

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item H-3
May 22, 2018
City Commission Chamber
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
Parking Director, Kevin Kinney**

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item H-3 [2:21::00 p.m.]

A discussion regarding the placement of City parking garage electric charging stations solely for the use of fully electric vehicles.

(Sponsored by Commissioner Lago)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Commissioner, the next item is yours also. City parking garage electric stations.

Commissioner Lago: No, that wasn't mine. That was Commissioner Mena's. But this one is mine, yes. This is just a personal point of privilege. I got an electric car, super excited about it. If anybody wants to take a drive in it, it's downstairs. I'll lend it to you, just can't take it home.

Commissioner Mena: It's nice.

Commissioner Lago: It's very nice. It's 100 percent electric. I've been close to running out of, you know, out of power once since I've owned it for two weeks. My fault. I forgot to charge it that evening. I highly recommend that if anybody wants to get away from the fossil fuels and really make a difference, you not only have to get solar panels like myself and Commissioner Quesada have, but you can also get an electric car. There's cars that have ranges, you know, from 100 miles, like mine up to 300, like a Tesla. The issue with a Tesla is obviously it's a little bit more expensive. To cut to the chase, I was looking forward to getting an electric car and being able to have VIP parking at the Aragon parking garage. And, the Manager will tell you, along with Chelsea, that I send her, on numerous occasions, probably on a weekly basis when I park in the Aragon parking garage how hybrids and non-electrical hybrid cars park in those ten spaces. I just take a picture and I forward it. Oh, look at that, how great that is. So, what you see here are cars that are neither electric, neither hybrid. Some of them are hybrids, but most of them are just standard, you know, gas-using vehicles. This is the actual charging station at the Aragon parking garage, which I want to give Kevin Kinney a lot of credit for. It's free, and that's my car actually charging. Look at that right there.

Commissioner Mena: Vince, so those are cars that are not actually looking to charge?

Commissioner Lago: Yes. Those are cars that have ten spaces that we give them the privilege to park there, because they are electric cars or hybrids. What I would like to do is -- and Kevin is just dying to get up here. What I would like to do -- oh, we have a special guest appearance, too.

Commissioner Keon: I think they say fuel efficient.

Commissioner Lago: Fuel efficient, fuel efficient vehicles.

Commissioner Keon: Right, so, if I have a diesel...

Commissioner Lago: Thank you, Commissioner.

Commissioner Keon: Aren't I...

Parking Director Kinney: Yep.

Commissioner Keon: Aren't I fuel...

Parking Director Kinney: That was the story.

Commissioner Keon: Efficient?

Commissioner Lago: That was the story.

Parking Director Kinney: That's the one we got rid of.

Commissioner Lago: So, what I'd like to do now -- now what you see is a lot of people are buying hybrids because, obviously, you know, they're more prevalent on the street. The whole purpose of this is to, you know, give this to electric vehicles, to make sure it's 100 -- if you want to have the right and the privilege to use these special parking spaces, it should be only for electric vehicles in my opinion. We're not talking about handicap -- there's handicap spaces there. There's spaces -- I don't know if there's spaces for children and...

Parking Director Kinney: No. We don't.

Commissioner Lago: We don't have those, but we have handicap -- we have the adequate number of handicap parking spaces. But, I'm requesting today that we remove the existing signage and make it just 100 percent electric.

Parking Director Kinney: Okay. We -- based on the title, we were a little confused on what the conversation was going to be. We do feel at the charging stations, the hybrids that can plug in, we do need -- we have customers that we need to allow them to plug in. The six spaces that are just...

Commissioner Lago: Excuse -- explain to me. I don't understand what you mean by that.

Parking Director Kinney: So, there's some hybrid vehicles that plug in...

Commissioner Lago: Like the Chevy Volt or...

Parking Director Kinney: And they (INAUDIBLE)

Commissioner Lago: But, this is -- but these ten spaces -- these ten spaces that I'm talking about are not -- you're just...

Commissioner Keon: There's no (INAUDIBLE)

Parking Director Kinney: No, no, no.

Commissioner Lago: There's no charging station there.

Parking Director Kinney: No, no. I understand that now, but when we were...

Commissioner Lago: So you have -- this is what we're going to (INAUDIBLE)...

Commissioner Mena: This is what I was asking. (INAUDIBLE)

Commissioner Lago: Okay, so there's two different...

Parking Director Kinney: (INAUDIBLE)

Commissioner Lago: (INAUDIBLE). So, you have the area, which is six spaces for -- six or eight spaces for charging. (INAUDIBLE). It's designated for charging. I don't have a problem if it's a hybrid. They can charge there. It's perfectly fine.

Unidentified Speaker: Okay.

Commissioner Lago: My issue is with the other ten designated spaces, which is what you saw there, the photos, where you have vehicles that are not even hybrids or that are hybrids. They should not be parking there. It should be only for electric vehicles.

Parking Director Kinney: And we may be able to go there. I just want to give a one-minute history. Those spaces were established, because of the LEED certification for the museum. And initially, it was, as Commissioner Keon says, the sign we were asked to put up was hybrid and fuel efficient vehicles. That is almost impossible to enforce. Unless you park your Hummer there, then I know I can (INAUDIBLE) the Hummer.

Unidentified Speaker: Yes.

Parking Director Kinney: We did change those, I'm going to say, a year and a half, two years ago, and they now read "EV and Hybrid vehicles less than 14 feet." Now, I have no idea about

the LEED certification for the museum. It seems to me that changing it to EV vehicles only would not adversely impact...

Commissioner Lago: It wouldn't. You're making it more stringent.

Parking Director Kinney: (INAUDIBLE)

Commissioner Lago: You're making it more...

Parking Director Kinney: But in those six spaces, I don't have an issue. Matt and I were just concerned that we were talking about the ones...

Commissioner Lago: No, no, no. I'm not.

Parking Director Kinney: At the charging stations.

Commissioner Lago: I'm not. I'm talking about the spaces that I showed in that photo...

Parking Director Kinney: Yes.

Commissioner Lago: Which have nothing to do with the charging stations. Do you know how many hybrid vehicles were purchased in 2016? Take a guess.

Parking Director Kinney: A million.

Commissioner Lago: Four million cars...

Commissioner Keon: How many...

Commissioner Lago: Versus electric. I'm getting the electric -- much less...

Parking Director Kinney: Yeah.

Commissioner Lago: Much less electric vehicles were purchased.

Commissioner Keon: How many non..? How many regular (INAUDIBLE)...

Commissioner Lago: Oh, I don't even have that number. But the point is that every time I drive by there, over the last few months when I didn't have my electric car, I take a photo and I send it to you. I send it to the Manager and I send it to Chelsea. And I say, guys, why do we have this special -- if we're going to allow anybody to park there and we're not going to enforce, then let's make it military/veterans. Let's make it disabled. Let's make it for mothers with children, you know.

Commissioner Mena: Isn't it better for the environment if the gas guzzlers park low and the electric drive up?

Unidentified Speaker: Well...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We can do that.

Commissioner Keon: I like (INAUDIBLE)

Commissioner Lago: But you're promoting...

Unidentified Speaker: (INAUDIBLE)

Commissioner Lago: You make a good point. But you're promoting people to buy electric cars, which (INAUDIBLE) -- you're promoting that, right?

Parking Director Kinney: Well, all I would say is we do enforcement. We've written 233 citations over the last two months. But, we recognize that there's been a lot of violations there. Now, I did ask the enforcement guys to start seeing if they could actually interact with some of the people that were illegally parking. We did get feedback that they didn't understand English. It was people visiting the Colombian Consulate. Now, even if we leave the signs as they are, we're going to correct that by putting up a Spanish sign also. But, I don't believe it's an issue to convert those to electric vehicles only, if that's what the Commission would like.

Commissioner Lago: Okay, so...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

Commissioner Lago: I'm going to make a motion to do just that on those parking spaces that are not associated with the charging stations.

Unidentified Speaker: And, the charging stations -- just to give you guys a little background. The charging stations have been incredibly popular...

Commissioner Lago: Of course.

Unidentified Speaker: In the parking garages. We've had over 7,500 charging sessions since we've installed them, saved over 8,000 gallons of gasoline. I know that I met with an organization that's really pushing electric vehicles throughout the state. And they said, basically, the City of Coral Gables can write the manual on installing EV infrastructure and the (INAUDIBLE) fleet, because we've got the largest in the state (INAUDIBLE).

Commissioner Lago: But, not only that...

Unidentified Speaker: And we're just getting started.

Commissioner Lago: Tell my colleagues about -- since we started buying 100 percent electric vehicles -- I think we have about 40 in the fleet now...

Unidentified Speaker: We have 35 right now.

Commissioner Lago: 35 (INAUDIBLE).

Unidentified Speaker: We're adding 8 more this year of the extended range Chevy Volts into our fleet. And, the goal is to have 78 vehicles by 2021 inside of our...

Commissioner Lago: So, we...

Unidentified Speaker: (INAUDIBLE)

Commissioner Lago: I mean the amount of money that we're saving is incredible.

Unidentified Speaker: Enormous.

Commissioner Lago: It's enormous.

Parking Director Kinney: And at this point, it is a service that the City's providing to the community. My electric bill for the charging stations is \$400 a month roughly. It's not worth...

Commissioner Lago: Well worth it.

Parking Director Kinney: We do have the infrastructure to start charging for the electric service if we get to that point, but at \$400 a month, it's better for...

Commissioner Lago: And, don't forget also...

Parking Director Kinney: Us just to provide it.

Commissioner Lago: These individuals that are using these charging stations are paying to be in that parking garage.

Unidentified Speaker: Yeah.

Parking Director Kinney: Yes.

Commissioner Lago: So, you're getting the revenue from the parking, which is offsetting, obviously...

Parking Director Kinney: The cost.

Commissioner Lago: The cost.

Unidentified Speaker: And we've also...

Commissioner Lago: But, what I'd like to see -- and this is something that I brought up in the previous project that we deferred -- like Commissioner Keon brought up those issues about the issue of the square footage per unit. I'd like to see if we can start installing charging stations in our parking garages. I mean, excuse me, in our parking lots or wherever we have that.

Unidentified Speaker: We actually have...

Unidentified Speaker: So, I was just going to touch on that. We just developed an EV infrastructure plan that plans it all the way out until when we have full implementation of REVs, and we'll have less than -- we'll have pretty much two vehicles for every one charging station, which is well below the national average, which is like five or six per station. So, we're well ahead of the game right now, and in our lots, we've already identified like Lot 20 will have three dual pedestal Level II charging stations, with the potential of adding a fourth, so eight spaces there alone will be for electric vehicles. And then Lot 7 and Lot 30, as well, will have dual charging there.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

Unidentified Speaker: So, we've targeted where our EVs typically park for our fleet, and we're going to be having that infrastructure in place before we have those EV vehicles. We want to build the infrastructure before we have the vehicles here, and then help to offset the private...

Commissioner Lago: What about our surface parking lots?

Parking Director Kinney: (INAUDIBLE)

Unidentified Speaker: Yeah. That's what we're talking about.

Parking Director Kinney: (INAUDIBLE)

Unidentified Speaker: Yeah.

Commissioner Lago: Okay, perfect.

Unidentified Speaker: So, that plan's in place.

Commissioner Lago: So, I made a -- I have a motion on the floor. Is anybody going to second it?

Commissioner Keon: I'll second it.

Vice Mayor Quesada: What's the exact motion?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Commissioner Lago: The exact motion is...

Commissioner Keon: (INAUDIBLE)

Commissioner Lago: That the existing hybrid parking spaces on the second floor of Aragon be converted to electric only vehicle parking.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I'm against that.

Commissioner Lago: That's fine.

Vice Mayor Quesada: You are?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Why?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Because hybrids also have a function and they also save fuel and, you know, there are a lot more hybrids than there are...

Commissioner Lago: There are.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Electric vehicles, and we should also provide services for them.

Commissioner Mena: Okay (INAUDIBLE) -- I guess (INAUDIBLE)

Vice Mayor Quesada: So, why can't -- I'm sorry, go ahead.

Commissioner Lago: The problem is that basically any car qualifies now for a hybrid.

Commissioner Keon: No. (INAUDIBLE)

Commissioner Lago: A lot, a lot, a lot.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Commissioner Keon: (INAUDIBLE)

Vice Mayor Quesada: No, no, no, but you're still...

Commissioner Keon: (INAUDIBLE) my diesel (INAUDIBLE)...

Vice Mayor Quesada: Encouraging -- I think you're still achieving the same goal. Why can't it be that -- why can't we have the setup be that, yes, we have the electric charging capabilities at that location, but either a hybrid or electric...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Can park there?

Commissioner Lago: Well, that's the exist -- that's what happens right now. But when you go there...

Vice Mayor Quesada: (INAUDIBLE) charging station at that location on the second floor.

Commissioner Lago: No, there is. There's a separate area where you have...

Commissioner Keon: A separate area.

Commissioner Lago: Charging stations for about six parking spaces, and then you have about eight...

Parking Director Kinney: Six.

Commissioner Lago: About another six parking spaces that are for electric/hybrid parking.

Parking Director Kinney: Right.

Commissioner Lago: The issue there is when you go drive by those spaces, they're either all taken by vehicles that are neither electric or hybrid...

Commissioner Mena: Oh, but that's a different issue.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: That's the problem. That's the problem.

Commissioner Keon: (INAUDIBLE)

Commissioner Lago: I got it, I got it. And, I keep bringing it up and I take photos and I send it to staff, but...

Unidentified Speaker: (INAUDIBLE)

Commissioner Lago: Yes and not only that...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: (INAUDIBLE)

Commissioner Lago: There's barely -- a lot of them -- since they're so -- it's predominantly more hybrids on the street than electric vehicles, most of the parking is taken up by hybrids, not even by electric.

Commissioner Keon: But, that's the first generation of that...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: So what? That's not a bad thing.

Commissioner Keon: I mean, and I think...

Commissioner Lago: I'm just telling you.

Commissioner Keon: It'll move to that. I mean, that (INAUDIBLE)...

Commissioner Lago: Listen, I'm just...

Commissioner Keon: (INAUDIBLE)

Commissioner Lago: (INAUDIBLE). You don't have to support me on this issue. It's okay. I made the decision to go 100 percent electric, which is a lot more strenuous and difficult than being a hybrid; right or wrong?

Unidentified Speaker: Yeah.

Commissioner Lago: There's a lot more...

Unidentified Speaker: (INAUDIBLE)

Commissioner Lago: Difficult. It's a lot more difficult to have.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: (INAUDIBLE) you made that decision, but it's also good to have hybrids.

Commissioner Mena: Isn't it more expensive, too?

Commissioner Lago: No.

Commissioner Mena: Like (INAUDIBLE)

Commissioner Lago: On electric? No.

Commissioner Mena: No?

Commissioner Lago: I bought mine...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay. Is there a motion -- is there a second?

Commissioner Lago: It dies on the floor.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Dies on the floor. Okay, next item is (INAUDIBLE)...

Commissioner Lago: Alright.

Commissioner Keon: (INAUDIBLE)

Commissioner Lago: Commissioner -- excuse me, Mr. Santamaria, if you'd be so kind. H-4, update on traffic calming initiatives in regards to Miami-Dade County.

Public Works Director Santamaria: Good afternoon, Mr. Mayor...

Commissioner Lago: By the way, I got you the information. 2017 -- so, in 2016, four million hybrids were sold, just to give you an idea. How many electric cars do you think were sold in 2017?

Commissioner Mena: A million?

Commissioner Lago: Huh?

Commissioner Mena: A million?

Commissioner Lago: No. You?

Commissioner Keon: (INAUDIBLE) million.

Commissioner Lago: (INAUDIBLE) how many?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Forty-two.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I don't know, 500.

Commissioner Lago: 200,000 vehicles.

Unidentified Speaker: That's good.

Commissioner Lago: So, it's a lot more difficult to obviously own an electric vehicle than it is to own a hybrid.

Commissioner Keon: I think it's more the turnover vehicles (INAUDIBLE) people -- you know, I mean (INAUDIBLE) car, you replace it maybe with...

Commissioner Lago: No, people -- they have -- what they -- what ends up happening is people - -and this is what they told me and I researched when I bought an electric vehicle. When you buy an electric vehicle, you have range anxiety.

Commissioner Keon: Yeah.

Commissioner Lago: So, as your vehicle is ending -- yeah, it's the truth -- so, it's called range anxiety. So, what ends up happening is your nervous. But when you have two gallons, for example, like some of these hybrid vehicles do as backup, it allows you to, obviously, run out of electricity and then find a gas station and fuel up, you know. And, those two gallons will probably give 60 to 80 miles or 100 miles, in certain cases.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay, let's go on to...

Commissioner Mena: Is there...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: The next item.

Commissioner Mena: On this, I would just -- all I would say is I'm open...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: (INAUDIBLE)

Commissioner Mena: To this discussion, like maybe there's somewhere in between where those six spaces can be divvied, two as electric only -- you know, I don't know. But, my concern is I would rather see them full with hybrid vehicles than empty, because there's only one electric vehicle.

Commissioner Lago: Oh, no, trust me. I promise you, especially in Coral Gables, with the amount of people that -- I'll give you an example since you say (INAUDIBLE).

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

Commissioner Lago: I talked to the Manager...

Commissioner Mena: I'm going off your stats.

Commissioner Lago: No, no, no. But I'm going to tell you, I was introduced, by Vice Mayor Quesada, to the representatives of Tesla one day -- I think when Giralda opened. Or I think it was -- yeah, it was the opening night of Giralda. And I've had several meetings and I've ran with it, and I've had several meetings with the Manager. It's been kind of dormant. I don't know if staff has been dealing with the issue. But, they wanted to come and put two charging stations for free in the City of Coral Gables. Why? They were talking about the Aragon and they were talking about Merrick Park. They wanted to do all the infrastructure, and they wanted to install them. Why? Because, they see that Coral Gables is a hub for electric vehicles and they see the need for people -- they're trying to build their grid, their infrastructure throughout the

state of Florida so people travel -- so, there's a -- if you drive by the City, you'll see how many 100 percent fully electric vehicles there are. And, if you -- if we were to put those spaces just only for electric vehicles, you'd see that they'd be full constantly.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay, guys.

Commissioner Lago: That's okay. No problem.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: (INAUDIBLE)

Commissioner Lago: We'll move -- we'll have staff look into it, and then, you know, maybe we can do something like what Commissioner Mena said.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Traffic calming in relation to (INAUDIBLE)

Commissioner Lago: Half and half...

Commissioner Mena: I'm open to continuing the...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Let's go on. Come on.

Commissioner Mena: Discussion with you. Well, I'm just...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: (INAUDIBLE)

Commissioner Mena: I just wanted to say that I'm open to continuing the discussion when we have some more information.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Commissioner Lago: Let's do it. I'm with you.

Commissioner Mena: You know.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright, traffic calming.

Commissioner Lago: I'm with you. I think it's a good idea.

[End: 2:34:55 p.m.]