

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item E-1
April 10, 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
Assistant City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Nelson Diaz
Ronald Book

Agenda Item E-1 [0:00:00 p.m.]

Legislative Update by Southern Strategy Group and Ronald L. Book, P.A.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We have a time certain at 10 o'clock. Legislative Update by Southern Strategy Group and Ronald Book, P.A. Good morning.

Deputy City Clerk Urquia: Good morning, Mr. Mayor and Commissioners. The 2018 State Legislative session just ended last month, and the City's interests were very well represented by Southern Strategy and Ron L. Book, P.A. While the City was extremely proactive in determining the legislative priorities very early on, as the session progressed and new things arose, our priorities kind of, you know, changed a little bit. Whether it was a last-minute email or a last-minute text message dealing with dock-sharing program or why it was important for us to keep our election dates the day that they currently area, they were always available to us. They did a very good job, and I would like to invite them to come up and talk about their accomplishments.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Good morning.

Nelson Diaz: Good morning, Mayor, Commissioners, City Manager, City Attorney. Nelson Diaz, with Southern Strategy Group. This is Ron Book, with Ronald Book, P.A. That's your cue, Ron. And with me is Kevin Cabrera, also of Southern Strategy, and Rana Brown, with Mr. Book's office. I want to congratulate everybody. You guys have incredible staff. Billy did a great job this session filling in for Naomi, and we really -- I think we got a lot done, so I want to just kind of jump into some of the budget successes we had this year. We were able to get two projects into the budget that were two priorities that the city gave us. One of them is the fire station at Cartegena Park for a million five, and the other one was the regional emergency -- or the EOC, the Emergency Operations Center, also for a million five. Unfortunately, the Governor did veto that project. He felt that that should be done by the County. In his veto message, he mentioned that the counties should be operating the EOCs based on his experience following the last hurricane. The other projects that were in in the FRDAP grants were the Betsy Adams and Coral Gables Garden Club Park got funded \$50,000, and Maggiore Park got \$50,000, as well. The -- another budget success -- I know that it was an issue when we first came here at the end of last year was the lack of Funding for the Clerk of the Courts, and we were able to get the Miami-Dade Clerk of Courts \$1,500,000 to...

Vice Mayor Quesada: That's great.

Mr. Diaz: Continue operations through the rest of his fiscal year. And as a result, he recently sent out letters saying that he was not going to have to close any regional offices because of that -- because of the efforts Representative Jose Oliva to get that money in there.

Vice Mayor Quesada: That's great.

Mr. Diaz: I do want to point out a few legislators that were instrumental in helping the City because, as you know, the City doesn't have -- or didn't have a state representative in Tallahassee at the moment. The seat is vacant. So, Representative Nick Duran, from a neighboring district, in 112; Representative Bryan Avila, from a neighboring district -- I think -- I forget his district. I think he's 111; and Representative Danny Perez, also from a neighboring district; all pitched in to help the Gables. They filed projects on behalf of Coral Gables. They fought to get those projects funded. And at the end of the day, these four projects got funded in addition to the Clerk's because of their efforts. On the Senate side, Senator Jose Javier Rodriguez was instrumental, very helpful in getting these projects. In fact, both of these projects that got in the budget were his. He had filed. Senator Flores also helped out and had filed a project for the City of Coral Gables and fought to make sure that we could -- she worked with Jose Javier Rodriguez to make sure that these projects got funded. So, that's an update on the budget stuff. Ron, you want to...

Ronald Book: I would just add, when we got selected, we went through the process, in particular, Madam Manager, we presented before you staff in the evaluation process, one of the things we talked about was the transportation issues. One of the things that had been highlighted previously by those that had represented the City was the transportation issues. We didn't highlight those in our report. The reason we didn't highlight them in our report is because those are the work program appropriations of which we followed straight through. We watched all of the work plan issues. We didn't think it was appropriate to sit in front of you and ring the bell

when we didn't think that was something that we'd go around to any of our municipal clients and take credit for it because lots of people worked on those work plan issues. We monitored that subcommittee on an every day basis through the session. Had there been a move to take something out, we'd stand up, we'd fight for it. But you've gotten a number of projects that are included in the Transportation Work Plan, all of which are within that five-year work plan. We simply want to say to you, you've got all of what you had been looking to get in that, and that's a bundle of additional dollars. We just didn't think it was appropriate after we had gone through conversations with the selection committee about that, that that would be something we would highlight. So, I just want to add that on the appropriations side. There is one other thing. In addition to what got appropriated in FRDAP, which as, you may or may not recall, they funded no FRDAP last year at all. They funded a chunk of FRDAP, but not all of them.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I'm sorry. What's that word? FRD...

Commissioner Keon: What are you...

Mr. Book: FRDAP is the acronym for the Florida Recreational Development Assistance Program. There's a large project program. There's a small project program. And your staff applies in the process, and they ranked and there are several hundred projects. The Legislature is not obligated to fund those.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Got it.

Mr. Book: Historically, back in the day, there was never a time the Legislature did not fund the whole list on large projects, full list on small projects, and then they had some exception projects that got included as well. For the last seven or eight years, the Legislature has moved away from funding those lists. Moved away from funding FRDAP, moved away from fully funding cultural facilities, moved away from funding fully various lists that get created through a competitive ranking process. We have spent a considerable amount of energy the last several years

encouraging the Legislature because they're veto proof, because they've come through the Administration's review processes at those agencies, so we've gone back to that. So, that (INAUDIBLE). But the other thing that the chair of that Budget Subcommittee in the Senate who happens to share my last name did was she created a new program in FRDAP, Madam Manager, that is funded already with \$4 million. They are going to be taking applications, and it is their intention to award those projects -- that's a tot lot program, and it's a tot lot program that laid out some prioritization criteria that would give extra points for, example, if -- when you do your tot lot program, it's fully lighted. That was an issue for her. It goes back to some issues in Miami-Dade historically of cities and counties not necessarily lighting parks for use at nighttime. You get extra points if it has special needs programming so that it's accessible to the developmentally disabled, so you get extra points on that. That is an extra pot of money. There's \$4 million there that you can apply for and it is the -- I think they set a date certain -- I want to say either late November or early December. The goal was get the money out, if you will, during the political electoral process, which suits us just fine. So, that is another opportunity that we can apply for that nobody got the dollars because the program didn't exist. But that is a subprogram under FRDAP that I would look to hope to continue to see funded going forward. That is...

Commissioner Lago: Mr. Book...

Mr. Book: The appropriations process. I would say to each of you -- all you had to do was read the newspapers. The \$400 million in the school safety program, the school safety plan, sucked all the oxygen out of the building. There was no oxygen left.

Commissioner Mena: And the money.

Mr. Book: There was no money left. That \$400 million was project money. That was money that was taken out. Now, did they take some additional dollars out of reserve to fund the 400? They did. Did they siphon off some more from a couple of other places in the trust fund world?

They did. But project money was what got sucked out. The process froze from February 15 to the very end over what went on. And I did have an opportunity to communicate to Commissioner Keon on the gun stuff while you were debating it here in that first round of discussions. And I know that the Commissioner was not happy with the end result. But I had the opportunity to communicate by text to her and by phone so that she understood what was going on literally as things were unfolding. We were materially involved in the issue. We were materially involved from the evening of February 14 until that bill ultimately passed on both sides. We were involved helping to draft provisions. We were involved in helping to pull together the ideas on the mental health side using a lot of what Judge Leifman was advocating for, as well as what the sheriff in Broward County and the school superintendent were looking for in that as well. As I explained to her at that time, we all wanted to see a ban on AR-15s. We all wanted to see assault weapons go away. The question became one of do you get caught up in trying to reach perfect and lose the good. And I would suggest to each of you on the issue, leaving the mental health stuff aside for just a minute, uniform age of 21, the three-day waiting period, which, from my humble opinion, was as important as anything else that was in the bill. There is a reason why the NRA wanted to kill the bill over the three-day period. That was their issue. That was what they had a target on. There was a reason they were pressuring the Governor to exchange getting rid of, at that time, what was called the Marshall Plan. The Marshall Plan later got renamed the Guardian Plan. But in exchange for getting rid of the Marshall Plan, you got rid of the three-day waiting period at the same time. That was a bad idea. There were people who advocated to vote no to force a special session. A special session, I assure you, would have produced a bill that had less money and less teeth because it would not have had a three-day cooling off period. Maybe you would have gotten rid of the guardian program, but the guardian program was never going to be a program implemented in Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach or any of the urban school districts. I would add that what is ultimately going to occur, I believe, is that the Governor is going to set a date for which school districts can apply to participate in the Guardian Plan. It will have a finite period of days to say yes or no, to opt in. When they don't opt in -- and I think there'll be a handful of school districts around the state that will; small, rural school districts, you will see opt in. But the bulk of the

money will not get spent. I believe that it will be the Governor's plan, Speaker Corcoran, or Speaker Designate Oliva's plan, President Negron, Senate -- President Designate Galvano's plan to then take that issue to the Legislative Budget Commission, the Joint Budget Commission and get approval to take the balance, which should be -- I'll be bold -- 40, \$45 million, and put that into the SRO program. And the SRO program -- the School Resource Office program, which is the thousand SROs, is about \$97 million of the \$400 million. That will add a chunk of change. How much of it will come to us? We're going to get the proportionate share. We will -- us and Broward are going to get the lion's share of that money. And of course, then we've got, if you will, the money that got put in for school hardening, which certainly also includes the funding of school mental health. And I would say to each of you, that school mental health stuff's a really big deal. I'm sure you all know that. The Senate, interestingly, Senator Passidomo, the chair of the (INAUDIBLE) Budget Committee in the Senate, had actually already had \$40 million put aside for school mental health, interestingly, before the massacre in Parkland. So, I'm remiss if I don't mention that in the midst of the appropriation process because while it's the School Safety Bill, it was a \$400 million spending program that went along with it. So, that's all I would add to the appropriations fund.

Commissioner Keon: Could you tell me the difference between the guardianship program and the SRO? What is the guardian...

Mr. Book: Well, the guardian...

Commissioner Keon: The guardian program.

Mr. Book: If I could, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Go ahead, yeah.

Mr. Book: Commissioner, the SRO program are sworn uniform officers...

Commissioner Keon: Right.

Mr. Book: Today. That program exists...

Commissioner Keon: That I know.

Mr. Book: The Miami Police Department -- the Miami-Dade Schools Police Department. The Guardian Program, which had previously been named the Marshall Program, is what gets school -- the original plan had school teachers -- had instructional personnel as the main focus of those that would get trained with a minimum of 130 hours of training through your sheriff's office, our public safety department, our police -- Miami-Dade Police Department. They would be trained and they would, in effect, get sworn in. They would get the...

Commissioner Keon: And they would be -- they would...

Mr. Book: Those would have been...

Commissioner Keon: They could carry weapons.

Mr. Book: Both instructional and non-instructional. What changed in those closing days as we got to final passage was they took and changed it from all instructional personnel being qualified to have the opportunity, if they want to take the class to get sworn and carry that weapon. They changed it to non-instructional -- all non-instructional can do it and any that are partial instructional, but also non-instructional. So, you could have -- like Aaron Feis -- Coach Feis, who it's named for, who was a coach, so he was non-instructional. Feis also taught one class of PE, so Feis would have qualified, had he wanted to, to do that. You could have a guidance counselor, who is considered a non-instructional employee in the school, but that guidance counselor teaches a sociology class. That would qualify that teacher to do it because she's not a

full-time instructional employee; she's part-time. So, that was the difference in what they did. And these individuals will still have to take that, but it would require, number one, a school district voting for it and the sheriff's office agreeing to implement it. If you don't have them together, then it doesn't apply. Miami-Dade will never opt for the program.

Commissioner Keon: So, that program, the funding that was for school safety, that is a priority program, or that's a program that rolls out first, and then whatever's left over goes to...

Unidentified Speaker: I don't think that (INAUDIBLE)...

Commissioner Keon: An SRO?

Mr. Book: No...

Commissioner Keon: I thought that's what you said.

Mr. Book: Through the Mayor, Commissioner, the answer is no and a partial yes. You've got about \$97 million that was appropriated for the school -- enhance school resource officers. You may remember the Governor had actually recommended -- he wanted one school resource officer on campus for every thousand student population. That did not get approved. The thousand will be allocated in a formally that DOE will come up with. The -- what -- and I may be off on the following number, but I think I'm correct. I think there were \$56 million put in for the guardian program. This was not contemplated when they drafted it, but what came as the bill hit the floors of both houses for final passage. The discussion was one of, well, we're going to have all these districts that aren't going to opt in. What do we do? And so, the leadership of the Governor had a bunch of conversation, and while you have not read that that's been formalized -- because it has not been -- because you could have a bunch of school districts that I'm saying are not going to opt in, opt in and they spend all the money and there's nothing left. It would be additional

supplemental dollars for additional school resource officers above the thousand that are funded over here.

Commissioner Keon: Oh, okay.

Mr. Book: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Any questions?

Commissioner Keon: No. I'd also like to clarify that Nick Duran does represent Coral Gables.

Mr. Diaz: A piece of the -- correct.

Unidentified Speaker: Yeah.

Mr. Diaz: I thought of that one.

Commissioner Keon: He is the representative.

Mr. Book: He was a fabulous representative advocating...

Commissioner Keon: Yes, but he...

Mr. Diaz: He really was.

Mr. Book: Every step of the way.

Commissioner Keon: He represents a significant portion of Coral Gables.

Unidentified Speaker: Oh, he does.

Commissioner Keon: East of the highway, south of the highway, whatever that -- I don't know how you define that area.

Mr. Book: He was an effective...

Mr. Diaz: He...

Mr. Book: Advocate.

Mr. Diaz: He was extremely helpful.

Commissioner Keon: Yes.

Mr. Diaz: Let me talk about some of the other policy bills that we worked on, mostly in kill mode. There was an effort to repeal the state law allowing red light cameras. That bill did not pass. There was an effort to preempt parking garage -- back-in parking into garages. That bill did not pass. We worked on all of these bills.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yeah.

Mr. Diaz: There was an effort to preempt the tree-trimming ordinances, which was a big fight that -- and they tried multiple different ways to pass it, multiple different opportunities. Nothing affecting that -- on that preemption passed.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Let me ask you something...

Mr. Diaz: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: On that one specific. Who would -- what is the agenda of somebody who advocates for the passage of that legislation so vigorously? What's the agenda?

Mr. Diaz: I think a lot of that was coming from some of the utilities that...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Mr. Diaz: Wanted to get these ordinances restricted a little bit.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Utilities.

Mr. Diaz: Yeah. And I think some of the legislators were pushing it because they thought -- at least from what I gathered from them in talking to them -- that cities -- some cities had gone and placed regulations that made it very difficult for the utilities to trim and to -- and then that was -- that resulted in lines coming down, the trees hitting the lines and coming down. And so...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Another question on agendas. What would be the agenda of somebody that -- election date proposed legislation, making it uniform? Who -- what were they trying -- who and why were they or he or she trying to achieve with that? I mean, what -- were they from a district where...

Mr. Diaz: I did not -- I didn't get...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Everybody is, you know -- feels good at Thanksgiving, and therefore, they'll vote for him or her or...

Mr. Diaz: That bill has been around for several years to conform...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: But why?

Mr. Diaz: All the municipalities into one election instead of having multiple -- I think some of that came from potentially some of the Supervisors of Elections that were having elections throughout the years and just having difficulty with that and a financial burden on that.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Mr. Diaz: And I think that's where some of that came from, some of them lobbying their legislators.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Mr. Diaz: Not Miami-Dade, but in other areas.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I'll tell you my thought on that. I think they just want to make it more partisan.

Commissioner Keon: Yeah.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Put them in November -- yeah.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: You're right, you're right. Put it all in -- yeah, yeah. You're right.

Mr. Diaz: So, some of the other preemptions...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Tell us about the puppy farms.

Mr. Diaz: I'm sorry?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: The puppy farms.

Mr. Diaz: That bill did not -- I was getting there. That bill did not pass. That preemption did not pass. The charter county and the regional -- the penny tax -- the half-penny tax preemption did not pass as well. There was an effort by some of the bike-sharing companies to preempt all the bike-sharing -- I heard you guys talking about earlier. That preemption or attempted preemption also did not pass. There was a local tax referendum requiring that two-thirds -- a 60 percent vote by the general electorate if you were to change the tax code. That did not pass. There was a worker's compensation benefit plan for first responders that did pass. And then, lastly, and this is the linear facilities bill that I know we fought -- we opposed quite a bit. That did pass. The -- that was a priority of the President and the Speaker of the House and the Governor, and that bill just flew through -- I think it was out the second week of session or something, very quick like that.

Commissioner Lago: Can you provide a little bit more background for the residents to understand about that bill?

Mr. Diaz: So, that bill -- the linear facilities bill -- that bill had a lot of -- for the review process and the local permitting, it preempted some of that stuff. And so, there was some of that in that bill. That bill was around last year. It died last year in Representative Diaz's committee. And -- but this year, the Speaker and the President just really had that as a priority.

Commissioner Keon: How does that impact us?

Mr. Diaz: Why don't we -- can I do this? Can I send you guys a report through the City Manager with the detail on how it affects you specifically?

Commissioner Keon: Yes.

Mr. Diaz: Let me look at some of the ordinances that you guys have and see how it affects you directly. Let me do that.

Commissioner Lago: Perfect.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Quesada: So, I -- I don't know if -- are you done or...

Mr. Diaz: I am. I don't see any other...

Vice Mayor Quesada: Okay. I just had a few comments. I didn't want to cut you off.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Go ahead. Of course.

Mr. Diaz: But virtually -- I just want to say real quick -- virtually, everything that you opposed did not become law, and almost everything you wanted, you got.

Mr. Book: I think it's important to sort of underline from where we started when we were in front of you, you will recall I said it very clearly that they were coming after cities, they were coming after counties. That was going to be the focus of the session.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yeah.

Mr. Book: If you had asked me to lay a wager that everything that Nelson just described would die, I would have taken the bet at any point if you wanted to make that bet because that's how aggressive the leadership was in both houses. I think that the League did its job. I think (INAUDIBLE) did its job. And I think the contract lobbyists for local governments did their

jobs. And I think that when you begin to -- instead of focusing on one or two, but you break out your folks and you focus on the entire preemption agenda, that's how we ended up getting it. And I think that they got concerned as the session went on that they were all looking at potential opponents in the election cycle and why are we going to do things that just get local government people angry at us, may or may not get constituents angry, but it gets City elected officials who've already been willing to put their name on the ballot to put it on again.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yeah.

Mr. Book: So, I think all of that helped. Look, look at the list. I mean, I would have not bet against vacation rentals passing. I would not have bet against any one of them. So, it was a big deal. But I think that, again, the one thing that your firefighters and your firefighters and your firefighters -- and your police, but your firefighters were so very interested in was the worker's comp PTSD bill. And you may or may not fully, all of you, understand. I know the Manager does. The law today requires your police and firefighters to have an accompanying physical injury before they can fully take advantage of the counseling services that should otherwise be offered under worker's comp. At the end of the day, if you were one of those officers or firefighters that went into that school building in Parkland, here's what I could tell you. I went into that building six times. I walked through that building. I've got the photos on here. I mean, I walked through the first time Thursday afternoon, after the shooting, 45 minutes after the last body got taken out. The pictures on here are enough to shock almost any human being into a psychological issue. Those firefighters, those EMS people, those police officers who went in there and trenched through the pools of blood and picked those bodies up off the ground and the injured, swept them out, young children, 14 years of age. To not think that should be covered was a big deal. Your firefighters were in the Capital a number of times on the issue. It was a big deal. The League, early on, had concerns. The League dropped their opposition to the bill about four weeks into session, but that was a really big deal for your police and firefighters and police and firefighters, first responders, around the state. I want to go back just for two seconds on the EOC veto. He vetoed every one of them. Several of those, like yours, we've encouraged folks

to apply for. We thought it was a good opportunity. Well, guess what? It was. We got them funded. We didn't think and calculate on the Governor saying I've got to veto something, so those were easy targets because I can justify claiming those are county responsibilities. You didn't get singled out. He vetoed, I think, five of them. And he vetoed -- there were five municipal ones. He vetoed all five.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Just a few quick thoughts.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Vice Mayor Quesada: In you're his -- both of your extensive histories and experience, have you ever seen so many preemptions attacks?

Mr. Diaz: No.

Mr. Book: It's the worst it's ever been. In my 44 years, I have never seen...

Vice Mayor Quesada: Do you think this is going to be a new trend coming in the future or is this just an isolate year?

Mr. Diaz: Yes.

Mr. Book: I think you've got...

Vice Mayor Quesada: You think there's more?

Mr. Diaz: Absolutely.

Mr. Book: I think you've got two more real years of preemption attacks. I don't know that you will see the volume...

Vice Mayor Quesada: Got it.

Mr. Book: Of bills that you have this year, but I have no reason to believe that the philosophy in the Florida House, in particular, has changed. You are losing -- you are losing in the Senate the guy with the greatest level of preemption vengeance, and that's Senator Steube, who's leaving to run for Congress. And Commissioner, certainly, the leading pro-gun guy today in the Senate -- but don't think that the NRA, Unified Sportsmen and the Second Amenders are going to be without an advocate in the Senate because Dennis Baxley, from Marion County, is clearly as vocal. I just don't believe that Senator Baxley will be as effective at (INAUDIBLE) as Senator Steube is..

Vice Mayor Quesada: So, that was my -- just two more comments to the rest of the people on the dais. I'm going to reach out to those elected officials they said that helped us. I'd encourage each of you...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Very good.

Vice Mayor Quesada: To do the same...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Just to thank them for that.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Vice Mayor Quesada: And the last point is, I realized that the City of Coral Gables, we've been very, obviously, as you guys are well aware, we're very strong on the gun issue. Obviously, we wish we could have done more. So, I realize that we may have been a difficult client at times and drawing attention that really makes your jobs more difficult. So, I got to tell you. I'm very happy with how you guys have performed on the preemption. And I got to tell you, I didn't anticipate us getting some of those monies that you guys were able to achieve. So, it's not lost on me how difficult that probably was, considering some of the statements and press that we received. And I'm sure you guys are the first ones to hear it, and I'm sure it's repeated to you...

Unidentified Speaker: Yeah.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Over and over again. So, it's not lost on me. Thank you for the hard work and for your achievements.

Mr. Diaz: Thank you. And I really want to say thank you to all of you, first, for the opportunity, and second, for the -- for your hiring decisions and staff who went such a long way in helping us.

Commissioner Lago: I just have one quick question. You mentioned, in regards to the FRDAP monies, the \$4 million pot of money that's potentially available, you said, in November. That money, can you give me a bit more background in regards to -- that money can be used for ADA, disability...

Mr. Book: It's a tot lot...

Commissioner Keon: Tot lots.

Mr. Book: It is a...

Commissioner Lago: Yeah.

Mr. Book: Tot lot designed program. The senator that shares my same last name has a belief that there are communities that don't have enough tot lot programs for young kids -- young, young kids. And it was -- and it is not -- FRDAP does not currently -- the large project program, the small project program, do not cater to tot lots. And so, it is a tot lot centric program. The monies were appropriated. Now, the application process has to happen. So, it will be funded in the current fiscal year. Most of the time when the Legislature creates a new funding grant type program, you wait a full year before funding comes available. They're going to re-appropriate. She put the money in and it got bought as we moved through.

Commissioner Mena: July 1.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Any other comments?

Commissioner Lago: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you...

Mr. Book: Mayor, may I...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Very much. Yes, please.

Mr. Book: Rana reminded me, Mayor, to the question you -- I think you asked a question about the tree trimming. Steube, I don't think was as much focused on utility companies. I think there were others that were, but Steube, who was the sponsor, was a property rights guy. He's the property rights guy. He just doesn't think it's okay. I can tell you there's a House member in Miami-Dade who's terribly bothered by a city that has a provision that if you take out a tree on your property that you're going to build a home on, whether it is a particularly -- it doesn't have

to be an endangered tree. It doesn't have to be some natural tree. You take it out, you have to pay the city a large sum of money.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: You're not talking about Coral Gables, are you?

Mr. Book: No, sir. I'm not. I'm talking about the City of Pinecrest. I don't mind calling out...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very...

Mr. Book: They're very angry...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Very much. You've done a great job and...

Mr. Book: Very, very angry...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We're very proud of...

Mr. Book: About being told that they just, for the sake of -- it's in the middle of the property. They can't build on it and it's not a special tree, but it's a \$10,000 cost to take the tree out. It's like you can't even go mitigate. It's you give us \$10,000, and that's...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Commissioner Lago: Great work, gentlemen.

Mr. Diaz: Thank you, guys.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We're very happy with your work and...

Mr. Diaz: I know you have a lot on your agenda.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much.

Commissioner Keon: I would like you to call me back when I call you, though, going forward.
Thank you.

Mr. Book: I think I -- when your message got through, I dealt with it.

Mr. Diaz: Thank you, guys.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Commissioner Lago: Thank you.