

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-10
July 13, 2021
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Michael Mena

Commissioner Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias (Absent)

Assistant City Manager, Ed Santamaria

City Attorney, Miriam Ramos

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Police Chief, Ed Hudak

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G10

Discussion regarding Public Safety Aides Courtesy Notification Program re: parking over sidewalks, scooters blocking sidewalks, cardboard in trash pits, and unsafe /deep trash pits. (Sponsored by Commissioner Anderson) (Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

Chief Hudak: Historically, we came up with the Neighborhood Safety Aids, I think there are a couple of issues to address the things that our residents have brought forward. Again, I think we've got the Neighborhood Safety Aids patrolling/walking, I think as a staff we can get together and communicate better with the enforcers of it. I'm reluctant to have our NSA's, the people in the golf carts and the cars doing any kind of enforcement action. However, what they do for us everyday is they call us or the NTL's, which are the officers where a lot of resident areas have those cell phone numbers. Those are the things that we should start using to follow up. On the backend, in talking with the City Manager, we want to come up with a better streamline way where the NSA's and the NTL's can talk to on-duty Code Enforcement people to respond right away and Parking. Again, I know we've had a couple of issues that have come up over different areas around

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churches, around buildings, but also around sidewalks. When they see them, I need them to call in and then we can either go through Communications, talk to the on-duty parking people, and have them write the citations. Getting into the citations of writing them, these are civilian personnel with minimal training. We would have to, one, educate them on the code, educate them on also, and swear them in, in a way to write tickets. So, if you could give me 30 days to come back to you all with a better communication plan between our NSA's, our NTL's and our communication with Code, and Parking. I think right now we have a very good situation with the parking issues, when they come up, we call them, and they have come out. I'm just reluctant to have our really feel-good ambassadors, if you will, for the Police Department taking any kind of enforcement action.

Mayor Lago: Will you do me a favor, will you come back in the August meeting, have a conversation with the Manager and his team. To me, this is not really about citations for sidewalks, even though that's all important, to me this is addressing issues of Code Enforcement – early garbage trash pits, recycling, issues that we are seeing in regards to Code Enforcement that need to be addressed, reflectors, little bollards, pyramids, those kinds of things that when you are driving through a neighborhood they can just see that this is an issue, they can write them down. At the end of the day, they can call it in and say listen, these are issues that we are seeing, and they don't have to do any citations, they don't have to do any enforcement, but it would be nice to be able to at least grab all that information and give it to Code Enforcement so that they can follow up with it over the next day or two.

Commissioner Anderson: And also, my idea for parking was, if they are blocking a sidewalk, give them a courtesy notice, you know, people just don't realize.

Mayor Lago: And I don't have an issue with that. I just think it's getting worse. This Saturday and Sunday, I had about 30 reports myself. Staff is overwhelmed. They have one person in Code Enforcement on the weekend. They could not even visit all of the incidents that I reported. So, by Monday a lot of them, the garbage had been picked up Monday or Tuesday when they were able to do that. Its not their fault. There are a lot of people now that they are becoming accustomed to it. Like what the ACM said a few days ago, it's the broken window syndrome. They see, hey, my neighbor is putting out the garbage four days early, I'm going to put out the garbage four days early. And that was evidently clear after my meeting yesterday on Alberca where just on the way to Alberca from City Hall, I had about 15 different citations for garbage that's out four days early. I know that a lot of people are new to the city, but we've got to stop this. We've got to make sure that we tell people and why not use the NSA's as a resource.

Police Hudak: The only thing I'll recommend too is, I will take this to the Anti-Crime Committee, which I staff, since those dozen members are throughout the city. We'll reissue again our NTL numbers and cards to their neighborhoods so they know that they can call these quality-of-life issues, or they can call 305-442-1600, and kind of just streamline the information to get us in touch on our end and start that communication side.

Mayor Lago: Thank you Chief. I appreciate it.

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