

**City of Coral Gables
Virtual Commission Meeting
May 12, 2020
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli

Vice Mayor Vince Lago

Commissioner Jorge Fors

Commissioner Pat Keon

Commissioner Michael Mena

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Attorney, Miriam Ramos

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item F-1

A Resolution appointing _____ (Nominated by Commission-As-A-Whole, to serve as a member of the Business Recovery Task Force (BRTF))

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We'll go on to City commission items F-1 appointee to the Business Recovery Task Force. I had suggested a Banker Abel Iglesias, for the financial criteria. I received.... suggesting Cristina Mendoza, who I also think it's very, very appropriate. She is with Benihana which, is a merchant on Miracle Mile and I am up for discussion.

Vice Mayor Lago: Mayor, I'll be brief. I mean I don't -- I had reviewed Christina's resume, very impressed by it. You made some comments and I think we need to really reconsider the last Commission meeting and that is that we need to keep this process as streamlined as possible. I think I don't want to name too many people to this board because and then it just.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: No, we have one appointee.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yeah, and I think we should keep it at that. I'm not even going to name anybody. I think you should be one person to ensure that the process as smooth as possible. There are two

*City Commission Meeting
May 12, 2020*

suggestions one a banker Abel Iglesias, already who has a bank there, but just acquired another Coral Gables bank, as a matter of fact, and also Cristina Mendoza, Benihana on Miracle Mile.

Commissioner Mena: Didn't Commissioner Keon also find...[Inaudible]...

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Keon: Its not a person that I know, they are with the Marriot. They wrote to us and asked about the recovery because they are in the hotel industry, but I'm going to assume through the Chamber, the hotels that we have in the city hoping that there is representation from a hotel group. So, you know, if they need somebody from that, this person is willing to serve. If there's somebody else you, you know, can you want to agree on it's fine with me. I don't -- and I'm sure the Chamber will look to addressing the issues of the challenges.

Commissioner Mena: Mayor, you know, I was going to say, I also know Abel Iglesias. He's a wonderful guy and he would certainly be a great addition as well. I nominated Cristina, not only because I think she would be terrific as a person, but I think her role and in speaking to her role as general counsel of a restaurant company. I know she's actively involved in the closing and reopening of various restaurants throughout the country and different jurisdictions, and in sort of in that capacity as an exposure to the way that different communities are handling that and so I thought she would be somebody very insightful for this task force just because she's part of an organization that's a national company.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Nominate her. I think she'd be a wonderful appointment.

Commissioner Keon: I think she is too.

Commissioner Mena: I'll make the motion to appoint Cristina Mendoza to the Business Task Force.

Vice Mayor Lago: I'll second.

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

Commissioner Mena: Yes

Commissioner Fors: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

*City Commission Meeting
May 12, 2020*