

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting**  
**Agenda Item F-1**  
**February 11, 2020**  
**City Commission Chambers**  
**405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

**City Commission**

**Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli**  
**Vice Mayor Vince Lago**  
**Commissioner Pat Keon**  
**Commissioner Michael Mena**  
**Commissioner Jorge Fors**

**City Staff**

**City Manager, Peter Iglesias**  
**City Attorney, Miriam Ramos**  
**City Clerk, Billy Urquia**  
**Fire Chief, Marcos de la Rosa**  
**Asset Manager, Economic Development, Zeida Sardinas**

**Public Speaker(s)**

**Rip Holmes**

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Agenda Item F-1 [10:13:18 a.m.]

An Ordinance of the City Commission of City of Coral Gables, Florida approving a purchase and sale agreement with Riviera Presbyterian Church for the purchase of a portion of the surface parking lot at 1325 Sunset Drive, Coral Gables, FL, also referred to as 5275 Sunset Drive (the western portion of Folio No. 03-4130-009-3240) for the purpose of establishing a firehouse and park using State of Florida grant funds for a portion of the purchase; waiving certain requirements pursuant to Section 2-1089 of Division 12 of the Procurement Code; providing for severability clause and providing for an effective date.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: F-1.

City Attorney Ramos: F-1 is an Ordinance of the City Commission of City of Coral Gables, Florida approving a purchase and sale agreement with Riviera Presbyterian Church for the purchase of a  
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portion of the surface parking lot at 1325 Sunset Drive, Coral Gables, FL, also referred to as 5275 Sunset Drive (the western portion of Folio No. 03-4130-009-3240) for the purpose of establishing a firehouse and park using State of Florida grant funds for a portion of the purchase; waiving certain requirements pursuant to Section 2-1089 of Division 12 of the Procurement Code; providing for severability clause and providing for an effective date. This is a public hearing item and it must be adopted by a four-fifths vote.

Vice Mayor Lago: Good morning.

Ms. Sardinas: Good morning Mayor and Commissioners, Zeida Sardinas, Asset Manager, Economic Development. The item before you today is for approval of Second Reading of the Purchase and Sale Agreement between the City and Riviera Presbyterian Church, for the purchase of a portion of the parking lot at 1325 Sunset Drive, also known as 5275 Sunset Drive, for the purpose of establishing a firehouse and park. The City finalized the Purchase and Sale Agreement between First and Second Reading and in accordance with the term and conditions that were spelled out during First Reading, and the PSA was distributed to you yesterday and has been made part of the record. Blank documents have been provided to the State of Florida, staff is pending Commission approval of the PSA on Second Reading today to provide the executed PSA to the State and begin its due diligence process for the purchase. Staff continues to recommend approval and to answer any questions you may have.

Fire Chief de la Rosa: As I stated before, this property meets our objectives to address our challenges between Fire Station No. 2, which is on Riviera Drive and Station 3, which is on Old Cutler and Red Road. This site is suitable for that and it gives us the access that we've been looking for, for a while.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: You can park in the back.

City Manager Iglesias: Mayor, Commission, this site is ideal for what we've been looking for, for its own special use, its zoned residential, its adjacent to the school, a daycare center and the Coco Plum Women's Club, and which they use for weddings and so forth. Its also a current parking lot, and it will be transformed into a firehouse, which will be, which will look like a residence facing the firehouse park. We plan on placing a firehouse park behind adjacent to the residential and what the residents will be looking into, a parking lot will be a playground and a residential-looking structure. The Fire Chief has gone...morning and afternoon and he feels that this site can really help us as far as cutting down response times and really saving lives. So, I think it's a great project and I'm looking forward to signing that contract, that PSA and sending it to the State today.

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Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. This is a public hearing, we have one person who wishes to speak, Rip Holmes.

Mr. Holmes: So, I think the votes are already there and could be that I'm wasting your time. I'm for this project, but I do want to just commend all of you for what's happened in the history of this effort, because if you'd remember, maybe it was a year ago, I don't remember exactly, that there was another site that had problems and yet we had a need probably well represented by the fact that one of our Commissioners had a buddy who died for lack of service and now we have and I think this is like a great story that the City Commission, in all my years being here, it really stands out to me as, we tried it, we made a mistake, that is you tried it, you get the credit. The City Commission had the right idea, but in the wrong way and then it changed it and we have a happy ending and thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much Mr. Holmes. Do I hear a motion?

Vice Mayor Lago: I'll move it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Second?

Commissioner Keon: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Moved and seconded Vice Mayor and Commissioner Keon. 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)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And I want to report that we have an annexation issue on this item. The church for some weird strange, unfathomable thing is part of the county and not part of Coral Gables, just the church.

Commissioner Keon: So is the friends.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: What?

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Commissioner Keon: So are the friends.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And will you call our friends at the County Commission to initiate the annexation process and we can annex the church. I hope it's not a controversial issue and I will keep reporting to the Commission.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you Mayor.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: F-2.

Commissioner Mena: I just want to clarify that the purchase and acquisition of the lot in question that the lot is in Coral Gables and none of what was just described or in any way will in any way impede us moving forward.

City Attorney Ramos: That's correct.

City Manager Iglesias: The lots or partial lots that we are purchasing are in Coral Gables.

Commissioner Mena: Thank you.

Fire Chief de la Rosa: Thank you ladies and gentlemen.

[End: 10:19:08 a.m.]