

Coral Gables Waterfront Communities HOA Board Minutes of February 18, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Chairperson Gonzalo Sanabria, Vice Chairperson Toni Schrager and Board members, Lance Campbell, Aimee Davis, David Kutner, Roberto Martinez and Alex Quevedo were present and Board members, Rick Diaz, Eileen Higgins Faradji were absent.

A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

October 15, 2024, Meeting Minutes- Approved

November 13, 2024, Meeting Minutes – Approved

Moved by board member Martinez, seconded by board member Quevedo.

B. NEW BUSINESS

B-1. Discussion on Migrant Apprehension

Chair Sanabria requested from Chief Hudak to update the group and let us know what you are doing to try to deal with the problem. Please provide the police plan moving forward.

Board member Martinez commented that he hasn't heard the plan and cannot pass judgment on the plan. He is here to learn.

Chief Hudak advised the group that they will not discuss their plan in public. He confirmed that there had been three landings.

Let me bring you up to date on our policies of the Coral Gables Police department especially in the last month or so since the Inauguration of the new President.

Governor and state legislature came up with a plan for the state of Florida and law enforcement and how they are going to be used. HSI, border patrol, Customs, as of right now, the police department will only assist those entities when asked. If we are asked to provide assistance in executing their mission of the federal agency we will assist. We will not be responsible for investigating a person's immigration status. Our job is to investigate and protect those that violate state statutes.

Comprehensive plan not only to protect our borders but everything between here and the Bahamas. We are in constant communication with our Federal and State partners on the water. We are watching from our boats, ground and from the air, it is a multipronged approach from here to the Bahamas.

The smuggling ring is being investigated not only by local law enforcement but by the Federal govt. as well. We do not believe it is human trafficking because all the people in the van want to be here and have paid to be here. Smugglers are not good people. Chinese nationals pay on average \$35K to come here.

We have a plan. We are at an advantage in South Florida because we know how to work together. It is not just our marine patrol, it is the Sheriff's office, City of Miami, coast guard, Fish and Wildlife and we have specific areas that are being patrolled, and information is being passed on to our intelligence people.

We are watching the water. We are covering from the keys to north of Hollow in Palm Beach. Protection of our residents is still paramount.

Chair Sanabria – is requesting a squad car parked in front of the old cutler Fire station 24/7 and told Chief Hudak he is very frustrated as he has requested it from him in various times.

Chief Hudak told the board that there is an ALPO camera in front of that station already. Reads license plates as they go in and out.

Board member Martinez – I would like to put on the record and for the minutes to reflect the following:

I've been living in this community for 33 years, and in Dade County for 65 years with my wife and children, my office is one block from the Police & Fire building. I have been working in this community for 27 years. I'm very very satisfied, very very satisfied with the level of Law Enforcement you provide Chief Hudak and your people. I think I'm the only person on this board, I haven't asked, with Law enforcement experience. I've dealt with many police officers, FBI agents, many border patrol, customs agents, DEA, ATF, you name it, homeland security. Everything you have told us today makes perfect sense. I want the record to reflect it, I'm extremely satisfied. I'm not saying there isn't crime in our community, I've seen it. We call the police, and they respond and protect us. I'm very satisfied.

Chair Sanabria – said he concurred, and that they are very good policemen, but said they have frustrations.

Vice Chair Schrager – She wanted to make sure that the Chief understood that she was not complaining, and the Chair should not include everyone as being frustrated. She asked the Chair to clarify what he wanted.

Chief Hudak – will work on running a patrolling response time report including Kings Bay.

Chair Sanabria – Thanked the Chief for the update and told him that we will have a follow up.

Board member Davis – expressed her concerns regarding speeding in her neighborhood and requests traffic calming. Fernando asked for the specific location to provide it to the city's Public Works Director.

City Attorney's Office – Gus Ceballos attended the meeting to answer any questions related to the special taxing district.

Chair Sanabria – HOA is voluntary. Special taxing district for the gatehouse for example, can it be amended to include the HOA fees? Do we need something separate?

ACA Ceballos – replied, no. Limited scope. Any modifications will need to go to the County. The County will not allow you to create a middle taxing district except for a very, very finite service. Lighting district, security guard district, rolling security guard district and in a very rare situation, occasionally maintenance district.

Board member Martinez - How do I get a tax deduction from what we pay for security?

ACA Ceballos – He is not a tax attorney so is not able to answer the question.

B-2. General Discussions

Questions on The Freebee program. Fernando said it is unlikely to get extended. Recommends speaking to the Commissioners to make it accessible to others.

Board member Martinez – requested status update on the County spending money on the trail.

C. OLD BUSINESS

Nothing

D. CHAIR COMMENTS

No comment from the Chair

FUTURE MEETING DATES

Approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned approximately at 6:20 p.m.