

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-8
July 9, 2019
City Commission Chambers
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, Jessica Keller**

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-8 [2:53:57 p.m.]

Status update from staff regarding the Monegro Project
(Sponsored by Vice Mayor Lago)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: OK. Commissioner Lago, G-8 – Monegro.

Vice Mayor Lago: G-8. I wanted to just make my colleagues aware of what’s going on at Monegro and I wanted Jessica to kind of discuss. We are getting to the end of a long discussion over the last four years and I think this is going to be something that’s going to redefine a neighborhood and its going to beautify a neighborhood and provide safety and accessibility. So, I wanted you to bring up to my colleagues and give them the latest numbers in regard to what are the budgets and what are the actual construction numbers come in and where we stand on delivering this project.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: I have a very, very short presentation. I think I can give this presentation sixty seconds, OK.

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Vice Mayor Lago: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We talk so much that we welcome your participation.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Commissioner Lago asked for a rendering of what it would look like. This is just an example of what it would look like on Aleyda Street, as you are looking toward the City of Miami. You'll see there are gates, two pillars, we have shrubbery and an aluminum fence. This is what it looks like in plan view.

Vice Mayor Lago: By the way, I want to congratulate staff that they've done an exceptional job maintaining those swales on both sides. I know that's been an issue. And we send individuals there on a monthly basis to make sure its clean. I know a lot of it is not the City's responsibility, it's the individuals on the other side, but thank you for making it pleasant.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: I'm going to let you look at it again, there's only three slides.

Vice Mayor Lago: Since we are showing this slide. I didn't get everything I wanted, and I don't think the Commission did, but something is better than nothing. This is beautiful. One of the things that we should consider for the future, if this works out well is, providing some sort of walkway, maybe on the right hand side and then getting rid, if we are able to do some sort of play street where we can get rid of this asphalt and just make it into a little...

Commissioner Keon: Green space.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes, just like a green space. It can be something simple; and I know we don't have the budget for it now, but we can just do a very simple sidewalk on the right there, we can provide accessibility to it. Here comes Ed to rain on my parade.

Commissioner Keon: But you know, they may like to roller skate on, to do those kinds of things on.

Vice Mayor Lago: I want to put this before you, because Commissioner Keon knows this, we've been working on this for four years. Its been a long haul. We are right here, we about to cross the finish line. So, can you consider, and staff think about there are five dead-end streets here, we could have five mini little green spaces. They are not going to be huge, but they are going to be at least more appealing than what we have right now.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Well to the extent that we can, and we don't have conflicts with driveways, we can always take a look at that.

Vice Mayor Lago: I know when we talk to the residents on both sides and we say, listen, this is what we are going to do. I think there are only one or two homes that has a driveway.

City Manager Iglesias: Vice Mayor we have to look at the plats and make sure that there are no reversion issues there, that's what we call it.

Vice Mayor Lago: I want to start looking into it, if my colleagues agree, if they think its appropriate.

Commissioner Keon: So, there is five of these...What's the cost?

Vice Mayor Lago: Let's say you can get two of them, let's say we can get two of them; two is better than nothing, two additional green space.

Commissioner Keon: What was the total cost?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: OK. Here's the last slide. We are going to proceed with a low bidder. It came in at just over \$300,000. We are looking to get the contract executed in 30 to 45 days. The construction period is 180 days to final completion, so we expect to be in construction in September.

Vice Mayor Lago: And this has small light, correct, that will be attached.

Commissioner Mena: Yes, I was going to ask that.

Vice Mayor Lago: Small light, it has a small light; and it has, from the last time I checked, a camera, correct?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yes. So, there is a light and a camera that is going to be installed.

Vice Mayor Lago: And the sole purpose?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: It will be different in each location. No, it's a standalone.

City Manager Iglesias: Full mounted.
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Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yes, full mounted.

Vice Mayor Lago: The sole purpose of this is, there was a back and forth and I met with Commissioner Russell, Chairman Russell, City of Miami, and they were concerned the residents were about accessibility from the City of Miami side – the other side is City of Miami. We made it clear, we don't want to keep people out. We just want you to use this form of entry, ingress and egress.

City Manager Iglesias: We do have Dade County approval for this.

Vice Mayor Lago: We have the county, but the whole point is that somebody who is going to walk by, use their bicycle, they are going to use that ingress or egress, they are going to stop, they are going to be viewed on camera, there are going to be lights, and that they are going to be able to come in and out and use our trolley system, but the whole point is to monitor the area. The reason why monitoring the area is because for a long time, we've been having issues of people using that as, I hate to say it, but as an escape route after they've been scoping out the neighborhood, the Monegro neighborhood, that area. I don't know. The point is that its been an issue and they've been caught on the Ring Doorbell and you see they'll test the Ring Doorbell to see if anybody is home and then they'll go out through one of these five dead-ends.

Commissioner Mena: What's the gate – like a self-closing gate.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yes. There is no lock and its ADA accessible.

Commissioner Fors: Can you put it up again.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Sure. Can you put the presentation back there?

Commissioner Keon: \$300,000 – I have to tell you, I think that we should do everything we can to improve our neighborhoods and our neighborhood streets. I think its our responsibility as a community to do that. So, thank you very much. I'm glad you accept that precedent. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Lago: This has been a big issue. I'm very happy with staff and their efforts and we should be very proud of this.

Commissioner Mena: This is great. This is really good. This neighborhood is going to ecstatic, they been really waiting on this for a long time and its really going to change the dynamic of that neighborhood.

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Mayor Valdes-Fauli: If you don't make a motion, I'm going to...

Vice Mayor Lago: Motion, motion, motion.

City Attorney Ramos: There's no motion, it's just an update.

Vice Mayor Lago: You got me nervous. I thought we were accepting the lowest bidder. Just wanted to give you an update that we are moving forward and if you see other opportunities where we can basically...

Commissioner Keon: We can improve neighborhoods, we have them coming.

Vice Mayor Lago: Perfect.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you call the roll please.

Vice Mayor Lago: It's all done.

[End: 3:00:42 p.m.]