

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-1
September 8, 2015
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

**Mayor Jim Cason
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Vince Lago
Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Commissioner Jeannett Slesnick**

City Staff

**City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
City Attorney, Craig E. Leen
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Historic Preservation Officer, Dona Spain**

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-1 [Start: 10:26:20 a.m.]

Presentation of excerpts from the Historic Preservation Board meeting of August 20, 2015, requesting the following action:

That the City Commission adopt a Resolution authorizing Ad Valorem tax relief for the property located 1203 Astoria Avenue, a local historic landmark, legally described as Lots 17 and 18, Block 5, Coral Gables Section "E," according to the plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 8 at Page 13 of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida. The related Special Certificate of Appropriateness, COA (SP) 2012-10, was granted design approval on September 20, 2012 by the Historic Preservation Board Standard Certificate of Appropriateness COA (ST) 2014-094 was granted design approval on August 20, 2014 by the Historical Resources Department. The cost of improvements is estimated at \$725,000, which would correspond approximately to \$4,052.03 per year and \$40,520.25 over ten years. (Historic Preservation Board Vote: 8-0).

Mayor Cason: We are going to go quickly to G-1, because we have some residents here that otherwise might have to stay a couple of hours and then we will move into Time Certain.

Mrs. Spain: Thank you Mr. Mayor. This is a request for Ad Valorem tax relief with the residence at 1203 Asturia Avenue. We have the property owners here. This is the location of the property; this residence was built actually before the City was incorporated in 1923-24, the City was incorporated in 1925. This is a current photograph of the property, this is how it looked before and after, and again, before and after photographs.

Commissioner Lago: Dona, what was the timeframe for construction?

Mrs. Spain: I'm going to ask the owner to come up – two and-a-half years.

Commissioner Lago: And your department obviously was involved throughout the entire process?

Mrs. Spain: Yes sir, before, during, and after. This is Mr. Goldstein.

Commissioner Lago: How are you sir?

Mrs. Spain: This is after. Again, before and after. It's really a labor of love when you do something like this. The...obviously fallen into disrepair and so there was extensive restoration and then these interior shots are just amazing. This is the library before and after and the breakfast nook before and after, and the kitchen. We don't designate the interiors, but it's really impressive. So just to list what restoration work was done. They restored the exterior stucco; they put impact resistant windows to match the original wood windows; new impact resistant doors; refinished the existing wood front door; restoration of the original cast concrete elements; they installed new true tube piece barrel tile roof; and restored the wood rafters; and put in new mechanical plumbing and electrical systems; new garage door; garage roof was restored to the Gables end; and they also did an addition with master bath and closet; stair hall; laundry room; two additional bedrooms, the bathroom in between. So they did extensive work on this property and the Historic Preservation Board is recommending unanimously for the tax relief.

Mayor Cason: Looks great – looks great.

Commissioner Lago: Incredible – incredible. Like what Dona stated, it's a true labor of love. What do you think Commissioner Slesnick?

Commissioner Slesnick: I sold a house across the street and it's been an eyesore for 15 years, so I'm so glad that, that's restored. It's beautiful.

Mayor Cason: OK. Do we have a motion on G-1?

Commissioner Lago: I'll make the motion.

Commissioner Slesnick: Second.

Mayor Cason: Commissioner Lago makes the motion, Commissioner Slesnick seconds. City Clerk.

Commissioner Slesnick: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Mayor Cason: Yes

(Vote: 4-0)

Commissioner Lago: Congratulations.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you for all those people that buy those homes and restore them, you really add such an aesthetic to our community, you really do. Congraulations. Thank you.

[End: 10:30:52 a.m.]