

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item B - Public Comments
January 12, 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

Public Speaker(s)

Javier Banos
Maria Cruz

Agenda Item B – Public Comments [Start: 9:25 a.m.]

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And now we will proceed to the public comment section of the agenda.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor we do have two members of the public requesting to speak at this time. First is Mr. Javier Banos Machado.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Mr. Banos you have three minutes.

Mr. Banos: Good morning Mr. Mayor and to the members of the Commission. I appreciate the opportunity to give a few thoughts. First, I wanted to congratulate our new County Mayor on her win, as well as our new Representative, Mr. Juan Fortin who couldn't be here today. I also want to send my prayers and my thoughts for everybody who suffered on the 6th of January, especially the officer who passed away. I'm praying for the health and safety of our nation. In addition to

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that, I'm looking very specifically at the agenda items today. There are two items coming up for you from the Transportation Board and I think that you should really truly give a heartfelt debate and understand the need this community has to have an additional level of review that truly looks at the impact traffic has, and it should not be just advisory. It should have some teeth to it and it should really give the chance to control the degree of traffic that we have coming in and give a full understanding of the effect all this development has on traffic. And lastly, I want to also make sure that the votes on this item are coming in February when we have now Thursday, the new review of the zoning changes, should be postponed, so that there is further review and a further understanding by all members of the community, that everyone can give input and we understand exactly what will happen and what impact we'll have on the Mile itself, but holistically on the city and the effects it will have on our quality of life. Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Next.

City Clerk Urquia: Next Mr. Mayor we have Ms. Maria Cruz.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli; Ms. Cruz you have the floor.

Ms. Cruz: Wait, I'm trying to unmute myself. Can you hear me now?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes, we can.

Ms. Cruz: Okay. Good morning. It's the beginning of a new year and this is Maria Cruz, 1447 Miller Road, Coral Gables, Florida. I've been a resident, same house, same place since 1976. So, this is not something new. I am here. I have some concerns. And the concerns are not new, its getting a little tiring for the residents to see the same thing happening time and time again. Today is Tuesday, that means in our area we have trash and recyclable collections. Well, we give a lot of talk to the cardboard boxes rules, but if you drive around here, like I do every morning, you will see piles, piles of cardboard boxes on the swales. I've heard so many excuses. I've talked to everybody from top to bottom related to this issue, but nothing happens. It's the same thing. Now, if the employees, the sanitation employees pick up the cardboard boxes from the swale, all that it does is to encourage more people to put it outside. There is no argument whatsoever that either you are going to enforce the rule, or you need to get rid of the rule or its going to be a massive amount of cardboard boxes every week. I don't know any other area, because I don't go and check anybody else, but in our area this morning, there were cardboard box piles almost at every street. Okay. From Miller to Bird, from Alhambra to San Amaro, almost every street has cardboard boxes. When I went to take the kids to school, of course when I came back some of them had been removed, why? – because the truck and the crane went by and they picked it up. I didn't see anything hanging from the people's doors. They are supposed to be told, you cannot do this, these

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are the rules. Obviously, they are not being followed, because you know what, I told the guy to look the places where I had seen the cardboard, if there were any hangtags on the doors. Zero. Zero. We are encouraging people to...[inaudible]...that's what we are doing, number one. Number two, the recycle bins, those awful red bins that we've been trying to improve, by perhaps having a top on them, so we can take out the recyclables the night before, instead of early in the morning of the pickup. Guess what? – they are outside in front of their homes, on the swales, not on the side of the house, not behind the houses, everywhere visible. Now, I've heard the excuses. People do not want strangers to go into their backyard. You know what. I've heard many people say, they don't agree with the colors that we have to paint the houses, they don't agree with many of our rules.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Maria, please conclude.

Ms. Cruz: Those are the rules. So, its time to enforce the rules and make Coral Gables look like Coral Gables, and not other municipalities where anything goes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you Maria. Thank you.