

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting**  
**Agenda Item C-1 – C-7**  
**October 25, 2011**  
**City Commission Chambers**  
**405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

**City Commission**

**Mayor Jim Cason**

**Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.**

**Commissioner Maria Anderson**

**Commissioner Rafael “Ralph” Cabrera, Jr.**

**Commissioner Frank Quesada**

**City Staff**

**City Manager, Patrick Salerno**

**City Attorney, Craig E. Leen**

**City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman**

**Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia**

**Police Dept., Major Joseph McNichol**

**Public Speaker(s)**

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C-1 – C-7

Mayor Cason: Ralph.

Commissioner Cabrera: Thank you, and by the way Mr. Mayor, did you get my message that I was going to be running late? I apologize to the rest of you for that; I generally try not to be late to the meetings, so for all of those that were honored today congratulations and I am sorry I missed the picture opportunity. The items that I wanted to discuss this morning all had to do with the State Forfeited Asset Fund, and ladies and gentleman for those that are not familiar with what I am speaking of, we had a number of items this morning, we had five items that all provided monetary amounts to be encumbered, excuse me that is not really the right word, to be utilized for various crime prevention related activities in law enforcement in our City; and while I continue to support these kinds of initiatives, the amounts if you total them is in excess of \$330,000, so it is not by no means a small amount, and therefore what I wanted to do this morning is ask whomever is here from the Police Department to try to give us a sense of...I know the money is there, I know the money is going to be spent wisely – Good morning Major – what I am interested in knowing is a few things, number one how much is left in the balance of

that particular fund? And secondly, and this is no attack on the Police Department, have we ever audited, have we ever performed an audit on these accounts? So let's handle the first question. Major do you have any idea what the balance is after the expenditure of \$332,000?

Major McNichol: First of all, we kind of classify our funds in three different areas, first is State Funds, second is encumbered State Funds that have been set aside for some of the items that are appearing in the agenda this morning, the PAL (Police Athletic League) program, and the Explorers program, and the third is Federal. After these items in the State are unencumbered we will only have \$5,593.34, in what I call the Florida Contraband Act, the encumbered, set aside funds, after today's items we will have \$46,351 set aside for the Crime Prevention Safe Neighborhood and Youth Resource officer programs and then in the federal \$856,683.86.

Commissioner Cabrera: OK. Do you feel comfortable with these expenditures?

Major McNichol: Yes. The majority item is reimbursement to the General Fund for monies advanced, for the Communications Center project, back prior to 2001.

Commissioner Cabrera: Right. And now to the second question, I know there is a committee that provides oversight for the recommendations that comes before us, has there ever been an audit performed?

Major McNichol: An outside audit?

Commissioner Cabrera: Well it could be internal it doesn't really...you know I was just wondering.

Major McNichol: We have had visits from the Manager's internal auditor, Ms. St. John, she hasn't turned in a formal audit, but she has visited with us, looked at our records, I have never seen a report from that, but never had an outside audit that I am aware of.

Commissioner Cabrera: I just think it would be wise for us at one point in time or another, just to conduct an audit just to see how the fund is operating, to the best of my knowledge in the 10 years that I have been in office I have never heard or seen any kind of audit, so just food for thought in the future.

Mayor Cason: One question, Don do you know have we had any kind of an audit, either as part of a broader audit?

Finance Director Nelson: Good morning the funds that are in the City which are State and Federal funds are audited, our outside auditors McGladrey and Pullen do review the transactions and the records that they have, so that does not go unaudited, also our internal audit does look at the functions and what those expenditures are for and of course the committee reviews those for the appropriateness, they are reviewed by our legal office to make sure they are appropriate and

that they are in compliance with the State Statues and the Federal laws to comply with the expenditures that we are doing. So, there are many eyes on that, and that would be another part of our scope, that our outside auditors look in and look at when they perform their audit this year.

Mayor Cason: And they are starting soon right?

Finance Director Nelson: Yes.

Commissioner Cabrera: Thank you. Major while I have you up here.

Major McNichol: Certainly.

Commissioner Cabrera: The other items that I was interested in discussing with my colleagues were those two mutual aids, I know one was pulled, one was for the Town of Medley, the second one was for the City of Homestead, and I went through the item itself and I understand when we create mutual aid agreements between ourselves and contiguous cities or even cities that are within a close proximity that they don't have to be contiguous but say within 10 miles, 15 miles in the case of the Town of Medley in spite of the fact that we pulled that one and the City of Homestead those are really a stretch, I am trying to understand the benefit.

Major McNichol: First of all, City of Homestead has had mutual aid agreements with all of the agencies, most of the agencies in Dade County since Hurricane Andrew, and this was submitted from them to us. The Town of Medley one of the things that a lot of agencies due in the Town of Medley is they have an outdoors firearms range that they allow agencies to use for firearms training, and firearms qualification and in the past they were doing that without presence of an agreement and now they new Chief there liked the presence of an agreement.

Commissioner Cabrera: To formalize it.

Major McNichol: To formalize it.

Commissioner Cabrera: OK. You know this is an off tangent question, but when you have these kinds of mutual aids, it does provide for law enforcement personnel from both sides to be in each others municipalities and actually enforce, do law enforcement on a proactive basis is that correct?

Major McNichol: Correct. Usually there is advance discussion about what one agency is planning to do, or even if it is a last minute thing, there is communication within the command staffs as what is expected? How many, what kind of recourses do you need? For how long? And there is discussion about how long we can provide it, how much we can provide, who else is helping and all of those types of things that is for every instance where a mutual aid occurs.

Commissioner Cabrera: OK. Well you have answered my questions. Major, thank you.

Major McNichol: My pleasure.

Commissioner Cabrera: For taking the time.

Mayor Cason: Thanks.

Commissioner Cabrera: That is it for me.