

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item E-9
October 14, 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)

Agenda Item E-9 [Start: 11:48 a.m.]

An Ordinance of the City Commission amending City Code Chapter 2, “Administration,” Article III “Boards, Commission, Committees,” Section 2-79 “Order of Business,” to amend the City Code to add a financial cap for items placed on the consent agenda and further clarify what items may be placed on the Consent Agenda; providing for a severability clause, repealer provision, codification, and providing for an effective date. (Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

Mayor Lago: Moving on to item E-9.

City Attorney Suarez: E-9 is an ordinance of the City Commission amending City Code Chapter 2, Administration Article 3, Boards, Commission, Committees, Section 2-79, Order of Business to amend the City Code to add a financial cap for items placed on the Consent Agenda and further clarify what items may be placed in the Consent Agenda, providing for severability clause, repeater provision, codification, and providing for an effective date.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Hello again, Mayor, Vice Mayor, Commissioners, Stephanie Throckmorton, WD City Attorney. So, as you all know and have seen in our agendas from time

immemorial, we have always had a Consent Agenda consistent with practice as used in Robert's Rules of Order, et cetera. The Consent Agenda is generally used for items that are routine in nature, that are non-controversial, and those items can be pulled by any Commissioner, the City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk, or at the request of a member of the public if approved by the Chairperson, and then those are voted on separately. So that's the way our code reads now. Some of you may recall that in 2017, this body approved a resolution that set forth a cap of \$250,000 for items that should be placed on the Consent Agenda. This ordinance adds that prohibition, or that cap, I should say, into the code, and it raises it to \$350,000. That's consistent with inflation, and I think generally with the types of items that are coming before you all routinely, given increases in prices recently. And then notwithstanding that limitation of \$350,000, any item that's accepting a grant or revenue of any amount can be included on the Consent Agenda. I know the Manager will tell you that we take very seriously the direction and the code to not put controversial items on the Consent Agenda, and of course those, and any item that we think merits individual discussion would always be included separately, and you all retain the ability to pull those items as needed. So really this item just takes that resolution of \$250,000 cap, puts it in the code, increases it to \$350,000, and clarifies that acceptance of money in any amount may be included on the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Lago: I want to be very clear also, if I may, so my colleagues remember the current level that the Manager can approve of any item is, how much?

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: I think it's up to, it depends on the item.

City Attorney Suarez: It depends on the type of item. There're some items where it's \$25,000, some that it's \$50,000, some that it's \$100,000.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Yes, but in most cases, I don't think any more than \$100,000 unless an emergency situation brought to you all retroactively.

Mayor Lago: I lowered that amount years ago, and I think that's perfectly fine, and it should stay at that level. But I think that this is just, again, a way to expedite things and do things in line with other cities. So, I have no issues with this unless my colleagues would like to refine it or add something additional to the legislation. Yes sir.

Commissioner Fernandez: I mean, to be honest, I ask, I'm probably asking this all the time when I see items on the agenda, and can't we just put this on consent? This is a no-brainer, and it's always because of the limitations. I'm okay with raising it. I mean, I'd be okay to raising it to \$500,000 because it would clear up a lot of the issues that are just bogging us on the agenda, and we still have the ability, and any member of the public has the ability to pull the item if there is a need for discussion. So, I have no issues with it. I think if it helps streamline the process for us of our Commission meetings that can sometimes be 12 hours long, I have no problem with it.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: And I don't want to speak for the sponsor, but I think that was part of the intent was to expedite the meetings.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I'll move it.

Mayor Lago: Madam Vice Mayor, you want to take his friendly amendment?

Commissioner Fernandez: 500,000?

Mayor Lago: I don't have an issue with it. I'm fine with it.

Vice Mayor Anderson: You're happy with \$500,000, then consensus.

Mayor Lago: Again, at the end of the day-

Vice Mayor Anderson: You move it, I second.

Commissioner Fernandez: I move it. You second.

Mayor Lago: Again, this is coming before the Commission. It can always be pulled by any member of the Commission, and if it's not pulled by, it's as transparent as it gets. It's just about expediting the processing and being able to move forward as quickly as possible to address things that are important and spend real time drilling down on issues that, again, should carry the significance. I'm not saying items that are \$250,000, \$300,000 are not important, but sometimes they're just perfunctory. They're issues that, again, like seizure stuff. You know, there's some things that should just be approved.

Commissioner Fernandez: And I think for the most part, Mr. Mayor, a lot of these items that would fall into this category, items that were just going through the motions of taking an extra vote, it's not items that are going to be controversial. In fact, there've been items on the consent agenda that have been pulled before, just because we've had questions or questions from the public that have wanted to pull them, so.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Correct, and the public is always welcome to speak during the public comment period or request if approved by the Chair or pulled by a Commissioner to have a separate discussion.

Mayor Lago: Exactly. Mr. Clerk, do we have any public comment?

City Clerk Urquia: No, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lago: All right, we have a motion and a second.

Commissioner Lara: Yes.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes.

Commissioner Castro: Yes

Commissioner Fernandez: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes.

(Vote: 5-0)

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Thank you. We'll bring it back on second reading with that amended language.

Mayor Lago: Thank you.