

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Items F-10 and F-12
November 14, 2023
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Melissa Castro

Commissioner Ariel Fernandez

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Deputy City Attorney, Stephanie Throckmorton

Budget Director, Paula Rodriguez

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Items F-10 and F-12 are related

F-10: A Resolution of the City Commission directing City Staff to include a schedule(s) in each version of the City Budget presented to the City Commission for approval outlining the changes in salaries by department from the previous version of the budget presented to the City Commission (Sponsored by Vice Mayor Anderson) (Co-Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

F-12: A Resolution of the City Commission directing the City Manager to include an item on the City Commission agenda regarding City Commission compensation at a regular City Commission Meeting prior to the presentation of the draft budget to the City Commission. (Sponsored by Vice Mayor Anderson)

Mayor Lago: Moving onto F-10, Madam Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Anderson: F-10.

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Agenda Items F-10 and F-12 are related – Resolution directing city staff to include a schedule in each Version of the City Budget presented to the City Commission

City Attorney Suarez: F-10 is a Resolution of the City Commission directing City Staff to include a schedule(s) in each version of the City Budget presented to the City Commission for approval outlining the changes in salaries by department from the previous version of the budget presented to the City Commission.

Vice Mayor Anderson: This was an outgrowth of the Town Hall meeting talking to the residents there. This item –

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: This is F-10, this is the schedule at the back of the budget showing the department salary changes between each version of the draft budget.

City Attorney Suarez: My apologies. I read the wrong version of the title.

Mayor Lago: So, you want to do F-10 and F-12 together.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes, because they were both related to the same request made during the Town Hall meeting.

City Attorney Suarez: The title changed, so let me read the correct title for F-10: A Resolution of the City Commission directing city staff to include a schedule in each version of the city budget presented to the City Commission for approval outlining the changes in salaries by department from the previous version of the budget presented to the City Commission.

Vice Mayor Anderson: This is an outgrowth of a request from the residents to make it easier to identify whether there's been changes.

Commissioner Menendez: I have a quick question. There are, what do you call those certain increases that are automatically taken. Does that include that or are these different?

City Manager Iglesias: This does not include COLA increases.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Yes. This would just be the changes from the previous version of the budget presented. So, this F-10 has to do with citywide, all departments, all changes in salaries in the department from version to version, from the draft budget to the first, to the second version, and I'll defer to...

City Manager Iglesias: Commissioner, this is more of a global change, and it includes everything. The other item does not include COLA.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, if you spend a lot of time studying the draft budget, you don't have to go line by line again. Here's the cheat sheet, essentially, to know it changed.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: And as always, Paula does a great job presenting the big changes in the budget, but this is just if people want to see more specific items.

Budget Director Rodriguez: So typically, in our presentation, we provide a schedule by department of any changes of salary from year over year. So, in our discussion what we would include in our presentation would be that same schedule, but from the Budget Estimate, we would show the change year-over-year then we would show the change from Budget Estimate to First Hearing and anything from First Hearing to Second Hearing, and so that schedule would just be expanded. It's currently by department and any changes in salaries by department, and so we would just build on that same schedule.

Commissioner Fernandez: Is it a separate form or is it part...

Budget Director Rodriguez: Part of the slide in the presentation.

Vice Mayor Anderson: A separate piece of paper so you don't have to be hunting.

Commissioner Fernandez: Got it.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Okay. And the next item, F-12, is similar. You need to read it.

City Attorney Suarez: Sure. F-12 is a Resolution of the City Commission directing the City Manager to include an item on the City Commission Agenda regarding City Commission compensation at a regular City Commission meeting prior to the presentation of the draft budget to the City Commission.

Vice Mayor Anderson: And again, it's a resident request that this be done at the draft budget stage and then we put it on a regular Commission Budget. I think it behooves us to do that for transparency reasons going forward.

City Attorney Suarez: And it would only be triggered if there is an adjustment up or down apart from the annual CPI increase.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes. CPI is not included.

City Attorney Suarez: That wouldn't trigger that.

Commissioner Menendez: So, on F-10, I know we have the Draft Budget Meeting, then First, then Second, and this year, for example, there were some changes between draft and First, all over the place.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Yes.

Commissioner Menendez: How does that, and I'm supportive of this, I just want to work out and understand the details. So, in F-10 it will come out prior to the draft?

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: So, I'll let Paula explain, but I think there's always a schedule that shows compared to the previous fiscal year in the Budget Estimate what the change in salaries in every department is from the previous fiscal year to this fiscal year. This would include an additional sort of column, if you will, that would show version-over-version any changes between those versions.

Commissioner Menendez: Between Draft and First, First and Second.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Yes. So, we already have the schedule of year-over-year, so this just expands that to show if there's any changes between Draft, First and Second, what those changes were.

Commissioner Menendez: That's good. Thank you. I just wanted the mechanism.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So that's the point. Trying to make life easier.

Mayor Lago: So, what do you want to tackle first, F-10.

Commissioner Menendez: I'll make a motion.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I'll second.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor, before we move on, we have a member of the public requesting to speak on the item, Maria Cruz. She's being asked to unmute on Zoom, but not doing so.

Ms. Cruz: Hello.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Ah, there you are.

Ms. Cruz: Alright. Now having been explained, I think it makes sense so there's no more arguments between one and two, and everybody knows what's going on. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Anderson: You're welcome.

Commissioner Menendez: Yes

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes

Commissioner Castro: Yes

Commissioner Fernandez: Yes

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Mayor Lago: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Commissioner Menendez: I'll make the motion on F-12. That was F-10, right.

City Attorney Suarez: That was F-10.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I'll move it.

Commissioner Menendez: I'll second. You want to second?

Commissioner Castro: Sure.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes

Commissioner Castro: Yes

Commissioner Fernandez: Yes

Commissioner Menendez: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)