

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item E-2
September 25, 2025
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago
Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Commissioner Melissa Castro
Commissioner Ariel Fernandez
Commissioner Richard D. Lara

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez
City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Deputy City Attorney, Stephanie Throckmorton

Public Speaker(s)

Maria Cruz
Jackson Holmes

Agenda Item E-2 [Start: 10:40 a.m.]

An Ordinance of the City Commission amending City Code Chapter 2, "Administration," Article III "Boards, Commission, Committees," Section 2-83 "Citizen Input; Addressing the City Commission," to add additional rules of decorum for public meetings; providing for severability clause, repealer provision, codification, and providing for an effective date. (Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

Mayor Lago: I'm moving on to E-2.

City Attorney Suarez: E-2 is an ordinance of the City Commission amending City Code, Chapter 2, Administration, Article 3, Boards, Commission, Committees, Section 2-83, Citizen Input, addressing the City Commission to add additional rules of decorum for public meetings, providing for severability, clause repealer provision, codification, and providing for an effective date.

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Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Thank you. Good morning, Mayor, Vice Mayor, Commissioner Stephanie Throckmorton, Deputy City Attorney. This item is sponsored by Mayor Lago. At the last meeting, if you'll recall, the City Attorney gave a brief overview of the rules of decorum that apply to Board of Committee meetings as well as City Commission meetings. While a majority of those are included in our City Code, there were a few additional provisions that the sponsor wanted to add to the code. So, all persons in the audience shall refrain from consuming food or beverages in the Commission Chambers, all cell phones and electronic devices should be silenced, and you should exit the Chambers to answer those phone calls. All persons entering Commission Chambers are required to wear appropriate dress, and all persons entering and exiting the Commission Chambers shall do so quietly. There's also some provisions in the ordinance which require that a summary of those rules of decorum be placed outside of Commission Chambers, which I believe they are today, and that a small summary be included in the printed agendas. So, I believe the Mayor may have had some additional suggestions between first and second reading regarding audiovisual, but I'll defer to the sponsor on that.

Mayor Lago: Thank you, Madam City Attorney. Do you have any public comments, Mr. Clerk?

City Clerk Urquia: Yes, sir, we do.

Mayor Lago: Okay.

City Clerk Urquia: First speaker, Mrs. Maria Cruz.

Mrs. Cruz: This is Maria Cruz, 1447 Miller Road. I love the idea of having decorum rules, but I am wondering, decorum only fits those of us on this side, not necessarily the people sitting in the dais, because today, today it was very disappointing to me, and I'm sure to some of the people that were getting recognized, that during A-6 and A-7, Jose from HR was presenting the employee of the month award and the part-time employee of the third quarter award, and guess what? The Mayor missed the whole presentation. He walked out, did not hear anything that was said about those two employees. That's disrespect. I'm sorry. Respect begets respect. If you do not respect those of us that come here to express our opinion, if you walk out, and by the way, recorded how long every presentation there was somebody on the phone not paying attention. If you do not respect those of us that come here, then you should not be offended when somebody doesn't respect you. This is the issue that we have. You preach, not by what you say, but what you do. Actions speak louder than words. If you do not respect the residents, the people that were talking, there were serious issues being discussed here today, and while some of those people that were really hurting were talking, not everybody was paying attention to them either, because I guess the meetings, the private calls, whatever, were more important than what they were saying. That is shameful, and I'm sorry. I'm always the one that bears the bad news. Not everybody is willing to take the wrath, the insults, the bullying that comes after you say something that is not seen as the

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Coral Gables way. Coral Gables is and has been the beautiful city, but some of us think it's our private property, and we can do whatever we want and get away with it because we sit on the dais. That is wrong. We all deserve to be respected.

Little, big, important, not important, and I'm glad that Commissioner Castro brought up Roxy Bolton because she deserves to have a part. We have voted on it, and it's time to come through.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk, before we move on, I'd like to address this statement, okay? This is dedicated to the Herald again. What you just witnessed right now was misinformation, slander, and intimidation. This is constant. I missed two minutes of A-6 and A-7. I was here for the photo, and I acknowledge both employees. These are the constant attacks that occur. Madam Vice Mayor, when I asked you to run the meeting, would you like to explain why I stepped out?

Vice Mayor Anderson: The Mayor needed to use the restroom. I've had to use the restroom before too, and I could hear the presentation.

Mayor Lago: This is the problem. This is the problem. Ms. Cruz, we're in the middle of a meeting. You're in the middle of a meeting.

Mrs. Cruz: [Inaudible – off mic]

Mayor Lago: This is the way the meetings are going to work. You get one warning. The meeting will be adjourned for 15 minutes. You'll be allowed to come back. If you commit the same disrespectful as you just did right now, you'll be escorted out of the commission meeting. This does not happen in Miami-Dade County. This does not happen in Miami, this is constant intimidation by Ms. Cruz. I had to use the bathroom. I am entitled to use the bathroom. This morning, I had a 6:55 (am) ribbon-cutting at the Publix on US-1. I had something to drink at the Publix with the employees. I had to use the bathroom. I'm a human being. This is the constant misinformation by Ms. Cruz, who is the ringleader of the blogs, and is constantly railing and railing and railing, misinforming and misleading. We will take a 15-minute break. Ms. Cruz, this is your first and only warning. The next one, you will be removed for the entire day of the commission meeting. 15 minutes. We'll be back at 11.05.

Commissioner Castro: What was the infraction?

Mayor Lago: Public comment. Thank you very much.

[Break]

Mayor Lago: We'll resume E-2. Madam City Attorney, will you provide some clarity as per the last exchange?

City Attorney Suarez: Yes, Mayor. So, of course, our city code does not allow disorderly or disruptive conduct. Specifically, we have sections 2-78 and 2-83 of our code. 2-78, which refers to the Chairperson's duties and authorities, states that all comments and questions should go through the Chair of the meeting, which is you, the Mayor. And 2-83 has rules of decorum, specifically addressing the requirement that there be order and decorum in Chambers. I can read some specific sections, Mayor, for the record.

Mayor Lago: Please.

City Attorney Suarez: Yes. So, Mayor, no person other than a member of the Commission and the person having the floor may be permitted to enter into any discussion, either directly or through a member of the Commission, without permission of the Chairperson. No question may be asked except through the Chairperson or by vote of the commission. Moreover, we have specific rules of decorum that state that order must be preserved. No person shall, by speech or otherwise, delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the Commission or disturb any person having the floor. No person shall refuse to obey the orders of the chairperson or the commission. Any person making irrelevant, impertinent, or slanderous remarks or who becomes boisterous while addressing the commission shall not be considered orderly or decorous. Any person who becomes disorderly or fails to confine remarks to the identified subject or business at hand shall be cautioned by the Chairperson and given the opportunity to conclude remarks. That is, if someone has the podium, of course, which was not the case here. Any person failing to comply as cautioned shall be barred from making additional comments or during the meeting by the Chairperson unless permission is granted to continue. And generally, any person who becomes disruptive or interferes with the orderly business of the Commission may be removed from the Commission Chambers or other meeting room for the remainder of the meeting.

Mayor Lago: Thank you. Does that apply to individuals? And I ask this so we can clarify now as we're passing this legislation today. Does that also apply to individuals in the grandstands or who are here visiting us, residents, business owners, other elected officials, employees, city attorneys, anybody, any position, any person who is in these Chambers sitting across from the dais, does that also apply to them?

City Attorney Suarez: Yes, sir. Yes.

Mayor Lago: I want to be very, very clear.

City Attorney Suarez: Yes. I think shouting from the audience, obviously without permission of the Chair because that wouldn't be permitted, would be disorderly.

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Mayor Lago: Do we need to get more granular in this piece of legislation and spell that out just in case, or do you feel comfortable with that interpretation?

City Attorney Suarez: I think our code is clear on that point.

Mayor Lago: Okay, perfect. Mr. Clerk, so as I said before, it's going to be very simple. You're out of order. You will get one warning. We'll have a 15-minute recess so you can get yourself together. We'll come back like we did. If it happens again or you break the rules of conduct or the quorum, you will be escorted out of the building, and we'll have another 15-minute break. Madam City Attorney, will you please join us? Will you explain what other municipalities do? Because I want to be very, very clear for my friends at Political Cortadito and the Coral Gables Gazette, as the rhetoric will now be a dictatorship. Please.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Mr. Chair, Mr. Mayor, the new proposals in E-2 are consistent with the rules of the Board of County Commissioners and other similar municipalities. The entering and exiting, the no cell phones, the no food or drink are consistent with similar municipalities and bodies.

Mayor Lago: What about shouting from the grandstands?

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: I haven't looked at those exact codes, but I would assume that those are similarly not decorous or disruptive.

Mayor Lago: Thank you very much. Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk Urquia: Yes, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Moving on to public comment.

City Clerk Urquia: Next speaker, Jackson Holmes.

Mayor Lago: Good morning, sir.

Mr. Holmes: Good morning. My name is Jackson Holmes. I live at 35 Sedona Avenue in Coral Gables. This is, in my opinion, the death of free speech in Coral Gables. And even now, as I speak, I cannot actually, I'm afraid if I give my true opinion, I'll be found in violation of this. And so, what really upsets me personally is that this is codifying, this is, in my opinion, a dictatorship of the Chair. Whoever, if you agree with the Chair, you can accuse a Commissioner of a crime and demand an answer whether that Commissioner is guilty of a crime. Even the Chair asked the Commissioner, "are you guilty of a crime"? And that's yet somehow compliant with the decorum. But when I said, "well, what about the quorum"? Suddenly I'm being put in the crosshairs for eviction from the meeting. It's a dictatorship of the Chair. It's a dictatorship, this is my opinion, in

Coral Gables of the Chair. The Chair told me in a phone call, I think on May 11th, that if I opposed in my public comments a new proposal, he was making to change the law, I could be banned from City Hall. That's my constitutional right, to oppose a new ordinance. But I was told, no, you're opposing the will of the people and if you oppose a new ordinance, you can be banned from City Hall. Dictatorship of the Chair. The worst aspect of this is this ordinance is threatening citizens with arrest. I submit in that particular case that there should be a compromise reached between first and second reading, where the person who does speak longer than the three minutes agrees that that person, the citizen, shall not do so in the future, and that you delete this threat of arrest. That's pretty far-fetched. There's more for me to say. I don't have time. We're looking at a dictatorship of the Chair and the suppression of free speech in Coral Gables, the end of free speech. Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Thank you, my friend.

City Clerk Urquia: That's it, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk, thank you very much. Madam City Attorney. I just want to clear up a few things from my friends at the blogs. Number one, what we're doing here today, does it compare or mimic what the county and municipalities do?

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Yes, and just for the record, the changes that are proposed in today's ordinance don't affect any of the existing provisions about the removal of the Declaration of Out of Order, etc. Those have been existing in our code for numerous years. I'm happy to pull the history. I don't know offhand, but they've been there for a long time. What's being added today are these four specific provisions added to the section on decorum, which include the consuming food or beverages in the Chambers or meeting room, all cell phones being silenced, entering and exiting the Commission Chamber silently, and wearing shirts and shoes as a minimum standard of dress. So that's the only change proposed today. Everything else has already been existing in our code.

Mayor Lago: So, I just want to make sure it's on the record because there's a lot of things that are being tossed out there about arrests. Would you like to give a little bit more clarity on arrests?

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: That provision in our code has been there for a while. It has to do if you have been declared out of order, you've been asked to remove from the Chambers, and failure to follow directions on removal, etc. may result in arrest. That's been in our code existing, and I believe is similar to those in other municipalities and counties.

Mayor Lago: Can you do me a favor, please? Will you find out when that provision included arrests?

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Of course, I'm happy to do so.

Mayor Lago: So that's one. Number two, when you look at the City of Miami and Miami-Dade County, when we talk about the time frame for public comment, we allow three minutes. What do other municipalities allow?

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: I believe that's similar. Some municipalities have as few as two minutes, but three seems to be a fairly standard amount of time.

Mayor Lago: So, for example, I went to speak before the City of Miami in regard to the Miami Loop the other day, an incredible project that brings a lot of connectivity between the City of Miami and Coral Gables. God willing, it's a very ambitious project, kind of like the Underline, very similar to the Underline when we started talking about it 10 years ago. Nobody dreamed that it would actually come to fruition, but this is a really interesting project that I wanted to go and support Commissioner Rosado on that front. The Chairwoman greeted me. She offered me one freedom, and that was you can go first before anyone else as an elected official, but she told me you have two minutes to speak. I stayed under two minutes. I thanked her, and I left. She was very nice and kind, telling me thank you for staying under two minutes. We have a long agenda. An elected official going to speak at another city was granted two minutes. We grant everyone here three minutes, and as you can see when we talked, and I'm just using them as an example because they were predominantly most of the individuals I heard this morning, the individuals that were talking about the Israeli flag, they went three minutes and 15 seconds, three minutes and 20 seconds. I give a little bit of leeway just to make sure, but the days of 6, 7, 10, 15 minutes are over on both sides of the issue, whether I'm in favor or against. Another item that I want to make sure my colleagues are aware, and members of the grandstands, I have asked the City Manager and the City Clerk to do exactly what all other municipalities have. There will be a camera now facing the grandstands, so when individuals act up and start screaming and acting up and making comments again that are disrespectful when they're speaking to other individuals, it will be visible to everyone in the community. You can see the individuals that are being the most rambunctious and that are continuing to talk and that are continuing to eat and that are continuing, again, to just so misconduct in an effort to try to be, instead of productive, just continue to be not productive members of our community. So, these are simple things. Every other community has them. Every other municipality has them, and I think it's time that we rein in the conduct here in the Commission meetings so we can run an efficient meeting so that we're respectful of people's times. Anyone else would like to add anything else to the item?

Commissioner Lara: Well, through the Mayor, quick question for Madam City Attorney. So, we've heard public commentary that the First Amendment is being trampled through this proposed ordinance. You've just identified, I think, four amendments that the ordinance has carried would

be to the existing code. In your legal opinion, are any of these four items, which are what comprise the ordinance, do they in any way diminish, trample, affect First Amendment rights?

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: I certainly don't believe so. I think there are appropriate time, place, and manner restrictions consistent with our other code of decorum.

Commissioner Lara: And we're talking about things like wearing shoes and a shirt as a minimum dress, right?

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Correct and entering and exiting the Chamber silently. I think it's just to be clear again, it's the food or beverages, silencing phones, entering and exiting silently, and shoes and shirts. Those are the proposed additions from the chair. Everything else is already existing in our code.

Commissioner Lara: It was a somewhat rhetorical question to you, but one that I think might be important so that the public is aware of what's actually being done today. And thank you for your answer.

Commissioner Castro: Through the Mayor?

Mayor Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Castro: So, what is a civility code when it addresses residents? And elected officials may be targeting a certain resident by name or resident in particular. How do we go about that?

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: The civility code, we have various civility codes as we discussed at the last meeting. The one that applies to elected officials has certain suggested consequences for violations of the civility code. The ones that apply to members of the public and employees do not have the same procedures applied to them and their resolutions; they're not in the code as the rules of decorum are.

Commissioner Castro: So, I think we need to be a little mindful when we're addressing the public in specific, especially when you're targeting one resident in particular. We cannot address a person and then not give that person an opportunity to go ahead and defend themselves. And I think that's something that we need to be very mindful about.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Through the Mayor.

Mayor Lago: For the record, that individual has every opportunity and speaks on every single issue and speaks during public comment. The last thing I need is a lesson on how to be civil when at the last Commission meeting, I was gracious enough to not censure Commissioner Castro again for calling me a liar. We're trying to go above and beyond this. We're trying to move on. But it will

not be a free-for-all. It can be a free-for-all on the blogs. I can't control the blogs, but it will be respectful here. And we're going to continue to do that. Remember, for two years, you ran ruckshaw on this Commission. Run ruckshaw. You did as you pleased. You did whatever you wanted. You took away my staff. You did all kinds of ridiculous things just to make my life as difficult as possible. All I'm doing here today is I'm trying to maintain control of the Commission. I will not allow people to be screaming from the Chambers outside like it's happened here not only today, but it's happened before. It's constantly happening here. There's the constant snickering. There's foul language that's used. There's constantly comments that are coming from that area so that you can hear it. And it's just getting to the point that I'm hearing from residents and I'm hearing from business owners and I'm hearing from employees who are telling me, put your foot down because it's embarrassing the city. Madam Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, one of the cardinal issues that we had in this last election was the issue of civility. And I continue to hear from residents about it that we must control, and it's not people that you normally hear from, we must control the public comment in this forum if we're going to get business done. Okay, so suggestions that were heard such as you shouldn't be allowing somebody to speak on every single item. I said, "I'm sorry, they have a right to do so. Okay, you have a First Amendment right to do so. But you have to do so with the decorum and civility and behave properly in a chamber. You wouldn't dare go into a federal courtroom or a state courtroom and behave the way, the type of behavior we've seen here. Yes, you would be escorted out by the bailiff. And if you refuse to go out, you would get arrested. I have a friendly amendment to the civility matter because it's come to my attention that some folks don't realize that vaping is one of the things that should not be done in this Chamber. You know, it's pretty clear to most people that you don't smoke in a building, but vaping is looked at as not smoking for some reason. And we did have somebody vaping in the Chamber a few meetings ago. So, I think that it needs to be brought to the attention of folks that vaping is also prohibited.

Mayor Lago: Perfect.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: We can certainly add that before second reading.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner.

Commissioner Fernandez: There's, I think, no bigger proponent of the First Amendment than myself. My First Amendment right was violated by the city prior to my term as Commissioner for a period of time. The Mayor was gracious enough to intervene at the time and through several meetings with a former City Attorney, we were able to address the issue. It cost the city \$5,500 to violate my First Amendment right. And it was a very disappointing situation that should have never happened. Prior administrations, prior City Manager, but I just want to make sure there are no First Amendment concerns with the legislation that we are passing. I want to make that concrete.

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I think you answered it for Commissioner Lara. I want it 100 percent clear. There are no First Amendment affecting changes to the legislation that's being passed today.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Again, the changes are very minimal. They have to do with food and beverages in the Chambers, entering and exiting quietly, silencing cell phones, and appropriate dress. None of it addresses any speech at all that's given in public comment or at any point during the thing. It has to do with the manner in which you enter and exit and seat yourself in the Chambers. I don't think it has anything to do with any restrictions on speech itself.

Commissioner Fernandez: Okay. The second question that I have is regarding, I guess it would be rebuttal. If a member of the Commission is addressing a resident, do they have, under our code, a right to rebuttal what is being said to them by the member of the Commission?

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: The Chair is always welcome to recognize members of the audience to come and speak, or a majority of the Commission can recognize somebody to speak.

Commissioner Fernandez: So, it falls back on the general rule, which is the Chair has the right to determine that.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: The Chair and the Commission as a whole can always recognize people or bring them up or address any discussion.

Commissioner Fernandez: And I know the answer. I'm just asking to put this on the record. Are there any municipalities that provide a rebuttal period for any public comment?

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: I haven't looked at that, and I'm happy to look at it between first and second reading. I'm just not aware.

Commissioner Fernandez: I have not found any. I personally looked into it. I have not found any. It's a shame that we're having to be here having this lengthy discussion on this item. I would like to see us move forward from the battles that we've had over the last two and a half years and start working for the benefit of the residents, not having to over-legislate just to get things accomplished. Let's find a path forward where we can all respect each other, work together, and get things accomplished. That's my two cents.

Mayor Lago: Madam City Attorney, the response that we provide anyone who would like to be here for three minutes, the public comment section, in regard to the following piece of legislation that is proffered here, correct, was for item F-2. Am I correct?

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: I'm sorry.

Mayor Lago: The response, the individual that came up to speak, because I don't want to mention their name, the individual that came up to speak, they had ample time, over three minutes, to speak about the item of F-2, correct?

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: I wasn't aware of what was happening right then, so I'll defer, but I know that that individual has...

City Attorney Suarez: I think I'm understanding the Mayor's question.

Mayor Lago: I'm leading you into a question.

City Attorney Suarez: Yes. There was a public hearing for this item that is now under consideration, and that is when you were offering three minutes to anyone who came up and spoke during the public hearing for that item.

Mayor Lago: They could have spoken about the legislation. They decided, like usual, to make it about me, as they always do. And they take the opportunity to sit next to the Herald, as they do, to misinform the Herald. That's why I recommend that you don't sit next to her. Okay? That's number one. Number two, you cannot sit here and make outlandish, slanderous comments, and expect that I'm not going to respond. It's every day. It's constant. These rules are in place before I ever stepped onto this dais. With previous Mayors, people who came to speak were held accountable. The time was respected. You did not come up and insult any member of the Commission, just as the Commission did not insult you. I served on this Commission for 12 years. I've never had a member of the Commission ever call me or anyone else a liar on the Commission. That's a first here on this Commission. We took the high road. Do I have every right, Madam City Attorney, if these rules are broken, to take a 15-minute recess and state very clearly that if this happens again, you will not be allowed onto the Chamber?

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: I think that's documented in the Chairperson's ability to run the meeting, yes, in the code.

Mayor Lago: The attempt is simple. We have to maintain order. As the Vice Mayor said, if you go to a courtroom, you're not allowed to do that. When I have to give presentations before countless organizations like the School Board or other public institutions, you have to conduct yourself with respect. You're not allowed to speak out of order, and you're allotted a certain amount of time. We're very generous with that time. I'm just asking for a little respect.

Commissioner Castro: Through the Mayor?

Mayor Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Castro: Yes. I understand that sometimes we don't hear what we like to hear, and sometimes things can get a little rough, but that doesn't give us the right to dictate what somebody can say or what they cannot say. So that's why I want a little more clarification on what the infraction was. What I'm understanding right now is the fact that the resident sitting in the audience spoke out of turn, because they were addressing her by name. I think they were saying the person to my right was saying she was a liar. I think it was pretty strong what the person to my right was saying. Just to clarify, the infraction was what exactly?

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: I believe the City Attorney already mentioned those, but it has to do with being recognized to speak was one of the primary code provisions. We have multiple code provisions regarding a requirement to be, as you all do, go through the Chair to be recognized to speak and interrupting proceedings.

Commissioner Castro: I'm so sorry.

Mayor Lago: I have to correct you.

Commissioner Castro: Okay, but I'm not done. As soon as I'm done, you can correct me.

Mayor Lago: One second. The Commissioner to my left, Commissioner Castro said that I called her a liar, the young lady sitting in the back. Again, it's on the public record. I said she misinforms, and I wrote it down here. She slanders, and it's intentional. If Commissioner Castro called her a liar, then that's her decision, but I never called her a liar. Okay, now, you can hide it whichever way you want. I know you want to stick up for her, and you want to do everything you can, because she does a lot of your dirty work for you, and it's perfectly fine. But at the end of the day, the rules are the rules. They've existed. We're going to follow them, and that's it. That's it.

Commissioner Castro: Okay. So let me go ahead and continue. The other thing about the whole liar situation, I took accountability for that, right. But during that same meeting, guess what happened? You went ahead and called me incompetent, and then you said you lost 50 brain cells listening to me. Okay, so I believe respect goes both ways. I believed at that moment you weren't saying the truth, and I used terminology that I could have probably used in a different way. But just a reminder, respect goes both ways. Nor am I incompetent, nor will you lose 50 brain cells from listening to me.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner, we tried to explain to you something that was very simple. You insisted and insisted on not understanding. It's your choice if you want to scream into the abyss. I don't have a problem with that. It's your time. We're moving on. Mr. Clerk?

City Clerk Urquia: Yes, sir.

Mayor Lago: Public comment is closed. Do we have any further comment from the Commission? None? Okay, I need a motion and a second.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I'll move it.

Commissioner Lara: Second.

Commissioner Fernandez: No eating? No eating? No cell phone? Not a rowdy entrance into the chamber? And the last one was?

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Shirt and shoes.

Commissioner Fernandez: Shirt and shoes.

Vice Mayor Anderson: In favor.

Mayor Lago: Before you vote, if I may, everything that we're applying today here already exists. The 15 minutes, the break, you have to be respectful, you can't scream from the grandstands.

Commissioner Fernandez: I want to be 100 percent clear when I cast my vote.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Yes, and they're not required to be in the code. I think that those are measures that the City Manager could always take on his own for decorum for the facility and standards.

Commissioner Fernandez: I think they're all reasonable. Yes.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Facilities.

City Attorney Suarez: And just to clarify, we did have the amendment by the Vice Mayor.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Oh, yes. Smoking and vaping, and that will be in there for second reading.

Commissioner Fernandez: We have no smoking in there, correct?

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: We can make sure that it's very clear smoking and vaping.

City Attorney Suarez: It's already not allowed under state law.

Commissioner Fernandez: If you would accept it as a friendly amendment, just to make sure that smoking is also in there.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Understood.

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Commissioner Lara: Right, so before I vote, I just want to say, I think that we've spent entirely too much time discussing this proposal. To me, it feels like a couple things I want to say. One of them, it feels to me clearly, it's an enforcement issue. We're not wholesale amending anything that has been on the books for decades. It's a minor modification, but the issues that have been complained of, to me, appear to be more of an enforcement issue. I want to remind everybody on the dais, and certainly all of our residents, we are a collegial body here on the Commission. And we must always lead that way, knowing that we are a collegial body. And we expect collegiality when engaging with the residents, and that is a two-way street as well. I think that if collegiality leads the day and leads the way, we interact with ourselves on the dais and with the residents when they come before us during public comment, or while they're just sitting in the audience observing the actions that we take during a Commission meeting, we would never need to reach into the code for enforcement. But that being said, I'd like to move along. My vote is yes.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes.

Commissioner Castro: Yes.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Lago: Thank you very much.