

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting**  
**Agenda Item D – Mayor’s Comments**  
**February 9, 2021**  
**City Commission Chambers**  
**405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

**City Commission**

**Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli**  
**Vice Mayor Vince Lago**  
**Commissioner Pat Keon**  
**Commissioner Michael Mena**  
**Commissioner Jorge Fors**

**City Staff**

**City Manager, Peter Iglesias**  
**City Attorney, Miriam Ramos**  
**City Clerk, Billy Urquia**

**Public Speaker(s)**

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Agenda Item D – Mayor’s Comments [Start: 4:22 p.m.]

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Mayor’s Comments, we’ll go on. Today, I’d like to highlight the great teamwork of 18 South Florida Fire and Rescue Departments, including Coral Gables that they undertook. This weekend I had the opportunity to watch a very moving story on CNN of these Firefighters and Paramedics coming together in a seven-day mission to vaccinate Holocaust survivors. This was an extraordinary effort and I salute Chief de la Rosa, who serves as the Florida Fire Chief’s Association Regional County Coordinator, which represents all departments from Palm Beach south to Monroe County, for not only having our department participate, but for the instrumental role he played in organizing this mission. Chief, you really made a difference in improving the welfare of these Holocaust survivors who have already suffered so much in their lifetime. And yesterday, our team assisted the state, the 2506 veterans. I salute you and the men and women of the Coral Gables Fire Department, and I take the opportunity to call Chief de la Rosa to come up. You have to come up here, because I can’t go there. Chief, I’d like to present you with the Key to the City for your efforts for the wonderful job you’ve done and to thank you and your department for being with us and the fine service you provide. Thank you Chief.

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Chief de la Rosa: Its an honor. I'm very proud of that, not only on what we've achieved, but what we do as a fire service. I think this past year was a testament to the flexibility and adaptability of all of government and a lot of different medical entities, as we face the pandemic, but mostly maybe it's a little home cooking for the Fire Department, this was not something that was very predominant in our playbook and we adapted, improvised, and hopefully we have served our citizens in our communities well. This mission, I was called upon to organize the vaccination of Holocaust survivors with not a lot more information than that and we began to break it down by the county, and we called the fire departments and we basically applied the same system that we would if we were responding to a hurricane or a major fire throughout the state; and our folks responded well, they learned on the cusp and we vaccinated in one week over 500 folks ranging from Palm Beach all the way down to South Dade. So again, I think it's a testament that our firefighters go beyond our city limits when it comes to serving and providing services and emergency services to folks wherever the care may be needed. So thank you for this, Mayor, but the recognition really goes to them and their adaptability and flexibility. Thank you very much.

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

Vice Mayor Lago: Great job Chief.