

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item D – Mayor’s Comments
Commission Chambers
November 10, 2020
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Michael Mena

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item D [10:13 a.m.]
Mayor’s Comments

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: The next item on the agenda is Mayor’s Comments. And I have several comments. One is elections. As you know, we had elections last week and the country went to the polls to vote for a President and many other offices, and we all know that, unfortunately, we are a deeply divided country. However, in retrospect it could not be more divided than it was in 1864 when there was a rebellion in this nation. So as Abraham Lincoln wisely said, elections belong to the people, its their decision. My friends, the people have spoken, so whether you are blue or red or something else now, now is the time to come together as Americans and support all of those that gave of themselves to serve this nation. Let go forth united. Secondly, this weekend, South Florida faced the threat of Tropical Storm Eta. I wanted to take this opportunity to salute and congratulate our great team in the City of Coral Gables. While we were spared the brunt of this storm, when I visited the Emergency Operations Center, what particularly impressed me was how well we were working as one team. So, thank you, Mr. City Manager for your leadership and Chiefs de la Rosa and Stolzenberg for leading our Emergency Management team, and to all of those that gave up their weekend. I thank you. We were prepared and I was very impressed how we kept our community informed and we did keep it informed and I’m grateful to all of the fine men and women of Coral Gables for all they do to keep our residents safe. Its been quite a year. I can’t give orders, because I’m the head of the city, but I did give an order for people not to say we are glad 2020 is over and nothing else is going to happen. We haven’t had an earthquake, we

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haven't had a tsunami, we haven't had a plague of locusts hit us or Godzilla coming up from Biscayne Bay. So, don't say its over. Don't say it quite yet, it will be bad luck. Thanks to everyone for their hard work. And finally, Carlos Gimenez, our County Mayor, his father passed away and as the City of Coral Gables, we would like to offer and personally for all of us, we would like to offer our condolences to Mayor Gimenez and our future Congressman. And maybe we can have a letter written on behalf of the city to Mayor Gimenez. And I'll remind everybody that tomorrow is Veterans Day and we should honor our veterans. Thank you very much and we will go on to the Consent Agenda.