

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Commission Chambers
Agenda Item G-3
October 13, 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
Assistant Public Works Director, Al Zamora
Assistant City Manager, Ed Santamaria

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-3

An update regarding the evaluation of trash piles along Red Road/57th Avenue
(Sponsored by Vice Mayor Lago)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Commissioner Lago, trash piles.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes. Just to be very clear, I want to put on the record. I can't believe I have to put this disclaimer at every single time that I mention trash pits, its really shameful. I am not in favor of removing anyone's trash pits, be very clear. Put that on the record. Put that on the record to make sure everybody on this Commission, along with City of Coral Gables residents and business community, I do not want to get rid of your trash pits. Sir, what I want to do is, first I want to congratulate staff for doing such an exceptional job in concentrating their efforts to relocating, relocating, should I say it for the third time, relocating their trash pits. What we are trying to do here is to live up to the moniker of the City Beautiful and try to minimize the amount of illegal dumping, along with the cost associated with illegal dumping, because that comes out of our tax dollars, out of the General Fund. So, I wanted to say thank you. I know you are really doing a hard job. I know you are contacting people. My last point, the reason why I put this on, what is
City Commission Meeting
October 13, 2020

our final step to address the non-frontage, non-frontage, homes on 57th Avenue that continue to have trash pits there on the side. I know we just planted the trees and that's another thing I'm going to discuss later on. But what are we doing to get those non-compliance, remaining few.

Al Zamora: First of all, good afternoon Mayor, Commission, Al Zamora, Assistant Public Works Director. Back in July, I gave a presentation to the Commission and identified that we had 93 properties that had both a frontage and a side property. At the time we had 31 residents or residencies that we identified that had a trash pile. Since July, we've put out our Code Enforcement officer to go out and educate and ask people to move their piles to the front elevation of their homes. Interestingly enough, Monday we did our bi-weekly run through and we have a handful of homes that are still not abiding by our wishes. Actually, we had four, of 31 we went to four.

Vice Mayor Lago: The numbers are getting better.

Assistant Director Zamora: Right. I also want to make a point that my Field Inspector mentioned to me that now that we are planting the proms, that seems to have an effect also on lessening the amount of piles that we have on Red Road. To address the four or five residents that haven't really come along, I don't know if its time to pass legislation.

Vice Mayor Lago: And that's what I was going to say.

Assistant Director Zamora: And that would be something that we can go in there with teeth. Right now, we can ask them to do it. We explain to them why we are doing it; we are trying to beautify the city. We are trying to lessen the amount of illegal dumping that's going on, on 57th Avenue. So, in my opinion, the next step would be to do some legislation on that.

Vice Mayor Lago: So, what I would like to request from my colleagues, we don't have to do it today. I'd like for you to think and maybe staff can come back in producing some sort of code, we can codify our thoughts and our interest in regards to finalizing the removal of the trash pits that are not facing, the homes that are not facing 57th Avenue, and when I say removal, its relocation, because again, I know I have to say this over and over again. I am not in favor of removing anyone's trash pits. You can keep your trash pits, just put it in front of your property. That way, first off, by the way, another thing we didn't talk about this and this is important, and I think that my colleagues have mentioned this before, this is not only about beautification and about money, this is about safety, because our employees on 57th Avenue are put into very hazardous position when they have to stop the vehicle on 57th Avenue and then go and deal with the garbage that they are picking up. It's a hazard and someone is going to get injured one day, someone is going to get run over. Its going to be a catastrophic situation that, again, we all want to avoid. So, I don't know if this is the time to have staff, maybe the ACM can work with team, his team can work on some sort of legislation. I don't want to penalize people. I just want to say listen, the code requires it, you need to move it. We'll pay to move it for you. We'll open up your little trash pit, we'll close your trash pit, we'll do everything for you, this is the way its going to be.

*City Commission Meeting
October 13, 2020*

[Date]

2

Assistant Director Zamora: Just keep in mind that you have 78 properties that have no choice, out of the 179, 78 of them have no side elevation, and that we are going to have to work with.

Vice Mayor Lago: It is what it is.

ACM Santamaria: If the Commission so wishes, we can also look at Bird Road.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes.

ACM Santamaria: Which has similar conditions or any principle thoroughfare that would have a similar condition.

Vice Mayor Lago: I think its appropriate. If my colleagues will support, it, if they will support it.

Commissioner Keon: We've also got calls asking about, to look at Erwin Road. Erwin separates the unincorporated from the municipality. So, they've asked if you'd look at Erwin Road also, because most of those – I don't know that many houses face Erwin Road, they more face the street.

ACM Santamaria: We'll take a look throughout the entire city. We'll identify roads that might benefit from this.

Commissioner Keon: I think you closed the ones on Kendall. Yes, that was the ones on Kendall, they filled in.

Assistant Director Zamora: We actually filled those in. We did the ones on Old Cutler that you had brought to our attention.

Commissioner Keon: Yes. Thank you.

Assistant Director Zamora: We did the ones on Sunrise.

Commissioner Keon: Yes.

Assistant Director Zamora: So, we've actually leveled...

Commissioner Keon: You've gotten quite a few.

Vice Mayor Lago: And I think that's a good point. The ones on Bird Road, since the last time that you and I did a drive-around, I can still show you there are some that are deep, that are deep right off near Granada. So maybe we can present something, not at the next Commission, but the following, to give some time to really kind of analyze where we're at. Is that okay?

ACM Santamaria: Sure.

*City Commission Meeting
October 13, 2020*

Assistant Director Zamora: The one thing I do want to do at the end of school when you enclose this, we found a phenomenon, during the end of school. We need to reach out to them before the end of school this year and kind of put a handle on all the frat houses and stuff, because that did create some problems on 57th Avenue.

Vice Mayor Lago: Correct.

Assistant Director Zamora: with stuff that was pretty obvious that it came from them.

Vice Mayor Lago: Do my colleagues feel comfortable with, not next Commission meeting, but the following, coming back with some sort of legislation?

Commissioner Keon: Yes.

Vice Mayor Lago: And I want to be very, in bold, we are not removing your trash pits, we are just relocating them.

Assistant Director Zamora: Perfect. We'll keep our efforts with the five or six, keep visiting them and try to explain to get them to move it to...

Vice Mayor Lago: Listen, do it now, or its going to be law later.

Assistant Director Zamora: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.