

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting**  
**Agenda Item G-5**  
**Commission Chambers**  
**December 8, 2020**  
**405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

**City Commission**

**Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli**  
**Vice Mayor Vince Lago**  
**Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.**  
**Commissioner Pat Keon**  
**Commissioner Michael Mena**

**City Staff**

**City Manager, Peter Iglesias**  
**City Attorney, Miriam Ramos**  
**City Clerk, Billy Urquia**

**Public Speaker(s)**

**Jackson Rip Holmes**

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Agenda Item G-5 [3:30 p.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission directing the City Manager to conduct a Community Meeting in mid-January 2021 regarding the Zoning Code Update with extensive notice provided, for the purpose of staff explaining the proposed changes to the community and obtaining input from the community and further directing the City Manager to bring the Zoning Code Update ordinance (including the bifurcated Miracle Mile ordinance) to the February 9, 2021 City Commission meeting for second reading. (Sponsored by Vice Mayor Lago)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Why don't we take G-5 first.

Vice Mayor Lago: Okay. G-5 is very simple. I'm requesting, since we don't have any more Commission meetings for the month of December, the next Commission meeting, I think is January 12<sup>th</sup>, I'm requesting that my colleagues consider that staff host an event, a workshop just for residents and interested parties that elected officials can attend, but that we don't have a platform, that this is just between the residents and staff so they can get a better understanding of the zoning rewrite with an emphasis on the FAR issue, along with Miracle Mile, and I'd like that

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to happen in the month of January, so that hopefully we can clarify everything, get input from the residents, digest that input, and then move on to the next Commission meeting for Second Reading.

City Manager Iglesias: If we do it in mid-January, its after Christmas and New Year's, we'd like to do it as an outreach meeting, which means we will Sunshine it, but not as a Sunshine meeting.

Vice Mayor Lago: Perfect.

City Manager Iglesias: And then we can have Planning present and then certainly answer any and all resident questions afterwards.

Vice Mayor Lago: I'll make the motion.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: The idea is good, the idea is very, very good. I would ask for it not to be in the first week in January, so after the 11<sup>th</sup> it would be fine for me.

Vice Mayor Lago: Perfect.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor before the Commission takes action; we do have a member of the public who wants to speak on the item.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Jackson Rip Holmes. Mr. Holmes go ahead.

Mr. Holmes: Greetings. We are live here. Everybody can hear me, I assume. Thank you. So, I sent you all a video last night. I don't believe that one meeting is sufficient here. You all have been working on this for three years, its my understanding that this wasn't even noticed to people in the E-NEWS. I was expecting, I would have heard about it. It seems to me that whatever legal technicalities you may have complied, the city may have complied with, in terms of giving people notice, if you didn't even put this in E-NEWS that's really not much of an effort to notify people. And there is a lot of learning curves here. I'm just going to use one example. I think we need two meetings and I think we need one specifically to be focused on remote parking, which is very deficient as an idea and I just want to go ahead and float one question out and people can answer it or not, but its just one example of dozens of questions people have. I had the great fortune of speaking with Ms. Kawalerski and she just had questions that I can't answer. Does remote parking, can it be done in residential areas?

Vice Mayor Lago: Mr. Holmes, if I may, so I can alleviate your concerns. The purpose of me calling for this workshop just to be between staff and the residents is to ensure that all your questions are asked, and I promise you and I don't want to speak for my colleagues, but I will, because I know that they agree with me, that if we come across, if we come after that meeting and there is indecision or we need further discussion, I don't have a problem bringing it to the Commission or one of my colleagues will bring it to the Commission for a second meeting. We

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are going to do this the right way. We are not going to rush through this, and we are going to make sure that all questions are answered. I want them to explain, I want staff to explain all the details and answer all the questions about remote parking, about the FAR, about Miracle Mile, any concerns that you may have. So, I give you my word, I give you my word and this Commission does too that we will address it and we'll start off with this meeting and we'll move on from there. Okay, Mr. Holmes.

Mr. Holmes: Actually, if you let me speak...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Mr. Holmes, Mr. Holmes, you are probably the person that most aware of these issues in the city. You attend every single Commission meeting, and you e-mail us and text us and whatever, maybe once a week, twice a week. You have more notice than anybody does, and Ms. Kawalerski also has gone over this than anybody because she follows us very quickly. This is precisely an effort why the Commission, sponsored by Vice Mayor Lago to provide information to everyone, and I really don't think that you should be complaining about our effort to provide information. Thank you very, very much. Are you through?

Mr. Holmes: Wait, wait, excuse me a second. I think I have a minute or two, don't I?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: You don't have a minute or two, this is not a public meeting, and this is a courtesy to you for you to speak, so go ahead and speak.

Mr. Holmes: Mr. Lago, you say you are giving me your word about things, but I've had two meetings planned where you said you were going to talk with me, you didn't show up, you didn't call me back, so I don't really know that I can take these things on faith. Questions about the remote parking and you've been a no-show on two different office meetings that we had.

Vice Mayor Lago: Mr. Holmes. Mr. Holmes.

Mr. Holmes: You are not answering questions and I think its very clear. We have today, Maria Cruz and Sue Kawalerski, as you mentioned, Sue, I'm sorry, Maria Cruz is very active and they both asked for two meetings here. This is really – this is so obvious that these meetings are held. There should be an attitude, in my opinion, of we will do more than enough and its very clear now that we need two meetings.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much. Mr. Holmes, I'm going to cut you off. I'm really going to cut you off. You are expressing your opinion that we need two meetings. I'm going to cut you off, and we are going to vote on G-5, Vice Mayor Lago sponsored this measure and if we need another meeting after this meeting takes place to inform our residents, then you are welcome to come and express your opinion, doubts, everything, but let's continue with G-5, what we have. I would like to call for a motion on G-5 as it stands.

Vice Mayor Lago: So moved.

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*Agenda Item G-5 – Resolution directing the City Manager to conduct a community meeting  
In mid-January 2021 regarding the Zoning Code Update*

[Date]

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Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Is there a second?

Commissioner Mena: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli; Second? Alright. Will you call the roll please?

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes

Commissioner Mena: Yes

Commissioner Fors: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)