

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item K-1
July 10, 2018
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

**Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Vince Lago
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
Police Sergeant, Javier Bruzos**

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item K-1 [12:29:12 p.m.]

Memo regarding options for security measures at private schools.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay, we'll take K-1, memo regarding options for security measures at private schools. Chief Hudak has to leave, I think, for a deposition or whatever. Chief.

(COMMENTS MADE OFF THE RECORD)

City Commission Meeting

July 10, 2018

Agenda Item K-1 - Memo regarding options for security measures at private schools.

City Attorney Ramos: It's actually a City Attorney item. Chief Hudak is here to discuss what the taskforce has done. Back after the school shooting that happened several months ago, Vice Mayor Quesada had asked that we look -- we impanel a taskforce and we look at the private schools in the City, not preschools or daycare center, just private schools, and there are five. The taskforce visited the five private schools. I think generally -- and Chief, correct me if I'm wrong -- I think generally what we found is they have a lot of security measures. They're being very proactive. But the taskforce, being headed by Sergeant Bruzos our author here, has been working on a best practices manual. And, the idea is to make that available to all the private schools. And we could, of course, extend it to the daycare centers and the preschools, as well. But, Vice Mayor Quesada had asked for me to determine what, if any, of those recommendations could be imposed by ordinance. And, the memo that you have attached to H-3 (sic) is what I believe can be imposed as a business regulation in the City Code. I think that's a better way to move forward than in the Zoning Code, because of time constraints given that the school year starts about the 20th of August. So, we would already be after that. These things will take a long time to implement, but I didn't want the entire summer to go by without talking about it. So, attached to the memo are the 11 items that I believe could be imposed should the City Commission wish to do so.

Chief Hudak: So, Commissioners, what you have before you -- again, to recap what the City Attorney has said, this is kind of like the bullet points of what our best practices would be. Through the direction of the Director, we're continuing to work on a much more robust, if you will, thorough manual that we will make available to all these schools as well. Whether the decision is today or if we're going to further look at exactly what we want to impose -- I say "we" being as the City -- and these private entities, whether it be meeting with them individually to go over the security plan. We have been actively involved with all of the private schools with our active shooter scenarios, as well as other safety measures that we implement with them. So, again, this is -- we concur with what the City Attorney's drafted. This is the first stage. We did want you to have something to consider as we go forward with some of the other plans that we're doing, both in the private sector schools and the public sector schools.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I think it's great so far. I mean, the 11 points -- when I went through it, there were some that I just really didn't think about, which I'm glad you guys, obviously, caught. When you guys walked in the schools, were they all generally pretty safe, pretty compliant or not? Do you think there are a lot of gaps? Do you think we'll be able to make them safer with this?

Sergeant Bruzos: Well, I think there's always room for improvement.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yeah.

Sergeant Bruzos: But I mean, the schools that we did visit, they were very -- security was very solid...

Vice Mayor Quesada: Very good.

Sergeant Bruzos: For the most part, yes.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Okay, that's good. That's great. I agree with all the points on here. For those that don't have the benefit of looking at this, I'll just run through the points real quick. Mandatory meetings and school safety plans for every school, obviously, dealing with the worst-case scenarios. Secure point of entry, which is something that we discussed on the dais quite a bit. Window coverings to conceal persons inside in the event of an active shooter situation. Lock doors during school hours. Emergency coding systems based on colors, which indicate the severity of an emergency. It makes sense. Camera surveillance, identification badges, defibrillators and stop-the-bleed kits. Make sure schools are equipped with that. Are you seeing that private schools had that already, those kits?

Chief Hudak: We have not seen that. And I think...

Vice Mayor Quesada: That's (INAUDIBLE) good idea.

Chief Hudak: The Fire Chief and I talked about this to go down to like our AED systems that we have. If you open an AED, it sets off an alarm. We would not, from the police standpoint, in an active shooter situation, if -- we don't want to put those active -- we don't want to put the stop-the-bleed kits in the AED alarm box, because we don't want to set off an alarm if we have to do that during an actual scenario.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Oh, I see.

Chief Hudak: So, what we are recommending, you know, and we're finalizing it with the Director is right next to where AED kits are, there's actually a stop-the-bleed kit. So, whether it be the police officers, the fire-rescue personnel and teaching students and faculty in these schools how to administer the stop-the-bleed kits, so they can actually self-assess...

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yeah.

Chief Hudak: Their situations, and we're not dependent on getting rescuers in there and it's possible. So, these are kind of what we're thinking about on the public school, but private school section as well. I think a lot of the issues that we're finding, even with a -- with video systems within in a school is to have them set up in a tactical clock situation, so that they can tell how they're announcing it in schools and it gives us (INAUDIBLE) as well. So, we would like to see 15 or 20 stop-the-bleed kits, where you can literally break the glass and have it in there, whether it be the first responders or people or teachers...

Vice Mayor Quesada: Whoever it is, yeah.

Chief Hudak: In school, right.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Whatever situation. That's great. And then active shooter training, which is logical. Intercom and emergency notification system. So, those are the points that they had that are going to be, I guess, the general topics for the detailed handbook that you're creating.

City Attorney Ramos: Well, these will all be in the handbook. And like we said, we found that they were very safe. I did not personally visit the schools, but that's what I heard back from those that did. So, if the Commission wishes to move forward with just the best practices manual, that's certainly a good idea.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I think it's a great idea. How does the rest of the Commission feel? I think from the head nods, it's a yes.

Commissioner Lago: It's great work.

Commissioner Keon: I don't think...

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yeah, I love it.

Commissioner Keon: We should require them.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Thank you, guys.

City Attorney Ramos: We don't need a motion, unless we're requiring an ordinance, so...

Commissioner Keon: I don't think...

Vice Mayor Quesada: Just...

Commissioner Keon: It should be required.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I don't think at this point.

Chief Hudak: As a point, Commissioner, I know we've had discussions, private school, public school, what the Commission's wishes are as far as how the police department's going to work with the School Board Police in the public school system. The private school system, pretty much all of them have off-duty officers in the mornings and afternoons to help with traffic. So, that does give us an unintended force multiplier during what we have found to be the most vulnerable parts of a day in any private school, as well as...

Vice Mayor Quesada: What are the most vulnerable parts of the -- is that...

Chief Hudak: Usually entrance and exits during the time -- we -- very rarely do you see...

Vice Mayor Quesada: So, pickup and drop-off?

Chief Hudak: You know, that's where the most vulnerable part of it is...

Vice Mayor Quesada: Got it.

Chief Hudak: Because, you're having a lot of transition for people coming in and out.

Vice Mayor Quesada: When we see active shooter situations, is there a trend as to the time of day that you're aware of?

Chief Hudak: Not necessarily.

Vice Mayor Quesada: It's all over the place?

Chief Hudak: Most of the time, they've been toward later afternoons. Very rarely have we seen it early in the mornings. And again, it's -- there are some studies out there on a national level about the movement of the children inside or the movement of the teachers. On occasion, there has been a lone perpetrator coming in. That's where the video systems come into play, the fencing around that, which is all a part of this as well to make it a little more difficult for somebody to come in during the off hours. But even if you look at Stoneman Douglas, it was right about the exit time where there was people moving back and forth.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Okay.

Commissioner Keon: Why do you...

Vice Mayor Quesada: Thank you so much.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Anything else?

Vice Mayor Quesada: This is great.

Commissioner Keon: Yeah, I have one question. Why do you recommend a landline phone as opposed to like cell phones in here?

Chief Hudak: Just more or less the...

Commissioner Keon: What is the value of a landline?

Chief Hudak: Some of the recommendations have been, well, if the cell tower is out or if it gets overwhelmed with everybody calling 911...

Commissioner Keon: Oh, well...

Chief Hudak: There should be a...

Commissioner Keon: You still have a landline.

Chief Hudak: Hard line (INAUDIBLE) that we can make...

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Chief Hudak: Contact with in the office, if we have to.

Commissioner Keon: Okay. Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Thank you very much, Chief.

Commissioner Lago: Thank you, Chief.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And everybody.

Commissioner Lago: I appreciate it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Thank you.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thanks a lot.