when there are residents that -- particularly elderly residents -- that are having a great difficulty in coming into compliance. I know that the Code Enforcement officers, some of you have gone out of your way to help these people come into compliances by helping to identify people that can help them and can do work on the home and can and get things done. So, your kindness and your empathy for some of our residents that can so easily bring their homes into compliance is really applaudable. You're very kind and you're very good to a lot of people in the City. So, thank you.

Michael: Thank you.