

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item F-3
July 11, 2017
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

**Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Pat Keon
Commissioner Vince Lago
Commissioner Frank Quesada
Commissioner Michael Mena**

City Staff

**City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
Assistant City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Craig E. Leen
Deputy City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia**

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item F-3 [11:50:24 a.m.]

An Ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida, amending Section 101-182, Qualifications and Removal of Officers, of the Code of the City of Coral Gables, Florida, and providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, codification and providing for an effective date.

City Attorney Leen: Item F-3 is an Ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida, amending Section 101-182, Qualifications and Removal of Officers, of the Code of the City of Coral Gables, Florida, and providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, codification

City Commission Meeting
July 11, 2017

Agenda Item F-3 – Ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida, amending Section 101-182, Qualifications and Removal of Officers, of the Code of the City of Coral Gables, Florida, and providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, codification and providing for an effective date.

and providing for an effective date. I would just like to note for purposes of the record that this relates to hearing officers and special masters. This is a public hearing item, and the Deputy City Attorney -- and who is also the City prosecutor who prosecutes these matters before special masters, she's worked on this item and she's going to explain it to you.

Deputy City Attorney Ramos: Good morning, everyone. Essentially, what happened was we looked at this provision and just cleaned it up. It was a couple of things we were doing in practice that needed to be corrected. And, you'll see them -- they are in strike-through and underlined format for ease of reference. So, basically, we're requiring that they be members in good standing of the Florida Bar, and this was all done in consultation with the City Manager. Also, we added fairness and objectivity. We removed the residency requirement, and we added the ratification is done by the City Commission. Furthermore, we extended the term from one to two years, and then the appointments would be reoccurring every July 1, to be more specific. In Subsection C, you'll see that it moved from administrative order to a resolution. And, then we added the language in Section E that it shall not apply to qualification, appointment or removal of the Board of Architects hearing officers. That's a separate process. There's one at the moment. It could be one or two, but that person is not the same individuals who are on this particular wheel. These individuals preside over red-light traffic camera hearings, as well as Code Enforcement ticket hearings.

City Attorney Leen: And Mr. Mayor, I would just like to add, in individual discussions with you, different ideas have come up for the appointments, which would be made by the City Manager, in consultation with City Attorney, and it would come to you for confirmation. But those include looking at retired judges, looking at our past special masters to see how they've done...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I think we have...

City Attorney Leen: Things like that.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Wonderful special masters today so...

City Attorney Leen: And one other thing, Mr. Mayor, we're looking at doing is occasionally we have disputes that come up which are difficult to resolve, and we will try to do a settlement conference. We might use these special masters -- particularly, like a retired judge...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Perfect.

City Attorney Leen: Or mediator to help us in mediating or resolving these matters as well.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: A retired City Attorney, yeah.

City Attorney Leen: Thank you, sir.

Commissioner Quesada: So moved.

Vice Mayor Keon: Seconded.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you call the roll, please?

Commissioner Mena: Yes.

Commissioner Quesada: Yes.

Vice Mayor Keon: Yes.

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes.

(Vote: 5-0)

City Attorney Leen: And Mr. Clerk, just note that there was no public comment, no one wanting to speak.

City Clerk Foeman: No speaker cards.

City Attorney Leen: Yes.