

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting**  
**Agenda Item K – Discussion Items**  
**October 25, 2016**  
**City Commission Chambers**  
**405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

**City Commission**

**Mayor Jim Cason**  
**Commissioner Pat Keon**  
**Commissioner Vince Lago**  
**Vice Mayor Frank Quesada**  
**Commissioner Jeannett Slesnick**

**City Staff**

**City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark**  
**City Attorney, Craig E. Leen**  
**City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman**  
**Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia**

**Public Speaker(s)**

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Agenda Item K – Discussion Items [1:30:18 p.m.]

Mayor Cason: Let's start with Commissioner Slesnick.

Commissioner Slesnick: Well, I just wanted to compliment John, I already did. I was surprised to go by the library yesterday and see the huge crowds, it's on the front page of the Herald today, our Coral Gables Library, by lunchtime they've already had 1,000 people voting, so we have a great facility there and I'm very pleased that so many people are taking the opportunity to come out and vote early; and last but not least, if you have not been, the Mayor and I attended the opening of Actor's Playhouse.

Mayor Cason: Fabulous.

Commissioner Slesnick: "Million Dollar Quartet" it is one of the best plays ever about the four rock and rollers, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash...

Mayor Cason: Johnny Cash and Jerry E. Lewis and Elvis and Perkins. I've never seen the audience so excited, they went on for an hour or so afterwards, dancing. It really is a wonderful production; it's going to on...

Commissioner Slesnick: It's going to run; they think it's going to run through the holidays because word of mouth is going to make you want to attend. You've got to see it, "Million Dollar Quartet" at Actor's Playhouse.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Just one quick thing. There was an article that came out in the Herald the other day related to Solar Amendment, did you guys read it?

Mayor Cason: Yes – very good.

Commissioner Slesnick: Yes.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Related to its recording and FPL and all that. OK. I just wanted to make sure you guys had read that.

Mayor Cason: Explanation of what this is all about and who is supporting what which was in E-NEWS.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: It was also in this Thursday's Miami Herald.

Mayor Cason: The Miami Herald.

Commissioner Lago: I want to mention that because not only was it in the Herald, they also had an article in the Sun Sentinel and they also had an article in Forbes, we made Forbes Magazine, that's pretty incredible; and one of the main points in the article was, how can we call ourselves the Sunshine State and then try to pass this type of legislation. So I thought it was very...

Mayor Cason: I think the important thing is for those who haven't voted, it's very confusing, people not quite sure what it means. Take a look at what we've said, because we've tried to be neutral, we haven't been neutral, but we have explained carefully who supports it and what it's really all about.

Commissioner Lago: And what's in the best interest of the future, not only South Florida but the entire State.

Mayor Cason: Your turn.

Commissioner Lago: I just wanted to – I had the pleasure this weekend to attend the Pumpkin Patch event at Pittman Park. I took my wife and my two daughters and it was a spectacular time. I want to commend the City Manager and Mr. Betancourt and all of staff who put it together. I know CGTV was there. It was an incredible experience. There was probably when I was there for about an hour, a few hundred people, Coral Gables Fire Department was there, the Police Department. Like I mentioned to Javi, this is very representational to what the City of Coral Gables is all about. We are about family; we are about that hometown feel in a very sophisticated City. So it was spectacular. You had kids doing face painting, you had pumpkins being sold for at cost, I don't think we made any money on a \$5.00 pumpkin. You had some of the vendors from Giralda, which was beneficial to them, because we are a stone's throw away from Giralda, while construction was going on, on a Saturday. So I wanted to commend staff for doing an incredible job; and like Commissioner Slesnick mentioned, make sure you go out and vote. I'm not sure if they are going to be open on Sundays yet.

Commissioner Slesnick: They are. Every day through Sunday before Election.

Commissioner Lago: I was hoping to go after, but now that you tell me there are 1,000 people that voted in one day.

Commissioner Slesnick: An hour long line. Go 7 in the morning.

Commissioner Lago: Make sure you go out and vote that's the most important thing.

Mayor Cason: Commissioner Keon.

Commissioner Keon: I'd like to thank Public Works for their work on the crosswalks all over related to Ingraham Park. Thank you very much. They really connect the park now to all of the surrounding neighborhoods. Thank you.

Mayor Cason: And I just wanted to thank Coral Gables Television for that wonderful production of what we've all accomplished in the last five and-a-half years, and recommend I have that we use that and maybe add in some of the things on the cultural side of the City that we used in...China 4-5 years ago, to make a presentation on "Here's Coral Gables" that can be given to realtors, given to people who move into town and want to know, why should I move into Coral Gables and not Pinecrest or some other place, and make that a very concentrated "Here's Coral Gables" because I think all the elements are there to make it really great and it was a wonderful production.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: And Mr. Mayor we've had a lot of requests for them, so we are making copies of the CD, it's also on YouTube, but we'll help pass the word out; and before you adjourn the meeting, if CGTV is paying attention, if they can put on the Pumpkin Patch that Commissioner Lago talked about.

[Note: A video was shown of the Pumpkin Patch Event]

Mayor Cason: I've been reading articles about people growing 2,000 pound pumpkins, maybe we can find next year some monster pumpkin that can be the centerpiece for this.

Vice Mayor Quesada: The problem is how do you carve it?

Mayor Cason: You get a tractor trailer and move it.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Well Economic Development, Parks and Rec, a lot of departments worked hard on it, but we really appreciated Javier, the "Farmer" coming forward and making it all happen; and as you conclude you have just like last year with your First Annual Pumpkin Challenge, you have your Second Annual and we need you to vote and we have prizes for the top three, and if you pay attention the creativity of our employees amazing. Each one of them tells its own story.

Mayor Cason: We are supposed to pick one?

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Yes, but you need to go look at them first sir.

Mayor Cason: Yes. OK. With that we'll close the meeting for today.

[End: 1:37:53 p.m.]