

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item D – Mayor’s Comments
January 11, 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)

Javier Sanchez

Agenda Item D [Start: 10:49 a.m.]
Mayor’s Comments

Mayor Lago: I’d like to discuss before I go to the time certain item and that is the Mayor’s Comments. I’d like to have the presentation by the Miami Dolphins on the Dolphins Challenge and then I’ll move unto the time certain item at 10:00 a.m. Are they here? Mr. Sanchez, good morning.

Mr. Sanchez: Good morning. First off, thank you so much for having me.

Mayor Lago: Thank you for your patients. I know that we were supposed to do this a lot earlier, but we are blessed to have you here and thank you.

Mr. Sanchez: Of course, thank you. Good morning, Commissioners, City Attorney, Mayor, City Manager. Thank you all so much for having us, City Clerk. And I just want to start off by saying thank you and this is a big thank you. You guys do something important for us in South Florida and you tout City Beautiful. I just want to say that how important that is for us, and I want to
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acknowledge something that you make possible in this city that is incredibly beautiful and that's helping save lives in partnership with the Miami Dolphins. The City of Coral Gables is a crucial player in what we do in South Florida. On behalf of Miami Dolphins, my name is Javier Sanchez, I'm the Executive Director of Dolphins Challenge Cancer, that's our standalone non-profit where 100 percent of every dollar raised goes to Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, in partnership with the University of Miami. So, this is impactful for us. So, thank you for all. I know you know individuals that have been impacted by cancer. We know individuals that have survived cancer treatment. We know some people that haven't been that fortunate. But this is why we do what we do, because we want to make sure that in our local community there is an incredible cancer center. So, when we hear those tough words and when cancer is approached to us, we turn around and say, we've got great partners in Sylvester. So, we've got a volunteer board. I'm joined here by Marcus Bach Armas from the Miami Dolphins. Adam Colin is a great supporter of ours, also with the Sylvester Board of Overseers, and then of course, I've got Mike Alvarez from the University of Miami. I saw Chief Hudak from Police here, Fire Rescue, everyone comes together to help make this event possible, and thanks to you all, we've become the number one fundraising event in the NFL. Last year we raised \$6.3 million dollars that stays local, and it stays local for cancer treatment, and it stays local for cancer treatment and a center that's receiving levels of excellence way above and beyond any other in town. It's the only NCI designated cancer center in all of South Florida. So, again when we talk about these things, when we talk about how we make things beautiful, when we talk about how we make an impact, that's what we are doing together. So, thank you really goes a long way. Each one of you received this Sylvester Impact Guide. This is the power of what you're doing. This young lady right here on the cover, she's actually been – her father was part of the DCC since 2011. He actually has a law firm here in Coral Gables, and then she was impacted by brain cancer just not long ago, in 2018, and she's now participating in the DCC and so many stories. So, join us. The Miami Dolphins in November of 2020 made a \$75 million dollar commitment to cancer research. So far, we've fulfilled 45/25 million of that. And one very important thing, of all the money that's raised by participating in the event, 100 percent is given to cancer research, every single dollar. It doesn't cover any other cost other than funding cancer research, because that's what matters most. So, on February 26th, 46 days from now, I invite you to join us. Marcus usually rides the 35-mile ride from the University of Miami. I rode the 100-mile ride last year. There is a 15-mile ride, a 50-mile ride, a 5K, and then there is also a great festival where families will take part and celebrate the incredible work that we're doing here, and where you all are taking the forefront in letting the nation know that we are the number one fundraising event in the NFL. Let that sink in for a second, especially after this season. The number one fundraising event in the NFL is hosted by your own Miami Dolphins. So, thank you, but I challenge you. Our name is Dolphins Challenge Cancer, and we are challenging you to challenge cancer with us. So, who's going to ride?

Mayor Lago: Let me tell you. First off, thank you for being here. So let me tell you why I asked them to be here. They didn't ask, I asked them to be here. First off, because we appreciate the partnership with the University of Miami and what they are doing is incredibly important to everyone here who has lost a loved one or knows somebody whose going through this horrific disease. So, I asked them to be here today, because I'm going to ride, and I'm going to challenge my colleagues to ride with me. I already have a commitment from the Mayor of the City of Miami, who's going to ride. I'd love nothing more than the city to figure out a way to get as many

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employees as possible to ride, and if they can't ride, we'll sponsor it one way or another in the sense of it won't come from the city coffers, we'll raise money privately. There is a litany of people in this community that have been affected by this horrific disease and your commitment to irradiating cancer is commendable, along with the University of Miami's efforts, because if it's not the University of Miami being thoughtful and being very careful on how this money is spent, we wouldn't have made the significant advances that we've made. So, I have to commend the University of Miami on that, along with their partnership at the Dolphins. So, it's a challenge. It's a challenge that not only you are putting out there, but I'm putting out there to large corporations, to individuals who want to give \$5, \$10, \$15. Over the next two weeks I'll be making an effort to coalesce amongst my colleagues and find as many people who want to engage in this challenge. But I will personally make a commitment to making the ride with each one of you. So, I welcome you. If you have any questions for our friends here from the Dolphins, the floor is yours – anyone? Alright, with that being said, thank you so much for being here. I ask you to please give me all the graphics so I can include this in my newsletter for January and send it to my colleagues also. They have newsletters also, along with the city, and I'd love to make sure that we can get the word out there and show our commitment, not only to the Dolphins, but also to the University of Miami in their efforts and their commitment to this community.

Mr. Sanchez: On behalf of Tom Garfinkle, our CEO and Vice Chairman and our owner Mr. Stephen Ross, thank you. This means the world to us and together we are helping, as you said, irradiating this horrible disease.

Mayor Lago: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Mena: Thank you guys.

Commissioner Anderson: Thank you.