

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting**  
**Agenda Item F-15**  
**May 20, 2025**  
**City Commission Chambers**  
**405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

**City Commission**

**Mayor Vince Lago**  
**Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson**  
**Commissioner Melissa Castro**  
**Commissioner Ariel Fernandez**  
**Commissioner Richard D. Lara**

**City Staff**

**Acting City Manager, Joe L. Gomez**  
**City Attorney, Cristina Suárez**  
**City Clerk, Billy Urquia**

**Public Speaker(s)**

**Maria Cruz**  
**Patrick Ilabaca**

---

**Agenda Item F-15**

A Resolution of the City Commission directing City staff to develop and implement a plan for increased traffic enforcement in the vicinity of Coral Gables High School at certain times and directing City staff to work with outside agencies and resources as needed. (Sponsored by Commissioner Castro)

Mayor Lago: F-15.

City Attorney Suarez: F-15 is a Resolution of the City Commission directing City staff to develop and implement a plan for increased traffic enforcement in the vicinity of Coral Gables High School at certain times and directing City staff to work with outside agencies and resources as needed.

Commissioner Castro: As I have addressed before, safety, especially in schools, Vision Zero, I know Vice Mayor has spoken a lot about that and we've worked towards no accidents, no deaths. We have somebody in the audience that actually was one of the residents that spoke with me from

*City Commission Meeting*

---

[Date]

1

*May 20, 2025*

*Agenda Item F-15 – Resolution directing city staff to develop and implement a plan for increased Traffic enforcement in the vicinity of Coral Gables High School*

the Italian Village, Patrick, thank you for being here. This is something we need to move forward with, and I would hope I have the support of the Commission.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk, do we have any public comment.

City Clerk Urquia: Yes, Mr. Mayor. First speaker, Mrs. Maria Cruz.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I don't think you moved it. I'll second it.

Mrs. Cruz: Mrs. Maria Cruz, 1447 Miller Road. This is way long overdue. If you just go by any school, go by Coral Gables High anytime of the day and you see the craziness. People do not – there are two police officers there most of the time and once in a blue moon, I see them giving tickets. The kids come out of that parking lot, its amazing that nobody has gotten killed. It is incredible. I know we talked somewhere along the line about the University student that got killed. The kids that go to Gables High are very lucky because we could have had a series of them getting killed. In the morning, in the afternoon, the kids, the parents, the people waiting, there are no laws. They go around you, I mean they pass you on the wrong side of the street. They go – its incredible. This is way, way long overdue before we have a disaster.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk Urquia: Patrick Ilabaca.

Mayor Lago: Thank you for waiting. I didn't know you were here for this item.

Mr. Ilabaca: Thank you, Mr. Mayor, Vice Mayor, Commissioners, staff. You guys are awesome, by the way, just amazing. This is actually my first time I speak in a public forum. Actually, two months ago, to this date was my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday and I decided I was going to be much more involved in civics. I think we should make civics cool again. I live in 513 San Lorenzo, I should have said that earlier, I'm sorry, I'm still learning, 513 San Lorenzo Boulevard. As of about two months, the residences around us have been gathering more and more and I want to particularly thank Police Unit 312, Chief Hudak, he has been going out there more regularly giving citations. We are very, very happy about these citations, there should be more, and if you're looking for revenue there's at least 100 citations you can do a day there. There is Jaywalking, there is speeding, there's disrespect. I've been told to get a life by the parents, and I just want my Italian Village safe. I'm encouraged by the Council of Mayors, as well as this Commission to the commitment to an immediate and long-term student safety improvement at Coral Gables High School and I hope this resolution is a first. May I point out that there is a fantastic Florida Department of Transportation called Safe Routes to Schools, SRTS grant, which the deadline is in January and that is a great way to find funding in order to best the problem that we have. I'm also very happy to say that I went to my first literacy festival over the weekend. It was fantastic. I made great connections with different

*City Commission Meeting*

[Date]

2

*May 20, 2025*

*Agenda Item F-15 – Resolution directing city staff to develop and implement a plan for increased Traffic enforcement in the vicinity of Coral Gables High School*

parts of the city, in terms of library, the Rotary Club, amongst other organizations. They are fantastic. I look forward to working with them, getting to know them, joining them. I also like to say that civics is something that needs to be much more worked on, and since I live in Coral Gables High School area, I think it's a great opportunity to look into making civics cool again. This past election demonstrates that there is a high interest, but I think after seeing what I saw today, this is the first time I sit and listen, there's a lot to be learned. I have a lot to learn. I plan on coming to all the Commission meetings, because I truly believe that this city to be the best, we need to have the best education, and I think we are failing in that, to be honest with you. The city is great, its beautiful, the architect is great, but the ratings in certain schools, particularly Coral Gables High School can be a lot better, and to begin with that would be with safety and a little bit respect from the parents to the residences. As we all know, the percentage of Coral Gables High School students that are from Coral Gables is not the majority and I hope that the safety will bring more respect to the residences, because the residences are still very not an even sight with the Coral Gables High School how its run, in terms of its safety protocol. But I'm encouraged that the Council of Mayors is going to be doing this with Jeff. He's a great guy. He's a neighbor of mine and he's a wonderful man and I'm glad that he came and spoke, and I'm sorry if I took more of your time. It's been a long day, but it's a great day.

Mayor Lago: Thank you for being here, first and foremost. Jeff is the one that came up with the idea. He's been working on it, flushing it out for the last six months and the Mayor's Council, again, is just about doing good things and bringing out good ideas. So, if you'd like to join the Mayor's Council, we may have a position available there.

Mr. Ilabaca: Well, thank you. I appreciate that.

Mayor Lago: For people who are willing to sit here all day. If you're that passionate then you're my guy. Join the Mayor's Council, it doesn't pay well, it doesn't pay anything, but I mean.

Mr. Ilabaca: I'm not looking for money anymore. At 50 I decided I wanted to be more involved either by education or by political.

Mayor Lago: I met you at the precinct.

Mr. Ilabaca: Yes sir.

Mayor Lago: With your dog.

Mr. Ilabaca: Yes. I think everyone's met my dog. But I appreciate the time. I'm very encouraged by what I saw today in terms about the safety. There's a lot to be done, but if you're looking for someone who wants to give more time, I'm here.

Mayor Lago: Thank you, sir.

*City Commission Meeting*

Mr. Ilabaca: Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Do we have a motion and a second, we do, correct.

Commissioner Castro: I moved it.

Mayor Lago: And the Vice Mayor seconded.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I just have a quick addition, especially since you want to sacrifice yourself to help out the neighborhood. I walked all of Riviera to ascertain interest in connecting the sidewalks for safety. I asked the Manager's office to follow through again on grant requests. I know that we got some in and we'll reconvene on that to get that project to bear fruit, and surprisingly, they also were interested in bike lanes on Riviera. There is also something called speed detection signs and a flash when someone exceeds the speed limit. I thought this might be premature because we were still waiting for a traffic study, but unfortunately the street where the...was run over didn't qualify. For streets that don't qualify for traffic calming, the residents want to pool the money together, we can get these speed detection signs on, come see me on Friday, we can take a deep dive on and maybe you can be the one that talks to your neighbors and see if they want to do that. No, no, no, Friday afternoon. Friday afternoon.

Mr. Ilabaca: I'll be more than happy to represent the Italian Village.

Mayor Lago: Alright. So, we have a motion and a second.

City Clerk Urquia: Yes sir.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes

Commissioner Castro: Yes

Commissioner Fernandez: Yes

Commissioner Lara: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)