

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item F-4
August 25, 2015
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)

Agenda Item F-4 [4:31:56 p.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida establishing a preference for American manufactured products in the award of City contracts for goods; providing for severability and an effective date. (Sponsored by Commissioner Vince Lago).

Mayor Cason: Let's do F-4.

Commissioner Lago: Thank you Mayor. We can do F-4 and F-5 together, its kind of a similar resolution in reference to F-6. The purpose of F-4 is – I'm requesting that staff study opportunities of existing practices in other municipalities regarding the potential to focus when we are potentially going to buy something as minor as, let's say forks and knives or something as large as, let's say as a vehicle for our fleet to basically take a look at the opportunity of potentially buying American made products. Now the purpose of this resolution is just for staff

to come back in 60 days to see what other municipalities are doing. I want to really take a look at to see if any additional costs that are taken into account if other municipalities have adopted similar resolutions, if there is, what is the threshold?- and how much will it cost in reference to potentially adopting American made products?

Mayor Cason: I'm glad you made those caveats because I used to run trade promotion in Europe for the State Department and we could never come up with a definition of what was an American product. This is a little different because its manufactured. When you take a look at things like automobiles they have sometimes 100,000 components, and so it could be that its assembled in the United States or manufactured however you define that, but it could be that the most expensive items come from abroad. So it's a lot more complicated than it looks, so I think the way you phrase it by looking at what other cities have done, you don't have to reinvent the wheel, and see if there are things we can do, and sometimes you can have a tradeoff with quality.

Commissioner Lago: That's what I was going to mention. The last thing I want to do, I don't want to make it over costly and over complicated for staff. But for example, if the product that we are looking at is an American made product, but is excessively expensive, it is not available domestically, for example, it is insufficient in regards to the quality of the quantity or doing so we hurt the public interest. Again, I want to avoid it, that's not the purpose of this resolution. This resolution is obviously to support this country and we've seen recently what's been going on over the last week and-a-half in regards to a country which we buy a lot of products from, which we are basically addicted to buying products from, and this is something where I think as stewards of this community we can try to, if it makes sense and if its in the best interest of the City, try to support the U.S. economy. Basically F-5 is the same similar resolution, but you can just insert recycled materials. If it makes sense and it falls within a threshold which maybe Procurement and Finance can work together and they can say, OK, its within a threshold of 5 to 10 percent of an additional cost, the following municipalities have adopted and it works well. If it doesn't work well, then we move forward. I just want basically, have both these resolutions in place so that staff can start working on finding out a little bit of background. If its working in

other municipalities or other states or in the federal government. I know the federal government has the “Buy America Act” which is very similar to it.

Mayor Cason: So, I guess if we approve this, as you go forward take a look at the definition, how they’ve done it?- what’s American?- what the word manufactured means?- and see what you come up with.

Commissioner Lago: Yes. Let’s look at really the threshold. Like for example, if Fort Lauderdale has a similar resolution in place, I want to know what the threshold is – is it 5 percent?- 10 percent?- for the public good. And for F-5, it’s the same resolution just take out Buy America and basically recycled.

City Attorney Leen: There is a federal statute which I’ll circulate.

Mayor Cason: Alright. Let’s take these one at a time. F-4, do we have a motion?

Commissioner Keon: I’ll move it.

Commissioner Slesnick: Second.

Mayor Cason: Commissioner Keon makes the motion, Commissioner Slesnick seconds. City Clerk

Commissioner Slesnick: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Mayor Cason: Yes

(Vote: 4-0)

Mayor Cason: F-5.

Commissioner Lago: I'll move it.

Commissioner Slesnick: Second.

Mayor Cason: Commissioner Lago makes the motion, Commissioner Slesnick seconds. Again
City Clerk.

Commissioner Slesnick: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Mayor Cason: Yes

(Vote: 4-0)

[End: 4:36:22 p.m.]