

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item D
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)

Maria Cruz

Roberta Neway

Agenda Item D [2:12 p.m.]

Mayor Lago: Public Comment.

City Clerk Urquia: First speaker today, Mr. Mayor is Ms. Maria Cruz.

Mayor Lago: How many speakers do we have?

City Clerk Urquia: Two sir.

Mayor Lago: Can we please close the public comment, thank you.

Ms. Cruz: Maria Cruz, 1447 Miller Road, Coral Gables, Florida. Let me just for my sake to read to you all so we remember that public comments, it says that individuals who speak in the open public comment portion of the meeting shall be given three minutes during which to address the City Commission. Okay. It doesn't say anything about if you actually, if any individual wishes to address the city on an item that's on the agenda the individual should now be given an opportunity

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to speak again, once the item is called. I usually follow the rules, so I'm just making sure that we understand, because last time I was here, I actually took the time to watch the video to make sure that I did not misunderstand. There were issues with me about speaking too many times, talking too much, and I took the time to go check make sure that there were no rules that I had broken and I couldn't find anywhere, where it said that, if you speak on public comments, you only can speak about two or three or four or five or fifteen or two other issues. I believe I followed the rules. I believe that in general, I follow the time limit, but this morning I saw a lot of people not following it, but that's okay. I can limit my talk to the three minutes that I'm entitled and whatever other minutes we have on the individual topics. I'm sorry that some elected officials think that its not good for somebody to speak so much, but maybe if we had more people that cared and were interested in what was going on in this beautiful Chamber one person would not have to be talking for everybody else. Like I've said before, perhaps if the meeting was not at a time that's so inconvenient for the people that work and have other obligations, you would have more people here. Thank you. I'll be back for more.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor the next speaker is Ms. Roberta Neway and she's on Zoom.

Ms. Neway: Hello, can you hear me?

Mayor Lago: Yes ma'am.

Ms. Neway: Great. I'm Roberta Neway, 1236 South Alhambra Circle and zip code 33146. And I want to talk regarding discussion item G-4, Biltmore Way, Andalusia, Valencia bike lanes. I urge you to do all you can to expedite these projects as quickly as possible, safe, convenient and comfortable bike lanes in our downtown core will bring more people to the area helping our businesses. In time, it will help to alleviate traffic and the need for parking or at least not make it worse, and more importantly, it will give residents who live close to downtown the option of being less car dependent. Of course, this helps our environment, boost public health and it encourages residents that live nearby to stay within the downtown core for their shopping, their entertainment. So, these plans will make Coral Gables even a more desirable place to live without the negative affects of excess traffic and excess need for parking, and that's it, very short. Have a wonderful day everybody. Please support.

Mayor Lago: Thank you for joining us. Thank you.

Ms. Neway: Thank you.

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