

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item C
February 25, 2025
Police and Fire Headquarters
2151 Salzedo Street, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Melissa Castro

Commissioner Ariel Fernandez

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez

City Manager, Alberto Parjus

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Maria Cruz

Jackson Rip Holmes

Agenda Item C [10:17 a.m.]

Public Comment

Mayor Lago: Moving onto Public Comment.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor, first speaker today is Jackson Holmes.

Mayor Lago: We'll come back. Maybe he stepped out.

City Clerk Urquia: Mrs. Maria Cruz.

Mrs. Cruz: Good morning, Mrs. Maria Cruz, 1447 Miller Road, since 1976. As you know, I'd like to do, this is the day that the Lord has made, let us be glad and rejoice in it. It is a beautiful day in the City of Coral Gables. It should be a beautiful day in the City of Coral Gables. Sometimes sadness and happiness come together, and we really were sad to think about Mark, but happy to think about all the good things he did. And I would be remiss this morning, if I did not talk about a happy and sad day in Cuban history, because we know sometimes, we like to bring up Cuban

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history; and yesterday, February 24th was one of those days. Very happy because it was the beginning in 1898 of the Cuban Independence War. Very happy because it was the beginning of that and we were free for quite a few years until 1959, but also sad because in 1996, four good people, four people that were doing a great job rescuing Cubans that were trying to be free were killed...Brothers to the Rescue, in 1996, four of them were killed by the Cuban government over international waters, and that was a day that we should remember, because it means a lot to quite a few of us, not for political reasons, because reality, humanity, those people were doing a good deed and they were killed. And the last one, as you know, I always have a little comment about how we do things. The last one is, someday, I hope, maybe with a new Commission is installed, we will follow parliamentary procedure, because that's what most cities, most organizations do when they have meetings. They follow Robert's Rules of Order, and we do not do that. The first most important thing that happens here every time is the Chair makes motions, that is against Robert's Rules. Maybe one day we'll learn. Thank you.

City Clerk Urquia: Jackson Holmes.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Holmes.

Mr. Holmes: Greetings. I have two items that I'll bring up, so I hope you give me a little bit of room there, Mayor Lago. The first one is on the evidence that hurricanes can be controlled. Do you have that video.

[Video Presentation]

Mr. Holmes: Okay. So, especially you all at home, I'm convinced they did control – they stopped Hurricane Erin from making landfall. If you want more on this, look on my YouTube channel. Can you put that other slide up, please.

City Clerk Urquia: Cable TV could share my screen. That's all there is sir.

Mr. Holmes: Okay. Yes. Those of you here or at home, go to my YouTube channel, look at the details, you can freeze-frame on that, and you'll find the 15-minute video, which I think will convince you. We don't have to be hit by hurricanes. Mayor Lago, if you give me a second to the question of medicinal massages in Coral Gables. Some of you may know that I'm a mom-and-pop commercial property owner, 256 Miracle Mile, I have Massage Envy as a tenant and what I found because I'm thinking about going into business for myself when the lease expires, is that our city code is dated and too restrictive. You can only go in under the salon ordinance. There is no massage establishment ordinance, and so you can only use 40 percent of the working area for massages, and I get news for all of you, first of all if you ever have a back problem that's where you go to Massage Envy or if I get to open it, but I need to get the code changed here. The City of Miami has a massage establishment ordinance which I'm trying to get adopted here that allows 100

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percent massage because right now all of the massage places everywhere in the county could be considered illegal if it was the Coral Gables code. The county code allows 100 percent massage, the City of Miami. We need to update our code. I'm begging you all for your consideration on this. Which of you would want to start a business where you know from day one, they could kick you out for any reason at any time. We need to amend the code. Thanks for listening.

Mayor Lago: Thank you, sir.

City Clerk Urquia: That's it, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Alright. We will close the public comment, and we'll move on to the Consent Agenda.