

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item K-1
March 27, 2018
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
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item K-1 [2:46:18 p.m.]

Presentation of memorandum regarding petition process for constitutional amendments relating to regulation of firearms.

City Attorney Ramos: Item K-1 is the last item on the agenda. At the last meeting my office was directed to author a memo, which all of you have been provided with regarding the initiative petition procedures. What we have found is that in order to place a proposed amendment on a General Election Ballot through the Citizens Initiative procedure, the first step that must be taken is for a PAC to be created; and while there is no case or statute that speaks directly to the point, there is a statute that talks about electioneering communications, its 106.113, and it prohibits electioneering communications to be paid for by City funds. So, it's unclear whether City funds can be paid for to submit the initiative petition and to have staff work on that effort. So for that reason without further guidance from the AG's office, I don't feel comfortable allowing us to use City funds for that purpose. That is not to say, however that you cannot pass a resolution encouraging citizens to mobilize in this effort. In fact, the Mayor of Miami Springs has begun to

gather a group of elected officials for precisely this purpose and that is of course permissible. So if you'd like a resolution that's fine, otherwise that's the presentation of the memo.

Commissioner Quesada: So this was my item. Thank you for that. So based on that, I'll just move forward privately.

City Attorney Ramos: Very well.

Commissioner Quesada: Makes no sense. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Keon: I think that there are groups that will be forming that people can...I'll join.

Commissioner Quesada: Yes, the Mayor of Coral Springs...

Vice Mayor Keon: You have a single petition going forward.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Good – anything else?

[End: 2:47:55 p.m.]