

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-2
March 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
Assistant City Attorney, Stephanie Throckmorton
Assistant City Manager, Ed Santamaria

Public Speaker(s)

Mayra Jolie
Robert Ruano

Agenda Item G-2 [3:42 p.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission adopting a policy regarding removal of trees on City property or City right-of-way by City staff.
(Sponsored by Vice Mayor Lago)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: The next one is Vice Mayor Lago, policy on removal of trees.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yeah, thank you. This should be brief. Is there a representative from staff here? Oh, how are you? Thank you for being here. You know, I've gotten some phone calls recently from staff, and we've been working with the Manager's Office and the City Attorney's Office to really address the concerns about certain trees on the swale on City property, as we mentioned before. The individuals that have reached out, a lot of these residents, like many of us, have a direct connection to these trees. They've lived in these homes 30, 40 years. They've grown with these trees, as these trees have gotten larger and larger and larger, so there's a real attachment to these trees. So, there's a concern when one of these trees is up for removal. And it's very difficult not being a tree expert, when they reach out to you and they say, "Look, the tree doesn't look like it was hit by lightning," and there isn't anything that you could tangibly explain, like visually explain to them that the reason why the tree needs to be removed. Sometimes you have a massive, massive branch that falls, rendering the tree kind of off kilter. Sometimes you'll see, for example, like the one that was cut down, I think two blocks away from City Hall -- it was a beautiful oak tree, but that tree was hit by lightning, if I'm correct, the one that was just recently cut down, big...

Unidentified Speaker: Yeah, that was (INAUDIBLE).

Vice Mayor Lago: Years ago. Okay, but it looked kind of like it was dying slowly. I thought maybe it had been hit by lightning, but I guess not. Beautiful oak tree. Some of the residents called about that. But you could explain to them. You could say, "Look, we tried to water the tree. We tried everything we possibly can. The tree's not going to make it." But in cases where people can't see anything firm and it's very difficult to explain it, and they don't -- they have a difficulty understanding some of the technical terms and some of the explanations from the arborist, I'm looking for an opportunity for the City to offer a second opinion. And this is what -- this is the legislation that I'm bringing before you today. And it's a way to give the residents another opportunity to really get a more in-depth knowledge, a second opinion, so that if we do

have to remove the tree, we've exhausted every opportunity and every option in our toolbox. Thank you for that.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: Thank you, Vice Mayor. Stephanie Throckmorton, Assistant City Attorney. I'm happy to go over the -- explain what the policy would be, and then staff is here to answer any specific questions or give you any details about the numbers or what we're looking at there. So, the basic overview of the policy is that when staff has determined that a tree on City property or City right-of-way is to be removed, there are certain procedures that need to be followed. If it's a life safety concern, it's going to be removed immediately, just like we take care of our properties now. If it's to be removed because of its health, condition, location, or potential danger, if it's part of redoing, say, a City park and we need to remove a tree, or like was just explained, the roots have been cut previously, a tree has been hit by lightning, it's just not doing well where it is and it's slated for removal, staff will put together a list of the trees that are scheduled to be removed. If trees meet certain criteria -- which is spelled out in the policy -- which is a tree of a minimum of 50 percent healthy canopy and diameter breast height is -- and different species have different diameters, so obviously different trees are different sizes, so this spells out, for instance, a black olive at 16 inches of diameter at breast height or larger as an example -- then that tree would have a report done by a City arborist for removal, a TRAQ assessment which identifies the risk of the tree remaining in that location and its current condition. If it meets those criteria, the City will -- through an established pool of arborists -- get a second opinion from an ISA certified arborist who's TRAQ qualified to give that same assessment. The City at the City's cost will procure that additional report, and if that report agrees with the City staff's assessment to remove the tree, the tree will go onto the list slated for removal. If that arborist disagrees with the City staff assessment, there will be a third assessment made by another independent arborist, and that one will be determinative. So, once we have a list of trees slated for removal, those trees that don't meet these criteria that are slated for removal and those trees that have been evaluated by City staff and have had that decision confirmed by an independent arborist will be in a report that gets sent to the City Commission for their review and at any time once they receive that report, if

the City Commissioners within -- not at any time, within two weeks of receipt of that report want to place the removal of one of those trees on the Commission agenda for further Commission direction, they may do so. So, like the Vice Mayor explained, this says, "For certain trees that are slated for removal, the City will get an independent arborist to review and confirm or contradict the City staff's assessment."

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Which trees would be removed if it were not for life safety issue?

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: I'll let Brook explain that.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And when does this come into effect?

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: All the trees are (INAUDIBLE)...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Because this seems very complicated.

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: For life safety issues so...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: What?

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: So, all the trees are being removed for life safety issues.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah, that's what I...

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: The -- so what the concern is, is when a tree looks healthy to the untrained eye, where there's green canopy, but there's structural issues, like the

entire inside of the tree is rot -- or there's a very large vertical crack where they're prone to catastrophic failure. So, to...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Well, that should be removed. If it's life safety, it should be removed immediately.

Vice Mayor Lago: But I think -- if I may answer just with an example.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Sure.

Vice Mayor Lago: So, Mr. Dannemiller...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Give an example.

Vice Mayor Lago: Mr. Dannemiller and Mr. Santamaria and City Manager will tell you we've had probably what, five or six incidents in the last year where we've had a resident call us. "Hey, listen, I saw a sign up where the black olive oak tree, a mahogany is going to be removed." This tree's 100 years old, 75 years old, whatever the age may be. It's a significant specimen tree. There's no gash. There's no real injury to the tree. A limb hasn't fallen off. It wasn't hit by lightning. It hadn't been damaged by a curbing that was done. But there are these situations where there's like a fungus that's attacking some of these trees. And what it does, it hollows out -- and correct me if I'm wrong. I'm not the tree specialist -- it hollows out the tree or it attacks the tree from within, correct?

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: It doesn't attack the tree. So, once a tree is damaged in some fashion or there's a wound, it's usually roots or a branch or crack, the fungus gets inside the tree. And once you see the fungal conchs on the outside -- those kinds of elephant ear looking thing -- that's the fruiting body of the fungus that's inside. So, a tree can be very structurally --

basally soft and mushy on the inside, and that's the sign of it. So, it looks healthy on the outside, but the inside -- those are the ones that are scariest because it's not visible to the untrained eye.

Vice Mayor Lago: You have a catastrophic failure, you know, if you don't address the issue. So, what ends up happening is -- and we had this on multiple occasions with residents, where they couldn't see the actual tree -- the damage of the tree. The tree was damaged within.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Then we need a second opinion and a third opinion.

Vice Mayor Lago: Well, what we did with that point...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Just say life safety if you tell us that it's rotten on the inside.

Vice Mayor Lago: Well, at that point, we're trying to -- what I was trying to do is trying to find a resolution for the owner -- for the resident in an effort to try to find some sort of common ground and see if the tree -- you can get a second opinion. We have a lot of technology that we use, but sometimes the residents are not -- I'm not as sophisticated. Maybe you're very sophisticated when it comes to trees, but I don't -- I look at a tree that is suffering from this type of ailment and the tree looks perfectly fine to me. So, what I think the purpose of the legislation is to offer the residents an opportunity to take another bit of the apple, to maybe get a second opinion. I don't think it hurts us at all. At the end of day, we take great pride in our tree canopy and we want to do everything possible to ensure that it's viable and that it continues to be an asset in this community.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: Mayor, to address your question, I think the policy as written makes the distinction between an immediate danger -- so, for instance, a tree where the limb is half falling off over the road -- and those trees that might have those risk factors, like Brook explained, that will long-term be -- pose a risk and a life safety issue but are not the immediate

risk. So, those trees that are immediate risk will, as always, be dealt with by the City expeditiously. This policy addresses those other sort of slower risks trees.

Commissioner Keon: So, do we...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: So, then we postpone the danger, right.

Commissioner Keon: So, do we -- do you remove trees that are -- pose a risk far out, or do you remove trees that pose a more immediate risk?

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: Both. So, the...

Commissioner Keon: What's your...

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: So, TRAQ -- Tree Risk Assessment Qualified -- that's the ISA -- International Society of Arborists -- criteria -- it's the process for assessing the risk of a tree. So, every tree poses some sort of risk.

Commissioner Keon: Right.

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: And it depends on the target, the location, and the condition of the tree. So, if there -- say, for example, the tree is over a playground, there's a much higher risk because that playground's occupied seven days a week, and there's a lot of people there. That's a much higher -- the target makes it a higher risk. You have a lower threshold for the amount of risk that you're willing to have versus if it's in the middle of an open field -- like at Country Club Prado -- you know, you can have a tree with more defects in that open space because there's not people underneath it all the time. So, when we have trees on the right-of-way, we have to keep that in mind. It's like we can do pruning to reduce the weight on certain limbs, and so we can keep

trees longer that way, but there's, you know, basically a threshold that you reach, where if there's rot or cracks and things like that, where that risk factor is greater than we feel comfortable with from a life safety standpoint. And so, we on average remove about 125 to 150 trees a year, depending on lightning strikes and storms and things like that, and we have over 40,000 trees. So, you know, if you do that number, it takes about 200 years or more before we would actually cut down every tree and replace them, so it's a very long cycle.

Commissioner Keon: But what I'm asking you is, I understand your risk assessment and how you make the determination, but when you make a decision to remove a tree, I'm assuming it's because you view it as a risk at this time.

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: Yes, absolutely.

Commissioner Keon: It's not like in 10 years in the future, it could be a risk. It's that right now you view it as being a risk. Is that right?

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: Yeah. And it's within kind of a, you know, a few months to a year or two timeframe.

Commissioner Keon: So when you do that and you look at a tree and you -- it has a big vertical crack, do you take samples from that tree or something, or is it just visually that you make the determination that it should be removed?

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: There...

Commissioner Keon: Or do you know that there -- that the inside of the tree -- like, how do you know the inside of the tree is mushy or whatever it is?

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: So, the arborists have various tools at our disposal. We have several arborists...

Vice Mayor Lago: A Resistograph.

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: Yes, which we -- the City purchased a Resistograph. It's one that drills through and shows the density of the wood. The more rudimentary tools, which are the more common ones, are like a long probe, where you can push it in, and you can see how far it pushes in.

Commissioner Keon: Right.

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: You can use a hammer to tap to see where the hollow sounds are.

Commissioner Keon: Right.

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: And also, like there's different probes and screwdrivers that you can do, and then also the signs of the trained arborist can tell where wood has formed because there's a stress, like they'll build up wood in certain locations. But a lot of times the cracks, you can just take a screwdriver and a probe, stick it right in and you can see how deep it is. For example, we just had a mahogany on Venetia that we've reduced the crown by about 50 percent recently because during routine pruning, we discovered a giant crack going down the middle. So, we reduced the weight of the crown so we could post it, so we made it safer, but that tree needs to come down because the -- as the tree grows that weight will come back and then it's going to -- so we can temporarily reduce the risk, but then the tree's going to continue to grow.

Commissioner Keon: Okay. And we have a trained arborist on staff?

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: Yes. Our most senior arborist -- Jorge Ramirez -- has over 30 years of experience. He's a TRAQ qualified arborist, and he's -- he does the bulk of this assessments, particularly the bigger...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Then this would mean...

Commissioner Keon: So...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: That we have a second person questioning the opinion of our trained arborist.

Commissioner Keon: Yeah.

Commissioner Fors: Could I ask you a question?

Commissioner Keon: So, what does...

Commissioner Fors: I'm sorry, go ahead.

Commissioner Keon: I'm sorry. Could I ask one more question? What is the cost to get a report on this tree, if we had to go to the outside? If you have to get an arborist report on a tree, what does it cost the City?

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: On average, it's about \$1,000.

Commissioner Keon: It's about \$1,000. So, we're going to spend an additional \$1,000 on any that we already have the opinion from a trained and certified arborist. So, why couldn't we just share

the data that you have with the homeowners that are concerned so that they could see that there's -- why you're removing the tree? Do we do that?

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: Yeah. We always meet -- we always knock on the door and meet with the resident immediately adjacent. The residents immediately adjacent to the trees almost always are in support of it because they live under the tree.

Commissioner Keon: Right.

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: Typically, the opposition we get are from people across the street or down the block, around the corner that aren't living directly under the tree.

Commissioner Keon: And don't have to...

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: Because once we explain the risk to them...

Commissioner Keon: Yeah.

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: Then they understand, like okay. They're usually sad. I mean, we don't want to lose any trees, but it's part of an urban forest.

Commissioner Keon: Right.

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: You have to manage that risk...

Commissioner Keon: Right.

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: Because if you've ever been to a forest, there's trees on the ground, limbs on the ground, like that's why we prune so frequently is to manage...

Commissioner Keon: Right.

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: The risk of living under trees.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay. We have a member...

Vice Mayor Lago: So, my...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Of the public that wishes to speak.

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Vice Mayor Lago: And if I...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Mr. Urquia.

Vice Mayor Lago: Before -- and I'd like to address some of the Commissioners' comments. When you get on the ground -- and you've been on the ground with me multiple times -- when you get into a neighborhood and you speak to a resident who does not want to see the tree cut down, it's just not as easy as that and you know that very well. And you should be candid about that, because you can't just show a resident who may be a lawyer, may be an accountant, may be a dentist, may be an architect, and you show them this report that says, "Listen, this tree's got to go down." If you can see something with your eyes, where the tree is damaged, you know, we have a lot of -- we have a very educated community that will understand it. But when you have somebody -- and you know the many people that we're talking about -- even judges in this community that we've

sat down and we've had situations where they don't want to see a tree cut in their -- next to their yard -- on the swale, excuse me. This is a situation which doesn't happen weekly. It's very infrequent, so let's not make this seem as if we're wasting money. In this City, we spend money on certain things that, in my opinion, are not as important as protecting our tree happy. So when you go visit with a resident, like we've done on multiple occasions and we've sat down and we've had a conversation and you show them the report, they have questions and they say, "Listen, I don't want you to cut my tree down." And there's that stand off moment. Well, you can eventually just cut the tree down. I mean, it is what it is, but I think that this build consensus, and I think it's a way to not just go and cut the tree down when you have a resident that says, "Listen, don't cut my tree down. You know, please, this tree's important to me." So, to me, it's not about the money. When you talk about our canopy, I think it's...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Respectfully, to me, we are questioning competency or the judgment of our expert.

Vice Mayor Lago: No.

Commissioner Keon: Of our City staff.

Vice Mayor Lago: I think we're...

Commissioner Keon: So, you're going to show them two reports?

Vice Mayor Lago: I think we're called into question every day. People ask us questions. People want to know answers, and people disagree with us, so that's the great part about offering our residents an ability to get a second opinion. It happens every day in the medical world, when you go, and you get a second opinion.

Commissioner Keon: But you're giving somebody...

Vice Mayor Lago: So, at the end of the day, that doesn't mean...

Commissioner Keon: The same opinion twice. I mean, essentially, if we have qualified arborists on staff that you have faith in and that have been trusted employees for a long time, giving the person the same report twice, I don't know what that's going to do. I don't...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Make some people feel better.

Commissioner Keon: You know, I think you're spending money...

Vice Mayor Lago: I think it's consideration.

Commissioner Keon: That you don't need to spend. And I think it's maybe -- it's an outreach effort, and you know, it's an educational effort, and it's, you know, more of you sitting down and talking to them rather than going through doing the same thing two times.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Let's hear the cover of the public that wishes to speak.

Commissioner Fors: Mayor, if I could...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And then we'll...

Commissioner Fors: I have a quick question before we go to the...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah, go ahead.

Commissioner Fors: The -- you said that we remove -- you said 125 to how many trees a year?

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: 150, depending on lightning strikes and storms, but it's typically about 125 trees a year.

Commissioner Fors: And how many of those 125 to 150 meet the criteria where after passage of this policy, if passed, it would trigger the second opinion.

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: Yes.

Commissioner Fors: It was all 125 to 150 of those, or was there a percentage more or less?

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: So, there's two criteria: there's the diameter and then there's 50 percent healthy-looking canopy, like healthy canopy. Virtually, all of them would meet the diameter requirement, because most of the trees we're removing that have issues are older. Over -- to the untrained eye, it would probably be 70 percent to 90 percent would look that way. But to an arborist, you could argue that about half of them would be -- qualify for this additional level because they're going to have -- typically, the issues aren't -- they are structural and aren't the actual leaves, the dieback. You'll have some, but it won't be over 50 percent, so it would be roughly half that would meet both criteria under what we're doing now.

Commissioner Fors: So, half of the cases more or less of that 125 to 150 per year would trigger the second opinion?

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: No, that would -- I think that triggers the Level 3 arborist report on our end, and then the Commission could ask for that second one. Is that correct, or is it all of them?

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: No, it would get the second opinion if it meets those criteria.

Commissioner Fors: It would automatically trigger it, right? Okay. And more or less, how long would it take, this second opinion process?

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: If we have a pool of consulting arborists, it would probably only take, you know, one to three weeks, I would imagine.

Commissioner Fors: Okay, okay.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: The policy specifies the report should come in within 30 days, allowing for a little bit of time there, but it would likely be faster than that is what Brook was saying.

Commissioner Keon: So, the only time you would ask for a second opinion if there is a resident concern raised about it or every tree?

Commissioner Fors: No, I think it's automatic.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: So, if you look at the policy, if staff believes a tree should be removed due to its health, condition, location or potential danger, staff assesses the tree with an ISA Level 3 tree risk assessment, so that TRAQ assessment. Our City staff does that.

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: If a tree that's slated for removal meets the following criteria -- which is the canopy and the diameter size -- then an arborist is procured through our pool of arborists to give...

Commissioner Keon: Right.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: A second opinion. I think the amount of those trees would vary...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: So, it would be automatic? It's not...

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: It would be automatic if the tree slated for removal meets those criteria.

Commissioner Keon: So, it would be -- you're looking at what, \$50,000 to \$75,000 a year at least?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Even if no neighbor complains.

Commissioner Keon: Even if nobody complains?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I think that's insane.

Commissioner Keon: There's a lot of money you could...

Vice Mayor Lago: Listen, you can...

Commissioner Keon: There's a lot of things you good do with \$75,000.

Vice Mayor Lago: It's pretty simple. I mean, again, if you disagree with the legislation, you can vote no.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We have a member of the public that wishes to speak.

Vice Mayor Lago: That's why...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Wait, Billy.

Vice Mayor Lago: I'm presenting the legislation because I think that this is in the best interest of our tree canopy.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Billy.

City Clerk Urquia: Alright, so Ms. Mayra Jolie has requested to speak on this item. Ms. Jolie.

Mayra Jolie: I'm listening to all the explanation in reference to the trees. We are all for preserving our beautiful City with all the trees and the canopies there. If the tree looks sick, there will be no issue and the need to cut the tree, but I'm hearing that some trees don't look like they're sick in the outside and only an expert will know after some sort of colonoscopy, they will know if the tree has to go. Had anyone cut a tree that at the end they decided, "Whoops. We made a mistake," and now we don't have a 50- or 60-year-old tree and we're going to just have to plant something else. Have any one of you expert arborists have cut a tree that, at the end, after the fight, you see that could prove -- couldn't prove that the tree is sick or was sick?

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: No. The -- once we -- we actually take photos after we cut them showing the rot on the inside and we document that so that we have that. So, a lot of times the issues are higher up in the canopy where the branching happens, so those are the limbs

that will catastrophically fail. It's not the whole tree falling at the base. It's the limbs higher up that will break and fall. So, the stump might look solid, but the branches up, you know, where the branches are connecting, are where the joints are -- structural issues are.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: That is not the question. The question is, have you ever cut a healthy tree.

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: No, not to my...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: That is the question.

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: Not to my knowledge.

Vice Mayor Lago: So, and I think...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Vice Mayor Lago: But I think there's another part of that question too, and that is, have you ever said that there's a tree that needs to be cut down that has not been cut down -- case in point, the Lisbon tree -- and the tree is healthy and lived for years and years without dying. So again, this is kind of an imperfect science, and what we're trying to find is a balance to make -- to find a way to save as many trees as possible that are not a threat to the community. And I think it's pretty simple. I don't think it's going to be that many trees. I think it's easy just to say it's going to be a lot of trees. At the end of the day, it'll be just to avoid passing this resolution. But if we -- I'm willing to take a vote on it, and we don't have to approve it today, but I'd like to have a vote on the record.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you, Vice Mayor. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Lago: I'd like to have a vote on the record.

Commissioner Fors: I...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I would like to express my opinion, which I haven't done. I think this is totally unnecessary. We have a competent arborist, and if we don't trust the opinion of our arborist, then we should change our arborist, as opposed to getting a second opinion. We have heard that they have never cut a tree that was healthy, and I think this is unnecessary. You want to make a motion?

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes. Well, I think Commissioner Fors wanted to make -- say something...

Commissioner Fors: Yeah, just thinking...

Vice Mayor Lago: Before I make a motion.

Commissioner Fors: Thinking out loud, you know, my -- the one thing I was hesitant about was that it could automatically trigger a second opinion about a tree that frankly nobody has expressed any concern about, no resident has emails about because they have any particular attachment to it, et cetera.

Commissioner Mena: It sounds like it will, no? Is that what I'm understanding?

Commissioner Fors: It will.

Commissioner Mena: Right.

Commissioner Fors: It'll -- right.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: It's automatic, yeah.

Commissioner Fors: Yeah, that was my hesitance. That's why I was hesitant about it. Now, I started thinking about it, what if we flip it and were to say that...

Vice Mayor Lago: If a resident had a -- if resident wanted a second opinion...

Commissioner Fors: Or we provide -- as the second part of the resolution states -- that the City Commission is notified to the tree slated to be removed, that fall within that criteria, and that then either a Commissioner or Commissioner seconded by another can then invoke that arbitration process.

Vice Mayor Lago: I don't have an issue with that amendment. Along with if a resident -- like for example, again, the Commissioner would end up doing it. I'd even do it on the floor, but if a resident brought it to me because -- and the Manager can tell you and so can the City -- the ACM -- there's probably been five or six instances over the last year where a resident has brought to my attention -- like Commissioner Fors says -- "Listen, I don't want this tree cut down. I need further explanation." And then there's been cases where residents have brought this to my attention, and I said, "Listen, the report is clear. It was hit by lightning, a branch fell, you know, X and Y reason. We need to move forward," and they've accepted it, you know. But in very...

Commissioner Mena: Yeah, but...

Vice Mayor Lago: Ambiguous cases, I think the amendment made by Commissioner Fors is a friendly amendment. I think it's very plausible and it works.

Commissioner Mena: But...

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: And to...

Commissioner Mena: I guess my question is, in those instances you just described, if this were approved as is, it would have automatically gone to the second arborist, right?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Right.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yeah, I would have -- what I would have done if we applied Commissioner Fors' amendment, I would have written a memo to the Manager and requested that we enact the second arborist to review it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay, we have another...

Commissioner Mena: Let me ask a...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I'm sorry.

Vice Mayor Lago: And then you would limit it to five instances or six instances. I mean, in my...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We have another speaker, folks.

Vice Mayor Lago: City, it will be five instances in one year. I mean, I think...

Commissioner Mena: But...

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Lago: I think it's a worthwhile investment in our canopy.

Commissioner Mena: Let me ask you a question, and I'm not sure if this is what Commissioner Fors is already suggesting, so I apologize if it is. But what if you made it so that if it's the same process we have now, but if for whatever reason a resident has some level of discomfort about the report or whatever, they have some sort of appeal available to them to another arborist, and maybe even -- you know, I don't know if you'd entertain the idea of shifting the cost, right? In other words...

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: That's...

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: So, Commissioner...

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: Our current process -- I'm sorry. Our current process is similar to that, where when we have a tree -- we do a tree permit and we have photos with -- attached to the permit, and we post it with a pink permit for -- we try to do two weeks or more. And then that permit with the photos, we have that available -- we send it to the Vice Mayor before we -- after we post all the trees. And the...

Vice Mayor Lago: But let me interject.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: Commissioner, just...

Vice Mayor Lago: Let me interject there one second.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: The concern is with giving appeal rights to residents for a property that's City property and City right-of-way. So, these are only for trees on City right-of-way and City property. The trees are posted -- is my understanding -- so everybody in the neighborhood or anybody driving by sees the permit application. But the hesitancy there would

be to give -- how do we notify people? Who is an affected party? What are the appeal rights for a tree on City property?

Vice Mayor Lago: But I think there's a big difference because, I mean, when I'm driving, I'm not staring at the trees looking for the notice. And if it's there for two weeks, everybody misses it. Now, if you tell me you sent out a notice to the neighborhood, to that block saying, "We're going to cut the tree down in front of your house that's on a swale," I mean everybody then has been noticed by mail, that's a different story.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: Vice Mayor, if I may. I just want to clarify what I understood Commissioner Fors' suggestion to be, which was that City staff still put together the report of trees slated for removal, still give them to the Commission to review, and then once you all have that report within a certain time period -- and maybe it's longer than 14 days -- you all have the ability to put the removal of that tree on the Commission agenda at any time.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: That's a very good suggestion.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: So, this -- just give...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: But not for it...

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: I'm not sure if that was...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: To be automatic.

Commissioner Fors: That's here.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: Just want to...

Commissioner Fors: I think the only missing piece is if we are going to keep it where one Commissioner can invoke the second opinion procedure, whether it's one Commissioner plus one, or whether it's a majority of the Commission.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: So, it's my understanding that if the Commission wanted to direct further investigation of a particular tree -- because you guys get that report -- that would be done on the dais here with like a normal direction to staff by the Commission as a majority.

Commissioner Mena: Are you saying every tree would come to us, every tree slated for removal?

Vice Mayor Lago: No, no, no.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: You would get a report. And if any of you felt -- because you received complaints from residents or you yourself are concerned -- you could place that tree on the agenda for consideration.

Commissioner Mena: So...

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: If you get a report of 50 trees and have no concerns, then...

Commissioner Mena: Right.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: There's no concerns then.

Vice Mayor Lago: But let me give you an example. I've been doing this already for what, a year probably, Mr. ACM?

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: Yes.

Vice Mayor Lago: Probably about a year. And the ACM and I sat down this week and we went over three different trees that I had residents call me that they were concerned about it in the Platinum Triangle in the City. And at the end the day, they were beautiful trees, but they were in poor shape under powerlines. As a matter of fact, one was pretty hatracked and was not in a good condition. There were large trees. And I said, "Okay, listen. It's not a big deal. Yeah, cut the trees down." And I explained to the residents, I said -- and also, one of the trees that was being called for that was being cut down was in the way of the resident's brand-new driveway, again, property rights. So, it hurt me to see a beautiful tree that that got cut down, but at the end of day, you know, it's in the way of the person's brand-new driveway on their home they're building. So, it's not that we're being un-flexible. We are finding common ground, but this is for a very rare instance where it's a handful of situations where residents, again, they're just unhappy about the tree being cut down and it's not as visibly front and center in regards to the tree.

City Manager Iglesias: May I suggest -- may I make a suggestion? Trees that are immediate safety, we're going to take care of that problem.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yeah, that's not an issue.

City Manager Iglesias: We have...

Commissioner Fors: Yeah, that's understood.

City Manager Iglesias: Not an issue. So...

Commissioner Mena: Yeah.

City Manager Iglesias: The trees that we're talking about are not in immediate safety. What we can do is provide that list to the Commission at least 14 days prior to a Commission meeting. That list can be reviewed, and if the Commission wants certain of those trees to have a peer review, we can have that peer review.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And that will be the...

Commissioner Keon: We could peer review the trees?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Commissioner Fors' suggestion.

Commissioner Fors: Yeah, that's in line with -- because my -- like I said, my only concern was paying \$1,000 for a second opinion for trees that nobody...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Commissioner Keon: Was complaining about it.

City Manager Iglesias: (INAUDIBLE).

Vice Mayor Lago: It's got to be a contested tree.

Commissioner Keon: So, Vice Mayor...

City Manager Iglesias: Commissioner Fors, if we do that, then we take care of your issue. We take care of...

Commissioner Fors: I agree.

City Manager Iglesias: Any resident that might have a problem, and we certainly are not going to do that with a tree that is an immediate danger. So, the trees that we're really talking about are trees that are not an immediate danger but can proceed on becoming a problem.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay, folks.

Commissioner Keon: But Miracle Mile, Brook just said that they don't identify trees for removal unless there is -- they are dangerous.

Commissioner Mena: No, but he said it can take three months to years before it's...

Commissioner Keon: Well, no, it doesn't take a month. It takes a year before you take that tree down.

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: So, there's -- we can -- we prune them. If there's an immediate -- so, like the one we just did.

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: It was an immediate threat, so we took half the canopy off and then posted it, and we would feel confident that it's safe because we took the weight off of it.

Commissioner Keon: So, you posted though that the tree was...

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: Yeah, there's a permit right on it now, and then we're -- you know, give people time to see it. If there's any issues, we can talk to people about it. We've already talked to the adjacent property owner.

Commissioner Mena: Let's listen to the last...

Commissioner Keon: Any time anyone has called me about a tree, and I said to them, "Alright. Let me let you talk to staff," and I forwarded you their email or I forwarded you an email and asked you to please talk to them, please copy me on the results, there's never been an issue. So, are there issues when we refer those things to staff, and you talk with the people? Does it continue to be an issue...

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: The...

Commissioner Keon: Or do you usually resolve it?

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: We usually resolve it with the immediate property owner. It's usually someone that's not the immediate property owner or like...

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: You know, down the street.

Commissioner Keon: But then when you explain to that person, do they accept it, or they don't?

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: Sometimes -- most of the time they do, but not always.

Vice Mayor Lago: So, for -- let me give you an example.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: No, wait, wait.

Vice Mayor Lago: Let me give you an example.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Can we listen to the last person?

Vice Mayor Lago: Let me give you an example. You remember the Lisbon Park, that beautiful oak tree? That tree was viewed as a hazard and needed to be removed.

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: No, it wasn't.

Vice Mayor Lago: That's my understanding. It was there.

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: No, it was not. It was -- there was -- it was three lots. A developer bought the -- one house. There were going to build three houses on it.

Vice Mayor Lago: I understand, I understand.

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: And so the...

Vice Mayor Lago: But that tree...

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: Tree was being preserved. The tree was not...

Vice Mayor Lago: Dannemiller.

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: Proposed to be removed.

Vice Mayor Lago: Mr. Dannemiller, that tree was -- they said it was a hazard, that it was not in the best shape. And we could also look at, for example, the judge's tree, the judge's tree that we discussed. Since one Commissioner here mentions, is there ever a problem -- is there ever a situation where there's a heated debate over a tree? You know the answer to that question because you've been on many emails over the last year in regards to five or six cases -- and so has the Manager -- where it's not been the most amicable situation between the neighbor and the City because of the tree that's being proposed to be cut down. So, I don't want to make this about politics. Let's make this about finding common ground and helping the resident find that comfort level, so if we do have to cut the tree down for X and Y reason, that we do it in a way that they feel the most comfortable. I think that's the least that we can do because sometimes -- and the notifications that I've gotten, Ferdinand, for example, when we cut three trees down, three massive -- I mean, those were massive black olives, correct? When we cut those trees down, residents in that neighborhood called me and says, "Hey, I didn't get notification on those trees," and we had a long conversation about that. We cut three trees back to back to back on an opening -- a gaping hole where the sun is coming through when there used to be a huge canopy. So, I think there's some times we make decisions, and I think that this would give us an opportunity, this legislation, with the amendment that Commissioner Fors mentioned, will give us an opportunity to, you know, not just go into a neighborhood, cut down a tree and then walk away. At least the residents can feel that they had a little bit of input and that their concerns are addressed.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: In both of those instances, it was the...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Can we -- okay, we have one more person from the public that wishes to speak. Let's hear this person and then close the public input.

City Clerk Urquia: Alright. So, Mr. Mayor, the last speaker is Mr. Robert Ruano. Mr. Ruano.

Robert Ruano: Good afternoon. Good afternoon, Mayor and Commissioners. Robert Ruano, 1544 Mercia Avenue. I just wanted to say, and I said this in an email to the Vice Mayor yesterday, I support his idea, his decision to protect heritage trees, bigger tree specimen trees. But I think that the method of doing it by a resolution to the Commission that is changing a policy, I think is not strong enough. I think if there are issues with the tree ordinance and we feel that trees are being cut down indiscriminately or in the wrong way, I think the right way to do that is to look at the tree ordinance, modify it as necessary, have a public process, have a professional process, and then make those changes. When a building official -- for example, when the building official at the City of Coral Gables makes a determination, we don't go out and get another structural engineer and say, "Can we have another opinion on that building?" I think what we should go back and do -- if there is a concern about the opinion of this particular administration -- maybe there's a way to do it that is not so obtrusive, that is not so costly, and that ultimately doesn't have -- even have to be followed because it's not an ordinance of the City. So, I would recommend to this Commission to just put this off, go look at the Code. I sent the Commissioners several ordinances for heritage trees, for protecting heritage trees. And I think the Commission will be better served by looking at that than kind of taking piecemeal situations and trying to address what seems to be like a personnel issue.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you, Mr. Ruano.

Mr. Ruano: Thank you very much.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: There's a motion on the floor, Commissioner Fors, which has been seconded by Commissioner Keon, no?

Commissioner Keon: I'm not sure what the motion is. I'm not sure what you said.

Commissioner Fors: The motion would be to essentially reverse the order of the resolution whereby we receive -- as the resolution originally proposed -- the Commission receives a list of the legacy trees meeting that criteria that are slated to be...

Commissioner Keon: I think -- are we talking about specimen trees or any tree? When you say legacy tree...

Commissioner Fors: I'm talking about the...

Commissioner Keon: I'm not sure what -- how that's defined.

Commissioner Fors: The trees that the proposed policy intended to include, which is trees with a minimum of 50 percent health canopy, the ones that would otherwise already be included in that list. We still get the same list.

Commissioner Keon: Okay. Alright, so it's whatever the list that they identify as...

Commissioner Fors: Right.

Commissioner Keon: Needing to be removed.

Commissioner Fors: Except as opposed to automatically triggering the second and potentially third opinion review, it comes to the City Commission and the City Commission may then decide to trigger the very same second/third opinion process that was -- that Vice Mayor Lago initially proposed. So, it's the same -- it's essentially the same thing, just in a different order.

Vice Mayor Lago: I have no issues with that. I'll second that.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: Thank you. And just to clarify, just I want to be clear for the public or anyone looking. So, that looks like, Commissioner Fors, that's Sections 1 and 2, and 6 and 7 of the proposed policy with sort of Section 5 about sending the monthly report. And just so we're clear, because I understand, Vice Mayor, your concern also is about the public knowing about this besides the...

Vice Mayor Lago: No. I mean, at the end of the day...

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: Report, so...

Vice Mayor Lago: The onus -- like Commissioner Fors mentioned, which is a great idea, the onus will be placed on the Commission.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: Yes.

Vice Mayor Lago: So, when that resident, which City Attorney and the City Manager and the ACM, the onus will be placed on the Commission. When we have to make the decision...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

Vice Mayor Lago: We have to make the decision on whether to move forward or not as a Commission as a whole on this tree, and I think that will give the resident...

Commissioner Keon: What -- so...

Vice Mayor Lago: The necessary opportunity to voice their opinion, and then we can...

Commissioner Keon: So...

Vice Mayor Lago: Figure the next step, if possible.

Commissioner Keon: Why don't you come back and redraft this? Can you just redraft this item?

Vice Mayor Lago: There's a first and a second on the floor. Let's take a vote.

Commissioner Keon: I'm asking you to defer it until...

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: Vice Mayor, can I...

Commissioner Keon: Redraft the...

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes, ma'am.

Commissioner Keon: Item.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: One thing.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes, ma'am.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: Just -- so the trees that would be on the report, they would meet the same criteria, Commissioner Fors, as the Vice Mayor initially proposed here. I just want to be clear that the trees that would be in the report would be those trees who have been permitted, so that way they would be posted so the public would also know about them...

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: Because they've been posted.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes, ma'am.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: So, not trees that have not yet been posted, but trees that have been posted and permitted for removal.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes, ma'am.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: Just so that way it's clear that it's not just you all who have received notice, but...

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: The public has also.

Vice Mayor Lago: The community has.

Commissioner Fors: I think the spirit being...

Commissioner Keon: How do you...

Commissioner Fors: The spirit being that when we get that list, if Vice Mayor Lago has received an email about it, he can then put it on the Commission to trigger that second opinion...

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Fors: Or third opinion.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: For further direction...

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: Yeah, so the trees...

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: Of the Commission.

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: Will be post -- once we do the permit -- the permits usually get posted on within a couple of days, so when you guys received that report -- which we're already doing that, the photos and all that already -- so, the public -- you may get emails about it before you get the report because the permit will be posted on the tree before you would receive that unless it happened...

Vice Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk...

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: The same day.

Vice Mayor Lago: You have a motion on the floor and a second. Can we take a vote on this?

Commissioner Keon: Well, wait a minute. I want to know what we're voting on.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Hey, wait, wait, wait. I call for the vote. Keep that in mind. Okay, I call for the vote. Any other comments on the trees?

Commissioner Keon: Not yet.

Vice Mayor Lago: Mr. Mayor.

Commissioner Keon: I'm asking...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We spent 40 minutes discussing trees.

Commissioner Keon: I'm only asking for clarification...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Go ahead.

Commissioner Keon: On exactly what we're voting on.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: So, if you don't mind, Vice Mayor, I'll just...

Vice Mayor Lago: Of course.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: I'll just restate it. So, it's -- the policy would be if the tree's an immediate threat or hazard and an immediate life safety concern, it will continue to be removed. If City staff believes the tree should be removed for its health, condition, location, the City will assess the tree and issue the -- slate it for removal by issuing the permit and posting that. The trees that are slated for removal and have been permitted will be given in a report two weeks before a Commission meeting...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Commission.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: For the Commission to review. If any Commissioner upon receipt of that report wants to place the removal of any one tree or trees on the Commission agenda, they will be so placed on the agenda...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: For further direction of the Commission, be that for a second report, arborist report or whatever the Commission determined.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay. Will you...

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: And the same thing, there's no additional appeal rights.

Commissioner Keon: But it is for a second report. It's not that -- I don't think you should -- you can't go against staff's recommendation that a tree be removed. If you want a second report to confirm staff's recommendation, I'm fine with that, but I don't want to see us go against or tell them, "No. You can't remove that tree."

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay. Let's call for the...

Commissioner Keon: That's what I'm asking you. Can you do that?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you call the roll, please?

Unidentified Speaker: Yes.

Commissioner Keon: Can you add that?

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: So, it...

Vice Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: Just to clarify...

Commissioner Mena: There's nothing stopping us from...

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Mena: Doing that anyways.

Vice Mayor Lago: On the dais.

Commissioner Mena: I mean, I'm not -- I don't disagree with the point you're making. I wouldn't just overrule staff on a...

Commissioner Keon: Right.

Commissioner Mena: Arborist issue, but that's...

Commissioner Keon: All you're asking for...

Commissioner Mena: But it is my...

Commissioner Keon: Is a second opinion.

Commissioner Mena: But it is our decision at that point.

Commissioner Keon: Well...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes.

Commissioner Mena: And it always is.

Commissioner Keon: It should be.

Commissioner Mena: Regardless of what you put in here, it's our decision.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yep.

Commissioner Keon: Yeah, but...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

Commissioner Mena: I mean, that's...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you call the...

Commissioner Mena: Just the reality of it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Roll, Mr. Urquia?

Commissioner Keon: I think you create liability for the City when you do that.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: He's going to call the roll.

Commissioner Mena: Yeah, I agree. Every decision we make, we have to be mindful of the liability we create or don't.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Let's continue.

Commissioner Mena: But it's our decision at the end of the day.

Commissioner Keon: I don't think so.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Mena: Yes.

Commissioner Fors: Yes.

Commissioner Keon: With all those amendments, yeah.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes.

(Vote: 5-0)

Vice Mayor Lago: Thanks for the support, guys. Appreciate it.

Commissioner Mena: Can I -- real quick before we move on to the next item, I just wanted to echo that, you know, Mr. Ruano's statement -- you know, this is -- I'm open -- I'm not going to pretend to be an expert on our tree ordinance. I know he sent some suggestions on ways to go about the general process that you guys undertake. You know, I encourage you guys to look at that and obviously evaluate how we're doing that. And if there's a better way to do it, I'm open to that. I think that's something that we should constantly be looking at how we can improve that general ordinance regardless of this resolution. To me, it's two different things. This is like sort of a secondary process to that, but that's sort of the meat and potatoes of the process. And if there's tweaks to be made to our fundamental tree ordinance that we think would improve our process,

you know, I would ask you, Brook, and through the Assistant City Manager and the City Manager to look at the ordinances he sent. And if we think there's a better practice or something that we could incorporate into what we do, I would encourage you to do that.

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: We're always...

City Manager Iglesias: Commissioner Mena...

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: Looking for improvements. And we did update the City Code right after Hurricane Irma, and it's primarily for private property. These are City trees on City property and City right-of-way...

Commissioner Mena: Right.

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: And so, we have a higher level of care and risk than the private property.

Commissioner Mena: Understood.

Vice Mayor Lago: So, just to your point, I sent an email probably about 45 minutes ago to the Manager and to the ACM, and I copied Brook on it asking for exactly what you requested. So...

City Manager Iglesias: Let me just -- if -- Vice Mayor, Commissioner Mena, there are state statutes that have come up on this issue, so I think that our ordinance -- it's something that we can certainly look at, but we have to look at the state statutes and certain preemption issues...

Vice Mayor Lago: Of course.

City Manager Iglesias: Concerning that. So, that's what I'd like to say. Thank you.

Commissioner Keon: There was a state statute that was...

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: House Bill 1159.

Commissioner Keon: And passed last year, in the last legislative session with regard to trees that...

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: The City has been...

Commissioner Keon: Yeah.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: Dealing with a lot of those issues.

Commissioner Keon: Yeah.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: And recently so...

Commissioner Keon: Yes.

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: That's been a tremendous...

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you.

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: Impact to our canopy...

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you so much.

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: Is that House bill.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Folks...

Commissioner Keon: Pardon me?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Can we get off the trees and...

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: The House Bill 1159...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Go down to the agenda?

Assistant Public Works Director Dannemiller: Has been a tremendous impact to our canopy.

Commissioner Keon: Yeah, thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Let's get on with the agenda, please.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you for your hard work. I appreciate it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: G-3.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you.