

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item L – Discussion Items
September 10, 2019
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Michael Mena

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Assistant City Manager, Ed Santamaria

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item L – Discussion Items

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Anything else guys?

City Attorney Ramos: I need to make the announcement for Executive Session, because we will not be adjourning until after...

Commissioner Fors: I wanted to just recognize somebody on the record. This weekend was the Coral Gables Bar Association Annual Gala. It was held at the historic Douglas Entrance Ballroom. I used to be the Past President of that organization. Our keynote speaker this weekend was actually our City Attorney Miriam Soler Ramos. She delivered an amazing speech where she sort of gave a legal review to over 200 attendees, as well as over 25 sitting Judges in Miami-Dade County regarding the unique legal challenges that our cities face. She represented us beyond what I could have ever hoped for a City Attorney to do. Just want to say thank you for representing us so well on that platform.

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

[Applause]

Vice Mayor Lago: Always making us proud. Commission Keon anything?

Commissioner Keon: No.

Vice Mayor Lago: I have one item. Palms on 57 Avenue – the landscaping on 57th Avenue, running from Bird Road all the way to Ponce de Leon. I know that Brook has come up on multiple times to discuss that issue. That still stays in limbo, nothing has come forward, you know we are supposed to be planting trees on the swale. I'd like to know where we are at in regard to that. And the second is the landscaping on 57th Avenue and Bird Road that was installed, some Palm trees, some low-lying bushes, those are in horrible shape. People swerve off the road to avoid the backup in traffic and they basically just run over all those trees. Its Green Island Fichus those hedges that are there.

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: Yes, Green Island Fichus.

Vice Mayor Lago: Can we just take a look at those and make sure. I know it's a constant battle because people are running them over. They haven't seemed to grow all the way into the street, but people swerve out of the way and just run them over.

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: My understanding is that the plantings on the south side of Red Road, the southern end of it will be happening within the next few weeks. Regarding the Green Island Fichus, that's something that until that fully establishes itself its...

Vice Mayor Lago: They never give it an option, an opportunity to fully establish.

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: We can look at something else there, but it's going to be complicated. So, it's a DOT right-of-way.

Vice Mayor Lago: I know. It's a tough area. I know we are trying to do what we can. I'll make sure.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We had planted beautiful orchids...orchids in our courtyard here and Mr. City Manager they need to be watered every day, just with a hose.

City Manager Iglesias: We'll water them.

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Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Nothing fancy, just every day.

City Manager Iglesias: Mayor, I'll make sure. I'll talk to Dena and Brook.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Anything else?

Vice Mayor Lago: Let me ask you a quick question. On Blue Road, can we take a vote on that issue or no?

City Attorney Ramos: I don't know that you need one, it's been funded, you are just giving a general update, but if you want to give specific direction then you should.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes. Specific direction is that it be design and public input, and be designed by 2020, by the end of the year.

City Manager Iglesias: We are working that Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Lago: Can I get a vote on that on the record though. So moved.

Commissioner Mena: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you call the roll please.

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes

Commissioner Mena: Yes

Commissioner Fors: Yes

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much everybody.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you.

[End: 12:31:37 p.m.]