

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item I-3
February 15, 2022
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Michael Mena

Commissioner Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Jorge Fors

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Attorney, Miriam Ramos

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Maria Cruz

Jackson Rip Holmes

Agenda Item I-3 [Start: 10:38 a.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission authorizing a change order to RFQ 2021-010 mobility Hub Pre-Construction & Construction CMR Services for the new state of the art Mobility Hub with the Weitz Company, LLC, pursuant to section 2-764 (b), approval of change orders and contract modifications, of the City's Procurement Code in estimated amount of \$1,500,000 for additional work to be performed.

Mayor Lago: Item I-3.

City Attorney Ramos: Item I-3 is A Resolution of the City Commission authorizing a change order to RFQ 2021-010 mobility Hub Pre-Construction & Construction CMR Services for the new state of the art Mobility Hub with the Weitz Company, LLC, pursuant to section 2-764 (b), approval of change orders and contract modifications, of the City's Procurement Code.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Manager.

Vice Mayor Mena: Sorry. Excuse me really quick. I was out, I went to the restroom, I apologize, on F-1 and F-2, Clerk, if you could record my vote as a yes.

City Clerk Urquia: Yes sir.

Vice Mayor Mena: Thank you.

City Manager Iglesias: The drawing is ready for demolition, including DERM approval, so they are completely ready. So, what we'd like to do is proceed with having the demolition...actually also awarding the funds for that contract, and we would like to proceed with demo in certain areas of the building.

Commissioner Fors: I'll move it.

Mayor Lago: I need a second.

Vice Mayor Mena: Second.

City Clerk Urquia: Before the vote is taken, we do have a member of the public requesting to speak on this item, Mr. Mayor, its Ms. Maria Cruz.

Mayor Lago: Ms. Cruz the floor is yours.

Ms. Cruz: Good morning again, 1447 Miller Road, Coral Gables, FL 33146. Here we go. When we discussed the mobility hub, some of us were kind of concerned about the money that was going to be spent, kind of I would say, so I don't start the crying again. We were told it would cost \$42 million dollars. We were not told that the design had already cost us \$2 million dollars. Now today we hear, according to the City Manager that we need a change order for a million and-a-half, and if I understood correctly, this has to do with the demolition of the building. So, am I to believe when we discussed the mobility hub, we are going to do it on top of what was there already, because nobody mentioned that it would cost us a million and-a-half to demolish there, to be able to build? So here we go. So far, the expenditures for mobility hub now are going to be 42, 44, 45 and-a-half. Now, all I'm doing is making sure we understand that the people like me that objected to the amount of money that was going to be spent, besides the design, by the way, we need to know exactly how much its going to cost, because every Commission meeting, every other Commission meeting there's going to be something that we haven't told, something that we haven't thought about, and the money is going to keep going up and up. I suggest, and I know that maybe it's not a good suggestion, but if I were to tell my daughters that I give them \$100 to go buy something at Lerner Express. I tell them this is what you have. When you go there you spend what you have, you cannot say, wait a second Mommy, I forgot that I needed something else. No. You asked for \$100, you got \$100, you need to adjust to what you were given. And I understand that demolition, you know, we didn't realize that we needed to do it. But from this point on, we need to know exactly how much it's going to cost, if any changes have to be made, guess what, adjust the expenses. Change something, modify something, do a little less, whatever it takes, so you don't go over the amount of money that we were told it was going to cost. That's it. That's my comment. Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Thank you Ms. Cruz. Mr. Manager.

City Clerk Urquia: Also Mr. Jackson Holmes.

Mayor Lago: Okay. Mr. Holmes.

Mr. Holmes: I was afraid there was going to be an onslaught of criticism, maybe I'm jumping the gun or something, but just in case there's more criticism to come, I know people are speaking from the heart. I just point out from a fiscal point of view, as Mayor Lago pointed out a few minutes ago, the city's tax base is in play here. If we are getting, according to him, 27 percent of our income from the downtown, and we don't provide enough parking, then we are going to lose a lot more than we lose if we discovered that we need to spend a little bit more to get this done. Its like, you know, do we take care of our cars so we can get to work, well we better, because otherwise we can't get to work, all that kind of thing. You take care of your house, because you can't afford to have flooding in a hurricane or something. These are our basic building blocks. Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Thank you sir. Mr. Manager would you like to address Ms. Cruz' comments?

City Manager Iglesias: Mayor in order to build a mobility hub, we have an existing building there that must be demolished, as you know. We have issues with the foundation, some conflicts, and we are getting all that resolved, and we actually have that resolved. And part of building a new building on an existing site, where the building is certainly the demolition of that building. It is a building from a functionality point of view obsolete, and we are going with this 626-car garage in lieu of that. So, I think that this is part of the construction process.

Mayor Lago: So, what you're saying is the demolition cost were not in the construction numbers that were provided of \$42 million dollars.

City Manager Iglesias: It was in the \$42 million dollars, its something that we need to discuss. As you know construction right now is in flux, and we are working with a very difficult market right now. This will initiate the project.

Mayor Lago: Okay. Alright. Anyone else have any questions? Anything else to add? I'll entertain a motion.

City Clerk Urquia: I have a motion already.

Mayor Lago: Oh, you do.

Commissioner Fors: Yes

Vice Mayor Mena: Yes

Commissioner Menendez: Yes

Commissioner Anderson: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)