

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting**  
**Agenda Item L – Discussion Items**  
**March 14, 2023**  
**City Commission Chambers**  
**405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

**City Commission**

**Mayor Vince Lago**

**Vice Mayor Michael Mena**

**Commissioner Rhonda Anderson**

**Commissioner James Cason**

**Commissioner Kirk Menendez**

**City Staff**

**City Attorney, Cristina Suárez**

**City Manager, Peter Iglesias**

**City Clerk, Billy Urquia**

**Public Speaker(s)**

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Agenda Items L [4:00 p.m.]

Discussion Items

Mayor Lago: I'm going to bring up just two quick items. Mr. Clerk, I know that the Public Works Department is working, along with Code Enforcement and the City Attorney to delineate who is responsible for the swales adjacent to bridges, for the maintenance, so that we can beautify those areas. I would like to see that brought up at the next Commission meeting by legislation or that directive; is the city going to maintain the swales, because I brought up the fact that on, for example, this is something for next Commission meeting that we're going to bring up. I want to see it brought up and I want to address it, who's responsible, is it the homeowner, is it the city, is it the county, it's the bridge swales, the swales adjacent to the homes in between the bridges, because we had some of the bridges near where Mr. Chamizo lives right next to my home, excuse me, I apologize for that – is it Blue Road, yes, the two bridges on Blue, the swales were wild with growth over the edges and there was a lot of garbage there that our team went and picked up. The neighbors were not taking responsibility of maintaining, the bridge swales and the county wasn't either, and we're doing it. So, I want to make sure who's responsible and make sure that doesn't happen again.

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City Manager Iglesias: We're looking at that Mayor. We got some bridges that are ours, some are county, and some are state, so we are looking into that now.

Mayor Lago: And by the way, the county responded to our letter, so I would like to go over that with you some time this week, if possible.

City Manager Iglesias: Public Works Department will provide you a written response to all the comments.

Mayor Lago: Yes, I would like a response to that, please.

City Manager Iglesias: They're working on that now, Mayor.

Mayor Lago: So, I'd like to have that at the next Commission meeting, please, if we can. And I will be presenting a piece of legislation I'm working on with the City Attorney and the Assistant City Attorney, which will strengthen our lobbying legislation. Remember, I brought two pieces of legislation to tighten up our lobbying, number one, that under every single item on the agenda you have to place who is the lobbyist that's dealing with the issue; and number two, that you cannot be a lobbyist along with the campaign consultant at the same time, if that law was strengthened or you had a two-year ban. I want to bring a third leg to that stool, and I want to do what other municipalities are doing, and that is, you cannot be a lobbyist that says, I represent Vince Lago. I represent Vince Lago on the following matters, the matters have to be detailed. They do that in the City of Miami, and I think it's a positive thing. So you just can't say, for example, I lobby for Ford, I lobby for – because I think that gives a lot of confusion and allows for certain lobbyists to skirt the rules, and I'll be presenting that at the next Commission meeting. I'm giving you these things so you know, so you can please provide your input. Anybody wants to co-sponsor you're more than welcome, so you have a little bit of a heads-up, two weeks to engage with the City Attorney, engage with the City Manager. I think those are two important pieces of legislation that will be gamechangers.

Vice Mayor Mena: Would you consider having those sunset or at least have to be renewed, so that, sometimes people register today and then six years later they are still listed, but they are not representing the person.

City Attorney Suarez: They are required to register annually.

Mayor Lago: I want to make sure, but I want to do it per item, so its very clear. And the fourth thing that I want to talk about, which I'm going to be talking about next is, I'd like to see where we are with sidewalks, we did a site visit; the sidewalks on Blue Road to the bridges. These are things that, again, our legacy issues for the Vice Mayor, he's coming up on his last meeting. I want to make sure that a lot of things are pushed forward as much as we can, so that we can get them accomplished in 2024, 2023. I don't have anything else. Anyone else.

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Commissioner Anderson: No.

Mayor Lago: Today was a pretty robust meeting. I think we accomplished a lot. I want to say thank you for everybody who partook in today's meeting. Again, we'll see you in two weeks and I look forward to anyone. If you have any issues or any questions or any guidance, please join us on Fridays starting at 2 o'clock, we have open door Fridays, where you can join us in the Commission meetings to discuss any issues that you believe are pertinent to the City Beautiful and enhance our quality of life. Thank you. God bless you and God bless America.