

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting  
Agenda Items C-1, C-2 and C-3  
December 10, 2019  
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)**

**Mayor Dorothy Thomson**

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Agenda Item C-1, C-2 and C-3 [9:12:50 a.m.]  
Mayor's Comments

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: The first item of business is a very tragic event in the family of one of our treasured community members, a treasured community member who has been with us forever, and I would like for the City of Coral Gables, the City Commission, myself as Mayor, to adopt a formal resolution of condolences to the family of Mayor Dorothy Thomson.

*A Resolution of Condolence on behalf of the City of Coral Gables,  
extending its heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family of the late Janice  
Thomson Mills.*

***WHEREAS**, Janice Thomson Mills was born on August 19, 1957, in Coral Gables, Florida, to former Coral Gables Mayor Dorothy Thomson and Attorney Col. John Thomson. Janice graduated from West Lab Elementary, Ponce de Leon Junior High School, and Coral*

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*Gables High School (Class of '75). She was a member of Gables High's Band of Distinction and Symphonic Band and the University of Florida's (UF) Gator Marching and Symphonic Band. She earned a Bachelor of Art in Design in Architecture at the University of Florida, and a Master's in Education at the University of Central Missouri; and*

**WHEREAS**, *with her desire to teach and inspire others, Janice began teaching at Mater Academy Charter Middle-High in Hialeah Gardens, Florida, where she loved seeing the joy students displayed when they understood a new concept, believing in themselves and considered going into the engineering and science fields. Janice was actively involved in her local Coral Gables community where she served on the city's Historic Preservation Board, the Coral Gables Woman's Club, the local Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Alumni Association of her sorority, Alpha Chi Omega, as well as a lifetime member of Granada Presbyterian Church, where her music solos were often a highlight at holiday services; and*

**WHEREAS**, *Janice was a beloved daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, sister, teacher, and accomplished musician. She is survived by her husband, Steven Gale, her parents, Dorothy Thomson and John Thomson, her daughter Quinn Mills, son Paul Mills and wife Alana, and their daughters, Mason, Ruby, and Nora, her siblings and their spouses and families Joanne (Bill) Talley, June (Allen) Morris, and Robert (Kimberly) Thomson; and*

**WHEREAS**, *it is altogether fitting and proper that the City of Coral Gables pay homage to Mrs. Janice Thomson Mills, on her untimely demise, November 11, 2019;*

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA**, *that we extend our heartfelt sympathy to her bereaved family on the occasion of their great loss.*

Mayor Dorothy Thomson: Let me thank all of you today for having this on the agenda. Its very touching and certainly all the family here really appreciates that. We also appreciate having it first before all these people, otherwise you'd hear it 2 o'clock this afternoon perhaps. But I'd also like to say, the Mayor and I go back a long time and the last time I remember the Chamber being so full was back in 1985 when everyone turned out for a meeting when they were against the Biltmore Hotel being renovated. You remember that. Hard to believe, but it was true. I would like to say that our daughter Janice was a real Floridan. She loved Coral Gables. She was born in Coral Gables in Doctor's Hospital. Then she went away during her adult life with her husband and with her family and finally came back about seven years ago. And she was just so happy to come back, and she loved this City so much. As the Mayor said, she was on the Historic Preservation Board and involved in other community activities. I would like to recognize those of the family here, so you can get on with other business. First of all, Jack, my husband, father of Janice. We are married 66

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years. Steve Gale, her husband, Steve. He works in Gables Engineering, he's for many, many years, 20-some-odd years in Gables Engineering. Her son, Paul Mills, who flew in last night from Missouri for this occasion today. We have Janice's sister, June, who's here today, Coral Gables resident. Another sister flew in from Atlanta last night, Joanne Tally, and her daughter Catherine Tally who is a second-year law school student at University of Miami. Come up here Catherine too. We have a son Robert Thomson, who you might recognize belongs to Coral Gables too, and some here recognized him for another reason here today this morning also, issuing a ticket, but anyway, we have our wonderful Pastor from Granada Presbyterian Church has come out today, Carson, come up here and join us, would you please. Am I missing anybody now? No, we are all here together. I thank you again, everyone of you for doing this, it means so much. Pat, George, Attorney, City Manager, Vince Lago, Mena, City Clerk and City Manager. Thank you so very much, it means so much to us.

[End: 9:19:12 a.m.]

C-2 [Start: 9:43:05 a.m.]

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: The next item is a report on the City's trip to Santa Tecla, El Salvador. We have a video, a very good video.

Ms. Higgins-Fallon: Good morning everyone, Maria Rosa Higgins-Fallon, Public Affairs Manager. Just want to say a few words about the good work that Michael Rocha, our Multi-media Production Manager did at the recent trip, he met with the Mayor in Santa Tecla, El Salvador. This is the first time that Coral Gables Television participated in this delegation and it was great, because we got great engagement in social media. Michael was sending us photos and videos and we were able to connect immediately in our social media platform. So, with that I'll introduce Michael.

Michael Rocha: Thank you. We had the chance to go with the Mayor on this trip and we produced a video that basically recaps the entire trip and its self-explanatory. So, I want to let the video do the talking. Please guys upstairs run the video. Thank you.

[Video Presentation]

Michael Rocha: Thank you very much for allowing us to go with you, Mayor, it was really intense labor, very exciting as well. Thank you very much.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very, very much. It was a beautiful, beautiful video and it was a very productive trip, new businesses to come here and what we can do for them and what they are

going to do for us. So, thank you very much for this presentation. Coral Gables TV was there and what a wonderful facility to have under your leadership Michael.

Thank you very much. Thank you very, very much.

[End: 9:50:56 a.m.]

C-3 [Start: 9:54:50 a.m.]

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: The next item is Florida National Registrar Review Board's recommendation of the Palma Hotel to be nominated for listing in the National Registrar of Historic Places. Do I hear a motion?

Commissioner Keon: So moved.

Commissioner Mena: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you call the roll please. The motion is for us to support.

Commissioner Fors: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Commissioner Mena: Yes

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

End: 9:55:22 a.m.]