

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Items D-1 and H-3 are related
January 9, 2018
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

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

City Staff

City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
Assistant City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Gal Bensaadon

Agenda Items D-1 and H-3 are related [10:28:14 a.m.]

A Resolution authorizing Make-a-Wish Southern Florida to sell alcoholic beverages at the parking area behind Sports Grill, located on 1559 Sunset Drive and adjacent area on San Ignacio Avenue on Saturday, March 10, 2018, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., during the "Wings for Wishes" event to benefit the Make-a-Wish Foundation, subject to Florida Department of Professional Regulation Requirements.

A request to waive the special event fees, parking fees, and barricade fees for the

"Wings for Wishes" event taking place in Coral Gables on Saturday, March 10, 2018 from 11:30 am to 4:00 pm.
(Sponsored by Commissioner Lago)

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: And, so the item that Commissioner Lago was talking about, the related item was H-3 that he wanted to bring up.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: H-3, you want to do it?

Commissioner Lago: We also had it on -- as D-1, kind of on consent agenda.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Do you want to discuss it now?

Commissioner Lago: Yes. Well, first off, we need -- well, I just wanted to really explain to you this is the second year that we, as a City, become involved with the Make-a-Wish Foundation. Last year, I was blessed enough and fortunate enough to become involved with this organization. I had the pleasure of meeting this gentleman. And, what they have done is pretty incredible over the last few years, so I wanted him to speak about what they do, the wishes that they've granted, how many people attended last year. The fact that -- it's safe to say that 100 percent of the monies that are raised go to the Make-a-Wish Foundation, which help needy children in our community. You know, also, I want to make sure that I mention what an incredible job our staff, our police, our firefighters, Fred's team, at Parks and Recreation, what they did last year and the amount of meetings that they've gone to this year. So, they've really gone above and beyond to really make sure that not only do we have an incredible event, but that we protect the neighborhood and the businesses over there.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: It was a great presentation, please. And, you have to stand on the microphone.

Gal Bensaadon: Good morning. Thank you for having us and considering our event again this year. As Commissioner Lago said, you guys have been an amazing partner for us. Last year, we were able to raise \$80,000, which was good to grant 16 wishes, which is an exceptional event for -- external event for Make-a-Wish. I'm a Make-a-Wish champion. I founded this event three years ago with Brian Exelbert, who had to leave us earlier. But in our first year, we raised \$20,000, which was good for four wishes. And last year, which was only a year and a half later, two years later, we were able to raise \$80,000. Our goal for this year is \$150,000. Our event is on March 10 -- Saturday, March 10. It is an all-day event, very family friendly, music, food, wine tasting, beer tasting, chicken wings. There's a competitive wing eating contest that Commissioner Lago participated in last year.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Where is it going to be?

Commissioner Lago: As you can tell.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Where?

Commissioner Lago: As you can tell.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: (INAUDIBLE)

Mr. Bensaadon: It's the parking lot behind Sports Grill. And also, we shut down a portion of San Ignacio.

Commissioner Lago: It's perfectly situated, because there's really no residential neighborhoods there, so it's a quiet, you know, friendly atmosphere. But as -- see, I didn't mention -- but since you got into it, I'll talk about it. Wings for Wishes. So, I had a team last year that Commissioner Quesada, which again 6'7" really didn't help us out too much. We weren't

playing basketball. I think we won our first rounds -- oh, I'm sorry. We supposedly almost made it to the finals, but we were robbed. We were robbed. And, this...

Mr. Bensaadon: This year we did hire professional judges.

Commissioner Lago: Yeah.

Mr. Bensaadon: So...

Commissioner Lago: How many wings did we have to eat?

Mr. Bensaadon: Fifty wings in the first round and 25 in the second between four people and it's for time. It's a time-based event.

Commissioner Lago: Yeah, so...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: (INAUDIBLE) you had to eat wings.

Commissioner Lago: Yes. By the way, how many teams participated last year?

Mr. Bensaadon: We had 71 teams participate last year.

Commissioner Lago: 71 teams. But more importantly was just, again, the money that was raised. And it was a great event, family fun. There was a lot of kids, a lot of families there, so it was -- it really highlighted what Coral Gables is all about and it was for a great cause. So, what I'm asking today is that, number one, people find out what is Wings for Wishes, when is the event, what day?

Mr. Bensaadon: March 10.

Commissioner Lago: March 10. And, that the Commission support us again by waiving some of the fees.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Again, where is it?

Mr. Bensaadon: It's the parking lot behind Sports Grill and a section of San Ignacio.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Where is Sports Grill?

Commissioner Lago: Next to Shula's.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Mr. Bensaadon: Correct.

Commissioner Lago: It's in a parking lot, tucked away.

Vice Mayor Keon: It's in the southern part.

Commissioner Lago: Yeah. Yeah, the southern part of the Gables, like the Vice Mayor mentioned.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

Commissioner Lago: So, what we're asking today is that you support not only Wings for Wishes, but help us with a little bit of the permit fees and some of the other costs.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And eat chicken wings.

Commissioner Lago: And, come out and eat chicken wings, because I'm going to...

Commissioner Quesada: Please.

Commissioner Lago: I'm going to participate again this year. And, now that you have professional referees, I think that, you know, we won't get robbed.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I'm sorry, professional referees for the chicken wings?

Commissioner Lago: Of course. This is serious. This is serious.

Commissioner Quesada: People take it very seriously.

Vice Mayor Keon: It's how many...

Commissioner Lago: We ate 50.

Vice Mayor Keon: They ate.

Commissioner Lago: We ate 50.

Vice Mayor Keon: You can't just claim...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay, do I hear a motion waiving...

Vice Mayor Keon: I'll move it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: The special event fees...

Vice Mayor Keon: Yeah.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Parking fees and barricade fees?

Vice Mayor Keon: I'll move it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Second?

Commissioner Mena: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: All those in favor, say "aye."

The Commission (Collectively): Aye.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright, opposed, likewise. Perfect. Thank you very much.

Mr. Bensaadon: Thank you very much.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Good luck.

Commissioner Lago: Thank you.

[End: 10:32:45 a.m.]