

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item C
March 10, 2026
Public Safety Building, CMR
2151 Salzedo Street, 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

Public Speaker(s)

Maria Cruz
Jason Jackson
Susan Gigor

Agenda Item C [Start: 10:52 a.m.]

Public Comment

Mayor Lago: So we are moving onto Public Comment. I'd like to just briefly quickly read a brief statement into the record. Welcome. I'm going to ask everyone who comes up to state their name and address for the record. You will have three minutes to share your thoughts with the Commission. As a reminder, these comments are limited to those items on the agenda or within the scope of the City Commission's jurisdiction. If you wish to speak on an item that is on the agenda right now, please remember that you will not be given an additional opportunity to speak again once that item is called. All comments should be directed to the Commission as-a-whole. When the three minutes are up, the timer will beep. I ask you to please wrap up your sentence and leave the podium when you're done speaking. Thank you. Mr. Clerk.

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City Clerk Urquia: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. First speaker, Maria Cruz.

Mrs. Cruz: Mrs. Maria Cruz, 1447 Miller Road. How hypocritical can we be. Today, we had a presentation declaring March Women's History Month and we honored Alina Garcia, our first female Supervisor of Elections, but we keep ignoring and forgetting an icon, Roxcy Bolton. In the 50's when some of you were not even a thought, she was already involved with civil rights. 1972 she founded Women in Distress, a shelter for battered and homeless women. 1974 she founded the first, the nation's first rape center at Jackson. Its today named the Roxcy Bolton Rape Treatment Center. The same year, she organized the first meeting of crime watch. In '84, she was entered into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame. In 1992, she led efforts to create the Women's Park in Miami. The first outdoor space in America honoring past and present women leaders. Her Coral Gables house was dedicated as a Florida Heritage site. And yet, even though the Coral Gables Commission agreed and voted to name a park after her, we have found other people that needed to be named parks in the spur of the moment and yet, Roxcy Bolton still does not have her name on a city park. What is the deal here? We praise every person. I'm glad that Alina is the first Supervisor of Elections, but you know what, Roxcy who was born in 1926 was ahead of the curve. She fought for women's rights, she fought for women in every shape and form, battered women, victims of rape, civil rights, you name it Roxcy Bolton was there, and she's ours. She died right here in Coral Gables. She devoted most of her life here, and we have chosen to forget her, because obviously some of us do not have the guts to do the right thing and name a park for somebody who has been honored everywhere except in the City of Coral Gables. Shame on you. Shame on you. Its time to make it good.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor next speaker, I'm going to go to Zoom and its Jason Jackson.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Jackson welcome back.

City Clerk Urquia: Its on me, Mr. Mayor, give me one second.

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Mayor, thank you very much. Mr. Clerk, thanks for getting me in. I won't be available to be with you this afternoon or later today in your meeting when you are addressing item E-4, the University Station Rapid Transit District Overlay. I appreciate the work that you've already done. I looked at the work that you did in January, I believe that at least provides some authority and consistency as it pertains to the City Beautiful in that particular project. The consequences of that as it impacts those of us that live around that project. I still stay laser-focused on it and hope the Commission does as well. I remember coming back earlier, I think at the end of one of your meetings in late 2025, addressing what potentially is going to be the traffic consequence for those of us that live on the streets around. I live at 1121 Madruga Avenue and our condo association is highly concerned about how that flow is going to push off of US-1 and into our space. While the construction maybe down the road, the reality we don't want to be behind, we want to be in front of and appreciate the Vice Mayor for reaching out and we have yet to be

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able to get together to talk about some of the relief things we could do as a community. Commissioner Castro, I know you helped me out with getting with Public Works on a traffic study that has not presented much of anything to me back, and so, I just want to continue to put this on your table until someone steps up and addresses this and realizes that this is important to your constituents, particularly in the 1121 Madruga Condominium Association. I appreciate the time.

Mayor Lago: Thank you, Mr. Jackson. Mr. Manager, will you do me a favor, will you please schedule time with Mr. Jackson and myself to go over this issue and address it with the DCM. We can do it at Mr. Jackson's convenience. Thank you. Next individual.

City Clerk Urquia: We'll close the public comment. If I may, I just want to again, in an effort – we did a lot of fact-checking and correcting at the Town Hall. I think it was critically important to do that. I'd like to do one here now. I don't think its up for discussion, but I think we should. In regard to Roxcy Bolton, we are not here to discuss or debate her legacy. Her legacy speaks for itself. In regard to a park naming, there was never any debate. Staff have worked extensively with the family over and over and over again. They have given them multiple different options for park naming's, different parks. The staff has insisted against all of those options, only requesting that the Garden of our Lord name have Roxcy Bolton's name on it. We cannot name the Garden of our Lord after Roxcy Bolton, because we don't own that property, that is not a city property. So, in an effort to confuse, misinform, and fake news, that is not the facts. The truth is we've worked with the family. We can have our ACM come up and speak a little more about that, if you'd like. The ACM has worked, the staff has worked with the family and the family has said no to every option that's been provided to them in regard to park-naming opportunities. They've insisted that all they want is the Garden of our Lord. That is a privately owned piece of property that we can't name. Thank you very much.

City Clerk Urquia: I'm sorry, Mr. Mayor, I do have one more person that has signed up to speak on an agenda item that they would like to address the Commission now, if you don't mind.

Mayor Lago: Okay. No problem. Then we'll close the public.

City Clerk Urquia: Ms. Susan Gigor.

Mayor Lago: How are you. Good morning.

Ms. Gigor: My name is Susan Gigor, I'm at 1136 Manatee Avenue, Coral Gables, Florida. Good morning everyone. I'm here to speak on items E-3 and E-4 and I've been to the Planning and Zoning meeting and they talked about the new overlay district, which I think hopefully will work out in our benefit and it away from county's control, but I was unaware of trying to incorporate 6100 Caballero Boulevard into that project, into the overlay. There are so many children who are walking down Manatee Avenue to get to that park and there's no parking in the area and there's

lack of adequate circulation for cars and that sort of thing, and I think that it's a mistake to incorporate that property into this project into the overlay. Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Thank you.

City Clerk Urquia: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.