

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting  
Agenda Item F-1  
February 12, 2019  
City Commission Chambers  
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

**City Commission**

**Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli  
Vice Mayor Vince Lago  
Commissioner Pat Keon  
Commissioner Michael Mena  
Commissioner Frank Quesada**

**City Staff**

**City Manager, Peter Iglesias  
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos  
City Clerk, Billy Urquia  
Public Services Division Director, Brook Dannemiller**

**Public Speaker(s)**

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Agenda Item F-1 [11:50:28 a.m.]

An Ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida providing for a text amendment to the City of Coral Gables Official Zoning Code by amending Article 5, "Development Standards," Division 11, "Landscaping," Section 5-1104, "General Requirements," limiting locations for artificial turf; providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, codification, and providing for an effective date. (01 09 18 PZB recommended approval with conditions, Vote 6-0)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Let's go on. F-1.

City Attorney Ramos: F-1 is an ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida providing for a text amendment to the City of Coral Gables Official Zoning Code by amending Article 5, "Development Standards," Division 11, "Landscaping," Section 5-1104, "General Requirements," limiting locations for artificial turf; providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, codification, and providing for an effective date. This ordinance is on second reading. It is a public hearing item.

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: Mayor, no changes to the ordinance.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

Commissioner Keon: There's also an administrative...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Do I hear a motion?

Commissioner Keon: Order that's going to go with this. Is that right?

City Attorney Ramos: There's an implementing order that's attached in draft to the item.

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Is there...

Commissioner Keon: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: A motion?

Commissioner Quesada: I'm sorry. What item number is it?

Commissioner Keon: I'll move it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: F-1.

City Attorney Ramos: It is F-1.

Vice Mayor Lago: Can you do me a favor? Commissioner Keon moved it, but I just want to make one point here and see if my colleagues...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Please.

Vice Mayor Lago: Are in favor of this. I want to make sure that when a contractor comes to the City of Coral Gables, that they're given some sort of document stating exactly where this type of turf is allowed because I've already gotten two emails from people saying, hey, I installed it. This is not just like installing a bench, you know, for \$500. This is thousands and thousands of dollars that people are going out and installing without having the -- you know, without having adhered to, again, this new rule. So, I want to make sure that people are aware -- landscapers, contractors, people who are coming to the City to renovate their homes or people who are contemplating buying here that, yes, we do allow this type of product -- if we approve it on second reading -- but there are parameters and we have -- certain things have to be followed.

City Manager Iglesias: And a permit is required.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yeah, that...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay. Is there anybody...

Vice Mayor Lago: Getting a permit's required.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Is there anybody that wishes to speak on this issue?

City Attorney Ramos: I believe Mr. Dannemiller has a presentation.

Commissioner Quesada: Hold on. Actually, I got a few quick questions here. I'm looking at the implementing order, which when I met with...

City Manager Iglesias: It's preliminary...

Commissioner Quesada: That the City Manager...

City Manager Iglesias: Commissioner.

Commissioner Quesada: Okay, yeah. You told me you were going to revise it last -- okay, that's fine. I'm looking at Section 1.1(a), where it talks about the rear yard it's allowed if there's a buffer. I'm assuming that means if you just can't see it from the street. So, if it's -- let's say hypothetically, if there's a resident who wants to put it around their pool or in their backyard, they can do that if no one can see it from the street, correct?

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: That is correct.

Commissioner Quesada: Okay.

Commissioner Keon: (INAUDIBLE)

Commissioner Quesada: Because I just want to make sure the definition of buffer -- what does buffer mean. And I've also -- and I also want to be clear. So, other locations determined by Public Works staff. This is something that we were actually discussing last night and the City Attorney actually brought up. It's a good point. I just want to make sure that once you guys

have this implementing order, it's not so incredibly broad now all of a sudden the only thing you're doing all day long is analyzing these things. So, I would encourage that this be revised to be a little bit more specific for your own benefit.

Public Services Division Director Dannemiller: Yes.

Commissioner Quesada: Because you're going to go from doing all these different things to one thing only. I have a feeling that's coming. I think there should also be very clear, defined -- you're seeing a lot of front yards, the driveways now, that you're getting a concrete block and then the grass around. Maybe you do some pictures making it clear so that -- I think you're going to see it more and more and more because I've had a few residents approach me about it like, oh, they made us do this other type of thing. And I think if you're very clear about that -- again, I don't want staff to be overburdened, so I'm telling you this for your own benefit.

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: Commissioner Quesada, in terms of the driveways, I'm thinking that the best way to approach it is to think of the artificial turf as something other than landscape. It is not landscape, so it could be part of the surface that is allowed in a -- yeah.

Commissioner Quesada: Whatever you decide. I'm just -- I see it more and more.

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: Yeah.

Commissioner Quesada: And I hear people talking about it more and more, so I think you're going to see more of it.

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: The easiest thing is it's not landscape. It's something else, so let's look at it as -- yeah.

Commissioner Quesada: Well, then work it into...

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: Yeah.

Commissioner Quesada: Whatever the implementing order is.

City Manager Iglesias: We are going to do that, Commissioner.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay. Guys, let's go on. It's a very long agenda.

Commissioner Quesada: So moved.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Second?

Commissioner Keon: I second it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you call the roll, please?

Commissioner Mena: Yes.

Commissioner Quesada: Yes.

Commissioner Keon: Yes.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes.

(Vote: 5-0)

[End: 11:54:27 a.m.]