

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting**  
**Agenda Item E-1**  
**February 9, 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 E-1 [9:41:27 a.m.]

An Emergency Ordinance of the City of Coral Gables, Florida amending Chapter 34, Article 1 of the City of Coral Gables Code to establish a fine for failure to cure a mosquito infestation, providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, codification, and providing for an effective date. (Sponsored by Commissioner Keon)

Mayor Cason: We'll move onto Item E-1, which is an Emergency Ordinance of the City of Coral Gable, City Attorney.

City Attorney Leen: Thank you Mr. Mayor. Item E-1, an Emergency Ordinance of the City of Coral Gables, Florida amending Chapter 34, Article 1 of the City of Coral Gables Code to establish a fine for failure to cure a mosquito infestation, providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, codification, and providing for an effective date. This item is sponsored by Commissioner Keon. It's an Emergency Ordinance. Because it's an Emergency Ordinance it will require a four-fifths vote. Also it will result in waiver of pre-publication and Second Reading

because of the four-fifths vote and State Law and also our Charter. Also the City Clerk will require two votes on the item today. What this item does is, and Commissioner Keon may want to speak about it, obviously there's been some serious issues relating to mosquito infestations and the Zika virus. The concern for Coral Gables is that there is a property right outside the City, which the Commission may want to go into greater detail, but there is a property right outside the City where we believe there are mosquitoes, doesn't mean that we found any sort of disease or anything associated with it, but because of what's happening in the news we are concerned about it and we want to make sure to take action. What this will allow the City to do is if there is a mosquito infestation in the City of Coral Gables or just outside of it with mosquitos coming into the City, it will allow the City to take action to enforce, to fine, through Code Enforcement and also to go to court. So with that its also a public hearing item and I would turn it over to the sponsor.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you. We worked with Craig to do this. As you know, we have been talking at length to FPL about the cleanup of the Cutler Power Station site, and to date the County has been the one that's gone in and treated the area for mosquitos which have been very, very excessive in the Kings Bay area, which abuts this particular site. You know that Charles Knight was here recently. I did get an e-mail from them that they have contracted with a company to provide spraying services on their own private property. We've also asked that they not only spray, but that they clean up that site so it doesn't continue to hold water and continue to be either a health concern or a public nuisance. We are going to visit with them next week before the next Commission meeting to ensure that it has been done, but I would like us to please, to the Clerk if we could send a copy of this to Mr. Knight and to FPL when we finish. Thank you.

Mayor Cason: Do we have any speaker cards Mr. Clerk?

City Clerk Foeman: No Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Cason: So we'll close the public hearing portion. Discussion?

Commissioner Lago: If I could just add one bit of point after Commissioner Keon. I'd like to commend you on your leadership on this item. I know that you spearheaded this since the beginning. I spoke to Mr. Knight and he told me that there was an open invitation that you would be going through a walk-through on site. I'd like to attend that walk-through, so let's make sure that if we need to somehow someday post it so that if there is a Sunshine issue or whatever, we avoid that. Make sure that this continues to move forward. So, I just wanted to commend you on that because this is a real big issue that I've heard from several residents and I made sure to tell them that you are basically leading this issue forward and that we are going to address it. The big

issue here is not only the spraying, the issue is the maintenance, which needs to be addressed. The maintenance so there is no standing water which has become a big problem.

Mayor Cason: And this also could be useful for swimming pools and homes, more than just this, I think it would be helpful going forward.

Vice Mayor Quesada: While we are on the topic of mosquitoes and since the City Attorney mentioned the Zika virus. I wanted to ask the City Manager what if anything we are doing in the City related to mosquitoes outside of this issue?

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Thank you Vice Mayor, you alerted me yesterday, so I'm going to ask Frank Fernandez to come forward to share with what the City has done and will continue to do related to this.

Mr. Fernandez: Good morning Mr. Mayor, Vice Mayor, members of the Commission. We've been in contact with Miami-Dade, the State of Florida through Emergency Management to make sure that we are fully abreast and aware of the situation of the ordinance of what's happening. Currently there are 16 cases in the State of Florida; four of which have been recorded here in Miami. Miami-Dade County Emergency Management has issued an advisory, along with the State and CDC on the preventive measures that we should be taking. I think this is a very good measure, Commissioner Keon, to make sure that we alert our citizens of what they can do. Standing water is our enemy. We have to make sure that wherever we see standing water we are doing everything possible to remove it. We have been sending out messages through our Communications Department here in the City of Coral Gables. Additionally, our Code Enforcement Department does have a contract if there is a pool that has standing water that hasn't been treated, it's mosquito-ridden, we will move in with Code Enforcement and address that issue immediately. So we encourage our residents if they see an abandoned home or a pool that has not been treated or cleaned that they call Code Enforcement and call us here immediately so we can take immediate action. With that we remain in contact with the Office of Emergency Management through Miami-Dade County. We know that they are spraying for mosquitos throughout, they do have an aggressive plan. It is highly regulated by the State, Miami-Dade County does have a plan to address that issue and they are setting up mosquito traps throughout and making sure that if that infested mosquito is caught some other place then they will do aggressive spraying throughout that area as well. At this point, we cannot see any particular concern directly for Coral Gables. Nonetheless, you want to make sure that our residents are fully informed that if they do have standing water they must remove it immediately. This is a serious issue, but what they can do is help us, help themselves patrol your own yard, look out for your neighbor, and if you see standing water that is our number one enemy at this point.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Can we put a notice in the next E-NEWS consistent with what you are saying.

Mr. Fernandez: Yes sir.

Vice Mayor Quesada: So that residents are made aware.

Mr. Fernandez: Absolutely.

Vice Mayor Quesada: And its interesting, we are talking about the Waterway Commission today as well and I'm just thinking about some of the waterway communities that there is a higher likelihood of having standing water puddle up next to a canal. So it would be interesting one of the first things we would tell our Waterway Commission if that gets passed today is maybe to think about a way to disseminate that information to the rest of the homeowners on the water.

Mr. Fernandez: Absolutely. Our Public Works Department has been out there over the weekend making sure that all the drains are cleaned so that water does drain out, but again the more eyes and ears that we have out there kind of mobilizing the community just be more aware, a little hypo-sensitive to standing water. Again, that's the best thing we can do right now; and obviously, if you are out late at night or after sunset to please take the precautionary measures of putting on long sleeve shirts, mosquito repellent, make sure you protect the children, make sure they have skin repellent, and try to stay indoors as much as possible. Cold weather has helped us out, its probably the best method of controlling the mosquito population, so this little cold snap that we just went through that's affected my voice, its also fighting mosquitos.

Commissioner Keon: You know one of the tips that the Dade County Mosquito Control had put out was because of the number of vermiliads and that type of planting that are throughout this area, in particular we see them all over the City is the vermiliads thrive because they hold water is to encourage people to every couple of days with your hose to rinse them out so that there is not standing water. I mean even if mosquitos lay eggs in them if you spray them or rinse them off you'll dislodge them so they won't bread, they won't come to life. So some of our plants and a lot of it is decorative.

Commissioner Slesnick: That's a great idea. I'm seeing vermiliads with water for days at a time, and another thing we might do is contact the Board of Realtors, the President of the Miami-Dade Board of Realtors lives in Coral Gables. A lot of agents know that they are getting a listing and they'll come upon homes with pools that are really green with a lot of algae, a month or two

before they ever come on the markets. So there are pools all over Coral Gables, not all over Coral Gables, but there are quite a few that should be looked at.

Mr. Fernandez: That's a really good suggestion Commission, I'll definitely follow up and again, I strongly encourage everyone that if you see standing water of entry to pool to please alert us immediately. We do have contracts available to address and we must act immediately upon seeing standing water.

Commissioner Keon: Can you also talk about we've gone through an effort of cleaning out our drains.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: One of the challenges with our catch basin is the gardeners or lawn services that blow their leaves out into the road and then they end up at our catch basin. So if you see standing water around a catch basin, Tony Silio and I were out on Friday and all he needed to do was move the leaves a little bit and suddenly it all began draining. All of our crews were out on Saturday in an overtime situation to make sure that the catch basins were cleaned and addressed, but our residents can really help us with that as well.

Commissioner Keon: You know, you could begin that discussion about the blowers again. I know it created a lot of response that wasn't necessarily positive for people, but the problem with the blowers is even if they would blow them into a particular area, rake them up, and bag them, or whatever it would be fine, but all they do is just redistribute the leaves and the trash and the clippings and whatever, all over the streets or in somebody else's yard. I won't get into the noise or whatever else, but they are – that continuous use of blowers instead of rakes which I don't think to – they don't exist on any landscaping vehicle anymore, there is no such thing as a rake. If we could do something about that from that perspective and not the noise or whatever else. They really do create a problem with regard to drainage.

Mayor Cason: We are going to take two votes on this. Do we have a motion?

City Attorney Leen: Oh, Mr. Mayor, one other item. I just wanted to mention for the record that there is a slight change to 34-113, just to emphasize that the fine is \$500 per day, not to exceed \$500 per day; and we've also added the compliance provision Section 6, we've added language about the four-fifths vote in the emergency. Thank you.

Mayor Cason: We have a motion?

Commissioner Lago: I'll make the motion.

Mayor Cason: Commissioner Lago makes the motion.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Second.

Mayor Cason: The Vice Mayor seconds. City Clerk

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes

Commissioner Slesnick: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Mayor Cason: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

City Clerk Foeman: Second roll call.

Mayor Cason: Yes.

Commissioner Slesnick: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes

Mayor Cason: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Commissioner Keon: We are going to meet with Charles Knight to go through that, the Old Cutler Power Plant on the Monday prior to our next meeting so that we know that Mr. Knight is going to join us at our next meeting in February, so it will be at 9 o'clock then, that Monday morning before if anybody wants to take a look.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: We'll post.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you.

Commissioner Lago: Please make sure that you post that so that I can attend. I appreciate it.

[End: 9:53:13 a.m.]