

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item F-2
January 24, 2017
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 F-2 [3:16:31 p.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Coral Gables, Florida, directing the City Attorney's Office and City Administration to research and draft a City of Coral Gables Parking Code to include control over types of violations, fine amounts and the appeals process. (Sponsored by Commissioner Lago).

Mayor Cason: Let's move onto F-2.

City Attorney Leen: Mr. Mayor, Item F-2, which is sponsored by Commissioner Lago, is a Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Coral Gables, Florida, directing the City Attorney's Office and City Administration to research and draft a City of Coral Gables Parking Code to include control over types of violations, fine amounts and the appeals process. This is being presented to you as a resolution, sponsored by Commissioner Lago, because he wanted to seek your guidance as to whether we should go forward with this or not. He obviously supports it and I think he is going to speak in favor of it. The reason why it's a resolution though is because, obviously to do a new Parking Code would take significant staff resources, and there is a

significant administrative component too, because part of this is actually bringing, by the way, they don't have to be together, they could be separated, but part of this resolution is to also bring the parking violations into the City, so that the City would administer those as opposed to the County. Obviously, you are going to want to hear from the City Manager on that. Anyhow, this resolution would direct staff to essentially prepare a Parking Code and research the administrative aspects of what's being requested, so I was just telling them, Commissioner Lago, what you are requesting and why it's coming as a resolution as opposed to an ordinance at this time. Eventually it would have to be an ordinance, so if the Commission votes yes on this, we would start preparing an ordinance.

Mayor Cason: I have no problem with the research part. I think it's a lot more complex that it might seem at first blush, because you've got all kinds of – downtown you've got FedEx, you've got the Post Office parking, you've got all kinds of tractor trailers that will come in delivering things that they may only come once in their whole lifetime to Coral Gables, it's not like you can tell this guy, don't do this; and a lot of the alleys you can't get in, so it's very complex, so I would like to see more research just on how complex it is, the pros and cons before we draft.

Commissioner Lago: Listen, I agree with you 110 percent, I just want to quickly tell you why.

Vice Mayor Quesada: The point of this resolution is to give staff direction to see if they can figure something out.

Commissioner Lago: Staff direction, because I'm very frustrated, I know that a lot of the residents and the business owners are where you'll see like two or three blocks of congestion and people are like, what's going on? - why is there two or three blocks of congestion?- and you'll look and you'll see a car, an 18-wheeler parked with five or six cones out and people unloading in the middle of Miracle Mile or Ponce. There are alleys for a reason, you've got to thank George Merrick for that, but what's happening in reference to the alleys is that people are parking in the alleys and we don't have sufficient enforcement in the alleys, and I've brought that to the attention of the Manager and to the Police Chief on numerous occasions, and the issues are multi-pronged and they are inter-related and they are inter-related, so you can't force the 18-wheelers to park in the alleys if there isn't space for them to park in the alleys, because people are illegally parked.

Mayor Cason: Or if they can't turn, because of the nature of the truck.

Commissioner Lago: And my final point is that when these 18-wheelers and delivery trucks are dealt with in the sense of they are warned or they are given a ticket, they basically laugh off the ticket because the ticket is \$28, I think the max is \$35. The purpose is they want to – if you

notice the reason why they are dropping off in these 18-wheelers, because they want to make one trip to the air conditioned warehouse, so they basically go the entire day on one trip. They don't want to go back, because the cost of gas, because of the cost of time, so they have to take larger vehicles that now may not fit through the alleys. So they don't care; they are in and out, they get a ticket, they made a delivery, but they've got a deadline to meet.

Mayor Cason: So we want to have the City do some research then, right?

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

Mayor Cason: Make a motion.

Commissioner Lago: So moved.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Second.

Mayor Cason: Commissioner Lago makes the motion; Vice Mayor seconds it – City Clerk.

Commissioner Slesnick: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes

Mayor Cason: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Vice Mayor Quesada: Do we even need a resolution for that?

Mayor Cason: Give the staff time; they are juggling so many balls.

Commissioner Lago: I've had three meetings with staff – just to mention this and I'm sorry. We brought them in the Chamber and they were part of the discussion, because I don't want to penalize people, because the intent of the ordinance or the resolution was that we are going to go after the store owners, but then we deviated from that, we said, we don't want to penalize these individuals who are...

Vice Mayor Quesada: I understand – understand.

Commissioner Lago: We just want to figure out a way so that we can alleviate some of the congestion. We don't want Miracle Mile people parking in the middle of...

Vice Mayor Quesada: No of course. We've all been stuck behind it.

[End: 3:21:09 p.m.]