

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES**  
**Economic Development Board**  
**&**  
**International Affairs Coordinating Council**  
**Joint Board Meeting**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of June 12, 2019**

**IACC Attendance:**

Lourdes Cuzan  
Gabriel Garay  
Volker Anding  
Alejandra Collarte

**Staff in Attendance:**

Beba Luzarraga, Secretary, IACC  
Jessenia Monge-Fletes, Intern, Mayor's office  
Pamela Fuertes, Economic Development Director  
Francesca Valdes, Business Development Coordinator  
Belkys Perez, Assistant Director Economic Development  
Zeida, Sardinias, Asset Manager Economic Development  
Mariana Price, Administrative Assistant Economic Development

**EDB Attendance:**

Olga Ramudo  
Manuel Niebla  
Bradley Barreto

**Guest:**

Beatrice Rangel, Innovation Council

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**WELCOME AND SELF- INTRODUCTION:**

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Coral Gables International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC)/Sister Cities and the Economic Development Board. Self-introductions followed.

The Mayor expressed the importance of the relationship of the committees for the City of Coral Gables for the preservation of existing businesses and to foster new business connections. He encouraged all members to continue their participation in these committees.

**OVERVIEW OF IACC:**

Lourdes Cuzán, Chairwoman, welcomed the opportunity for the joint meeting. She described the mission of the Sister Cities program as a partnership with international cities which mirror the City of Coral Gables and provides cultural, academic and business development exchanges. The value of these exchanges helps communities to thrive socially, in business and education.

## OVERVIEW OF EDB:

Olga Ramudo, chairwoman, described the mission of the committee she chairs as a partnership with the Coral Gables Economic Development department by assisting in formulating and implementing relevant goals and objectives to identify markets and developing programs for retaining existing businesses.

## CORAL GABLES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Pamela Fuertes, director, of the department and her staff gave an overview of the City's efforts in attracting business as well as assisting the current businesses to grow and remain in Coral Gables. She stressed the importance of the need for both committees to continue to foster the relationships with international cities through their distinct but important missions.

- An update was given by Belkys Perez regarding the Sun Stories which is the new installation at Giralda Plaza. Launch date July 1, 2019.
- An update was given by Francesca Valdes on the Coral Gables cookbook in partnership with Books & Books featuring local restaurants and stories from their chefs. Launch date August 13 and 14, 2019.
- A report was given by Francesca Valdes on the new business tax licenses in Coral Gables.

## UPDATES

Mr. Volker Anding, member of the IACC reported on a very successful "Smart City" relationship which was developed through his involvement with our sister city Aix-en-Provence and our IT Department. It has been fully embraced by both cities and respective IT department directors.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

A delegation will travel to sister city Santa Tecla, El Salvador the second week of July.  
A delegation will travel to sister city San Isidro, Argentina the third week of September.

Mayor Valdés-Fauli thanked all members who attended the joint meeting and reiterated the importance of both committees to the City of Coral Gables.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beba Luzarraga  
Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council  
And  
Jessenia Monge-Fletes  
Intern, Mayor's Office