

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item F-2 & F-4
February 24, 2026
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 Richard D. Lara

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez
City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Police Chief, Ed Hudak
Fire Chief, Marcos de la Rosa

Public Speaker(s)

Dr. Glenda Perez, VP for Miami-Dade Sexual Assault Response Initiative
Maria V. Betancourt, Executive Director of Miami-Dade Sexual Assault Response Initiative
Maria Cruz
Tony Diaz

Agenda Items F-2 and F-4 [Start: 11:40 a.m.]

F-2: A Resolution of the City Commission expressing the City’s policy recognition that first responders, including fire rescue and emergency medical services, play a critical role in identifying victims of human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault; acknowledging that properties generating repeated calls for service may warrant review through nuisance abatement processes in a victim-centered, trauma-informed manner; and proving for an effective date. (Sponsored by Commissioner Castro)

F-4: A Resolution of the City Commission directing the City Manager to ensure that all fire rescue and emergency medical services personnel complete an assault, human trafficking, and abuse training course within the next six months focused on familiarizing emergency responders with the unique patient care considerations and characteristics inherent in incidents of sexual assault, human trafficking, and abuse, directing new fire rescue and emergency medical services personnel

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to complete similar training within six months of their initial hire, and directing the City Manager to ensure that all fire rescue and emergency medical services personnel complete additional training thereafter . (Sponsored by Commissioner Castro)

Mayor Lago: All right, let's start with item F-2.

City Attorney Suarez: F-2 is a resolution of the City Commission expressing the city's policy recognition that first responders, including fire rescue and emergency medical services, play a critical role in identifying victims of human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault, acknowledging that properties generating repeated calls for service may warrant review through nuisance abatement processes in a victim-centered, trauma-informed manner and providing for an effective date.

Mayor Lago: Is it safe to say that we can do F-2 and F-4 together, Madam City Attorney?

Commissioner Castro: That was actually going to be my request. Thank you.

City Attorney Suarez: So F-4 is a resolution of the City Commission directing the City Manager to ensure that all fire, rescue, and emergency medical services personnel complete an assault, human trafficking, and abuse training course within the next six months focused on familiarizing emergency responders with the unique patient care considerations and characteristics inherent in incidents of sexual assault, human trafficking, and abuse, directing new fire, rescue, and emergency medical services personnel to complete similar training within six months of their initial hire, and directing the city manager to ensure that all fire, rescue, and emergency medical services personnel complete additional training thereafter.

Commissioner Castro: Thank you very much, City Attorney, for reading this resolution into the record. F-2, I'm going to make it very, very simple. This is just a priority and a stance that the city should be taking regarding human trafficking and the set above. I also want to give a very kind thank you to the State Attorney, Attorney General, for the invitation to the Human Trafficking Press Conference. I spoke deliberately with the State Attorney regarding her efforts and initiatives for human trafficking, and she knows the stance I am taking together here with the Commission and the priority we are setting upon human trafficking, and I believe she's very appreciative of it. Now, I want to go ahead and join the other resolution. I do want to say I have two expert testimonies for this item, but before that, I want to go ahead and say why this is so important to me, and I think it should be important not only for me, but for the Commission and for this city. So, what drew the most interest in me is when I got this little card, and it's about human trafficking versus smuggling, and I really started to examine it. I don't know if maybe we can zoom into it a little. Yeah? There you go. Perfect. And here, in the back of the card, we have a phone number, okay? Now, this is about the Blue Campaign. The Blue Campaign is a national public awareness initiative to combat human trafficking. So, they were launched in 2010, but

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what is it that they do? What they do is they educate the public, they train professionals that are most likely to encounter victims, and they encourage reporting to law enforcement. So doing a little more research, and this is really what drew me so passionate about it, doing a little more research, I called the number, and this is what I got.

[Phone message: You have reached the Immigration and Customs Enforcement tip line. If you have a life or death emergency, please...]

Commissioner Castro: So, if you realize what you heard right there, we're actually calling ICE on victims. That's exactly what we're doing. And I think our city should be leading by example. And I was really not only sad but outraged. So, what did I do? I partnered with nonprofits. I spoke to the State Attorney, and I've been very, very involved in this subject. Why? Because Coral Gables has one of the biggest coastlines, and we need to protect our residents, and we need to protect our constituents. Sadly to say, we are the third... We are number three in human trafficking in the nation, guys. We also are number three in Florida. Needless to say, 88 percent of human trafficking happens to women. So that being said, I'll go ahead and start moving on to item two. Number one is a priority. F-2 is a priority that we should be setting as a Commission. I think this is something that's very easy to vote on. This is something we should not be divided about. This is something that does not measure party lines. That is not about politics. This is about unity. This is about uniting for the voices that are most vulnerable in our community. So that being said, I will move to the next item, item F-4, which the City Attorney went ahead and read it on the record. If I could please, in my expert testimony, if you could please come up, state your name and what organization you belong to. Thank you very much for being here.

Dr. Glenda Perez: Thank you. Good morning. I'm pleased to be here today with all of you and sharing our experiences and our recommendations. My name is Dr. Glenda Perez. I am VP for Miami-Dade Sexual Assault Response Initiative. That is our nonprofit. We are nurses. We're mothers. I actually rode here on a raft in 1994, so I am an immigrant. And I want to resonate the Mayor's previous comment that we do live in the greatest country on the face of the earth, right, where we have the opportunity to realize those dreams that we have as children and make them come true. For me, education has been one of the things that allowed me to give my family and my two daughters the realization of that American dream. And so why I'm here before you today is to encourage you to support, right, something that only makes sense, and that is to strengthen the emergency and healthcare services response to sexual violent crimes in our community to ensure that we recognize not only that these issues happen in the country or in the world, but right here in our community in Coral Gables, right? And these circumstances look different depending on where we are, but there is no socioeconomic strata that is protected against these. There is no race or gender. Everyone is affected in one way or another. And we know being part of this wonderful melting pot that is South Florida is a strength and it's a blessing, but it also brings many specific challenges that we have to address head on. So, I am pleased to see that we are beginning

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to thread on these waters and be intentional about our response to the challenges we face. We want to make sure that we are giving our first responders the tools they need to be able to respond to these circumstances in a meaningful way, that they are operating from a place that is research-based and evidence-based, that our best practices that have been proven to ensure not only that we respond in a trauma-informed manner, but rather that we can proactively prevent this continuing to happen in our community. So, I welcome you, strongly encourage you to support these items so that our response can be more robust in Coral Gables.

Mayor Lago: Thank you. Good morning.

Ms. Betancourt: Good morning. How are you, Commissioner and Mayor? My name is Maria V. Betancourt. I'm the Executive Director of Miami-Dade Sexual Assault Response Initiative. I'm here today, sick and all, to strongly support Melissa Castro. This is super important. When we see a lot of our initiatives and our directives, they are initiated and directed not towards health care, but towards our law enforcement, our legal, and that is where the gap lies. The gap lies in where we train our first responders, our pre-hospital. There is no mandate for first responders to get training for domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault. When you look at what we train our police officers, we have a gap. We have a disparity. So that Blue Campaign was not created for health care workers. We work under different circumstances. We work under HIPAA, and we work with patients and victims. We are not here to investigate, nor are we here to prosecute. We're here for the victims, because we hear a lot about the actual traffickers, about sexual assault. We don't hear about the victims. We're about the victims, and we're about our health care workers. And we're asking this Commission to pass this, because there is nothing like it. And we understand. We're never saying that our first responders, our firefighters, our police, they're doing the best that they can. But we always work from the position of what we understand and what we know. And when you speak with first responders, well, we call the police. But here's the thing. We are health care workers. We don't call the police on victims. We don't call the police without somebody saying, yes, we would like the police to be involved. Okay? Because it's about autonomy. And as a woman, as a Hispanic woman, I know how important that is. I'm an ER nurse. I'm married to a first responder, and I understand these things. Okay? So, it's not that we're asking for you to do anything more. We're just asking you to give your firefighters the same tools we give our law enforcement. Understand that we are two different entities. And what pre-hospital you have, and maybe that contact. 24 percent of your sexual assaults aren't even reported. The ones that are reported, reported to law enforcement for X, Y, Z reason, because we're living in a time that we're handing out numbers and telling people to call ICE on human trafficking victims. You have to understand that there's going to be that pushback. But sometimes firefighter shows up somebody that is in the healthcare field and you will feel more, you'll feel more responsive and you may open up and say things that you would not say. We still love our law enforcement. And there's always a role and a definition, but the role and definition for them is not the same as for a healthcare worker.

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Mayor Lago: Thank you very much.

Commissioner Castro: Mari, thank you so much for expressing your expert testimony as, as well as Glenda. Is there anything else you would like to say?

Ms. Betancourt: If there's any questions.

Commissioner Castro: Does the Commission have any questions? No. Okay. Well, I'm going to tell you how this is going to play out. What's going to happen right after your testimony is that the city would probably put up a presentation that would portray that they feel that there's no gap in all our firefighters and that they're trained paramedics and that they don't need this because they're already trained. Right. However, in my opinion, I don't think a little more to go ahead and train them on specifics of human trafficking is sufficient. So, do you have anything to say about that?

Ms. Betancourt: It is not, we're not condemning the fire department. We want to work with you. We want to help you and give you those tools. Okay. Most of your money is allocated towards law enforcement, as well as all of your grants and funding for teaching. When we say teaching for the first responders, we have a curriculum for it because it didn't exist. I know because I spent probably a year in something looking for one because it's easier to just take something as somebody else has. Okay.

Commissioner Castro: So the nonprofit you guys represent, I'm not sure if it's the same nonprofit with that, go ahead and help the city maybe acquire funding, state funding or other methods and where we don't have to engage in getting into our general fund or whatever the case is.

Ms. Betancourt: Yes.

Dr. Glenda Perez: We do is strongly supported by federal grants. And so, we have a variety of sources for funding, and we stand before you because we are healthcare professionals and we understand where the gaps lie. I see patients all the time coming back and being readmitted time and time again for the same things in the emergency room that we clearly understand to be red flags of human trafficking. And we clearly understand to be signs of abuse. And quite frankly, it is disheartening to see that when we say something and we identify it, right, nothing really happens after that because the resources within our community sadly have been fragmented, which means a lot of victims and survivors are falling through the cracks. We have a real opportunity to set up a national model within our community that other communities can also implement that makes sense, that is practical, that works. And I think it's important to make a decision to lead on this issue and not fall behind that we've been doing for a long time. Our efforts need to be collaborative. We cannot continue to operate as silos where everyone is in their own little box and cave and only wants to solve one problem at a time. Unfortunately, these issues are dynamic. They're robust. The same survivor that was a sexual assault survivor yesterday, today could be a trafficking victim

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again. And so, we understand how it intersects, for example, with the foster care system, how many of our youths that are at risk in our community fall prey to predators that specifically capitalize on their vulnerabilities. This is the big problem. This is something that we have to address, you know, whether we want to be the one to lead on it or not. It's something that affects us. These victims are not a number on a piece of paper. There are friends, there are daughters, there are sisters, there are wives that we see in those emergency rooms that we get the calls from in a panic. And so, we want to make sure that you understand the gravity of standing for something as significant and as unifying as this is where, where we all know someone in our lives that has gone through something as horrible as a sexual assault or...

Ms. Betancourt: And we want you to understand something, which is very interesting. And if you think about this, if you are a human trafficker, you are not going to let the police officer into your house, but you know who you will let in? You'll let in fire rescue because they're there to help. They're there to patch up your victims and you're going in and they're seeing things, but who exactly are you going to report that to? So that training and that level of like somebody you can reach out to and say, listen, I saw this, see something, say something, but who are you seeing and saying something to the blue campaign? Local always helps because somebody can put hands on and can help you walk it through.

Commissioner Castro: I want to put something into perspective. And that is if we're really trying to do something more and bigger about this, calling ICE on a victim. Okay. And deporting the victim. Now, how are we solving this by the root? Now, if we're deporting the victim, how is it that we're actually catching the person who's human trafficking these women. So, if now we don't have someone testifying against the actual people that are human trafficking, guess what's happening next. They're finding other women to human traffic. And that's unacceptable, especially in this city, in this city that we love so much. So once again, thank you for your testimony. This is not about politics. This is not about parties. This is about protecting the voices that are most vulnerable. And I really hope I can have the support of this Commission. And there's no such thing as there's no gap in the system. We could always do more, especially for those underage girls that are being human trafficked.

Mayor Lago: Thank you very much. Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor.

Commissioner Castro: Can you, can you give, I'm so sorry. Can you give one of those cards to each of the...

Mayor Lago: Will you give it to the Clerk? Thank you very much. And he'll get, he'll pass them out.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Through the Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Yes. I just want to -- I would like to hear public comment. Can we hear what public comment do we have?

City Clerk Urquia: Yes, sir. Yes.

Mayor Lago: Will you mind, will you mind sitting down and you can give those. Thank you very much.

City Clerk Urquia: First speaker, Maria Cruz.

Mrs. Cruz: This is Maria Cruz. 1447 Miller Road, 305-323-2154. This is a topic that of course in the City of Coral Gables, we usually do not like to. to show that we're like everybody else. When we talk about the City of Coral Gables, we will usually assume that because we're well-off, because we have nice homes, because, you know, those things don't happen here. Well, they do happen here. All you have to do is drive around late at night and I'm not talking about the motels on 8th. I'm talking about US 1 near my house. You see people there that obviously need help, that obviously are doing things that they shouldn't be doing, that who knows who puts them there. But, you know, once again, scandal is not a good word in Coral Gables. And I'm glad that Commissioner Castro already pointed out, I know what's going to happen. I can predict. I don't have a, what is that, a ball that I can look. I can tell you. She brought up the topic. It will be, it won't be a good topic for this Commission to go with. And then a few months from now, we will have a new idea, and somebody will bring up exactly what she proposed and it'll be great. Because the issue has been, you know, if she brings it up, we don't need to address it because we don't know. Now, as a mother of three daughters and two granddaughters, I tell you that our kids, our children are in danger. Because the same way as kids from other countries get trafficked, ours can get trafficked too. And if you remember, not long ago, I mean a few years back, we have people that disappeared and then they were found someplace dead. Okay, it happens everywhere. All you need is a young, good-looking girl walking around and something could happen, okay. And we need to open our eyes and forget the smoking mirrors and face reality. We need to get involved because it is there and we cannot avoid looking at it. And it's not just the motels in South USA. It's all over the city that you see what's going on and I'm glad that the people in the health field see it because you know what? They are the first line of defense. They see it. They're taken there and something needs to happen after that.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk Urquia: Tony Diaz.

Mr. Diaz: Hey everybody, how are you? It's a pleasure to be here today. I see why they call it the City Beautiful. Nothing but beautiful people in this room. Really good-looking Commissioners here. I think this is common sense for the City of Coral Gables. I think Coral Gables has always led by example. I'm running right now for District 113, your neighbors over in Miami and we always look up to you guys because the way you train and the way your personnel executes is just, it's what public administration is meant to be. Seldom is there a conversation about the police in Coral Gables without somebody saying, remember they're the ones that everybody's trained on the defibrillator. Everybody has one in their car. Just great differentiating factors like those make the City Beautiful great. I think this is just one more way to do that and if we want to look at it more selfishly because I have lived here my whole life and I'm familiar with the 8th Street Corridor because I go to the McDonald's on 42nd and 8th and then my parents live on 2800 and Alhambra so I'll go down that road a lot. We can stop the behavior in that corridor if we just lengthen the recidivism pipeline with these offenders. If we report them, if we make them go through the programs like this training would help them go through, we can stop them from getting out there and placing that pressure on the business between Coral Gables and Miami I think would make that 8th Street area better and would help with the future plans you have to redevelop the area and take out some of the blights there are with those motels. So, I really think it'd be great if you supported this resolution. I think I'm hoping to go to Tallahassee to help bring some funding down for that but even if I don't, there's a lot of great representatives right now in Tallahassee who I'm sure we could reach out to and they'd be willing to get us some funding because it'd be below the city honestly for us not to get more training. More training is always what's made the City Beautiful great and I think it's just one more item we have that can make Coral Gables an example for the rest of the county and while I'm here because I don't want to waste your time a second time, definitely would be great if we could protect the UDB and keep it from expanding. I think Coral Gables is once again an example of great public planning, public administration planning and expanding needlessly isn't going to lead us to solve many of the problems we have. So, thank you so much.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk Urquia: That's it Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lago: All right, perfect. Mr. Manager, staff.

City Manager Iglesias: Mayor, we have a presentation by Police and Fire concerning the F-2 and F-4 and the response and the training that our Fire Department and police have and what they provide every day.

Mayor Lago: Chief, good morning. Well, good afternoon.

Chief Hudak: Morning sir. Before Fire gets into it, I just need to clarify something because I understand there's a lot of misunderstanding about what we can and cannot do within the police department. I know the 287, we've had this conversation with this dais as before about having to sign that which I signed as well as it goes in with Statute 908 and specifically in 908 and I know there's a lot of information out there under Section 8. It reads in the law, this section does not apply to any alien unlawfully present in the United States if he or she has been a necessary witness, victim of a crime of domestic violence, rape, sexual exploitation, sexual assault, murder, manslaughter, assault battery, human trafficking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, involuntary servitude, fraud and foreign labor contracting, blackmail, extortion or witness tampering. In other words, if they are a witness or a victim of any of those cases, I am not allowed by law nor is your police department to notify ICE. As the Commissioner asked me earlier this week, I don't know where that card came from, I don't know what that number is, but we will not, your Police Department does not notify ICE if somebody is a victim of human trafficking, domestic violence or anything else like that. We have had cases this year that have risen to that level and we have not contacted them. As far as the communication between Police and Fire, we are, our 911 center is run by the Police Department, the same people that handle the police calls handle the fire calls with the exception of very few times do we not respond to medical emergencies. That's why this body gave every one of the police officers an AED, if it's a heart attack, rescue's running and we're going as well. So, we are all there. I'm not saying whether we should or should not do this, but I just want to clarify that we are not turning over people to ICE. I can talk to the other issues that we work with the State Attorney's office after the Fire Chief.

Mayor Lago: Thank you.

Chief de la Rosa: So to segue off of the Police Chief, what he just stated. I can say that our medical protocols that I'll discuss here in a few minutes have specific numbers that we use, whether it's for elder abuse or if it's for human trafficking or vulnerable population abuse or mistreatment. And those numbers are either with the Department of Children's and Family or elderlings, which is a Alliance for the Aging. So, I'm not aware of any other number as the chief just stated. So, can we go to my presentation, please? Next slide. So, to begin and to give a 3000-foot level of what we participate, whether it's involving any actionable information or intelligence gathering, whether it's human trafficking, whether it is terrorist threats or areas of concern or whether it is site security for major events such as the Super Bowl or FIFA or anything like that. Police and Fire Command Staff attend regional domestic security task force meetings. Fire Command is part of the urban area security working group as well as the fire officers of Miami-Dade. Within those groups, intelligence is shared. Information is afforded and education with regards to all topics, including human trafficking. Our folks will be part of certain specific committees that drill down, whether that is law enforcement, mass care, public health, communications, special response, intelligence or community risk reduction to mention a few. We are the recipients of information that is brought

to us through a fusion center. A fusion center is a complex multi-dimensional group that searches through all actionable data, whether it's cyber, whether it's intelligence through the internet or groups that are talking or reports that they receive from our alphabet agencies, whether it's DHS, FBI, FDLE. That information is then shared with first responders. That that has specific law enforcement functions or security functions will only goes to law enforcement, not necessarily to fire. We are participating in the Miami-Dade Office of Emergency Management Multi-Area Command Group for FIFA. And I will be representing as a state coordinator for fire rescue resources. So, with regards to the training that our paramedics receive as part of the Florida training requirements and framework included in that education and continuing education is 150 hours of patient assessment training, which includes abuse, neglect, exploitation and sexual assault victims. Now that's not to say that the entire 150 hours are dedicated to that subject, but all of these areas, whether it's a sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking are a component of the scene assessment that we have, how our interaction with our patient is, what is our finding from our patient's interactions. Recognition and trauma-informed care focus. What that means is, is that once our paramedics identify that a victim is either the subject of human trafficking or sexual abuse, then the manner in which we question that patient, where we question that patient, what words we use or don't use, takes into account their psychological impact from the emergency that they're under. It provides for the understanding of Florida Statutes. It recognizes the coordination and importance to coordinate with law enforcement, and it demonstrates appropriate scene management for patients with special needs. Those patients include domestic partner abuse, elder and child abuse, sexual assault, identifying your typical abuser profile, and identifying the profile of an at-risk individual. We are part of what's called a common medical protocol. So, the Fire Departments within Miami-Dade County participate in one common medical protocol. So, what I'm discussing or presenting here is the same for departments including Miami Beach, Miami, Hialeah, just to name a few. Our medical protocols are reviewed and approved by our Fire Department Medical Director. He's a certified emergency department physician as well as a professor. Our paramedics receive training annually on all our medical protocols, which include the protocols that are specific to either vulnerable population or sexual assault. Those protocols, we participate in an annual examination. They are processed and examined again with consideration for rescue assignment, and all that information is also part of our promotional process. The department does have a specific protocol for abuse, neglect, exploited, and vulnerable populations. That protocol, and I'll restate this, okay, it is a specific protocol that identifies the reporting mandates based on state statute 415. It is not a standalone protocol. It is a protocol that goes along with the assessment or the treatment of the medical emergency or traumatic emergency that that patient is experiencing. It identifies -- we have protocols that work in conjunction with this that identify the need to immediately treat life-threatening situations. It speaks on physical exam and treatment, and then the supportive care. So, they all work in conjunction. It is not a standalone protocol that identifies or speaks on everything that needs to be done with that patient,

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but it works in conjunction with all our other medical protocols and procedures. With that, we also have a protocol for sexual assault victims. The reason that protocol is there is because of the idiosyncrasies that goes with that, with those emergencies, whether it is the psychological trauma, as I stated before, trauma-focused communication, or the evidence preservation that needs to be part of that protocol, whether it's coaching the patient or what our responders do on scene. So, behavior indicators that when we approach on scene, flag or give us a reason for concern or for further scrutiny. As it was stated before, when we go on a call, it is not a call that they're identifying that there's human trafficking or sexual abuse. So repeated emergencies or incidents to the same location begin to draw a flag, whether we're talking about human trafficking or sexual abuse, but a very common one in our community that raises to the level where a concern or incident is flagged is elderly folks that live by themselves and are continuously showing signs that they're unable to care for themselves. And those frequent calls by either police or fire personnel start to flag that there's an issue with these patients or a special need that needs to be addressed with these patients. The interactions with others in the home or the business and how that patient interacts begin to raise flags for us. The physical signs upon examination, the patient's response to our questioning, the fearful behavior or lack of identification of that victim to us, or evidence of labor or sexual exploitation are all flags that are raised during our scene assessment or while we're on that scene. The protocol itself involves environmental scanning. So what that means, and I don't really want to get into particulars because there's issues there that we'd rather not share with everybody, is how our paramedics assess that scene and what clues are they taking from the environment that they're in, whether it's a home or a business that starts to either raise flags or question, are we getting the big picture on these calls? The patient's management and protection of their privacy, trauma-informed communications, as I stated earlier, the scene management and crowd control, what we say around our patients when there's other people around, we try to isolate our patients, especially if there is protected medical information that we are asking on. We follow our specific protocols for the vulnerable population, and our documentation is objective and thorough. As I stated before, our specific protocols work in conjunction. So, the universal assessment treatment of life and injuries always comes first. With these patients that we suspect are victims, we explain our procedures and obtain consent prior to treating our patients. We transport to appropriate facilities. They're always transported by our rescues. And we notify police, if not already on scene, of any of these suspicious, like human trafficking because of our environmental scan. So, a good example of that is police have an integrated response with us on most of our calls. However, we may go to a scene where it gets dispatched through the 911 questioning for a slip and fall. Well, that's a low acuity call that police may not respond with us. But as a result of either our assessment with our patient or our environmental scan, police may be alerted to that scene. We use specific radio communications. So, for example, we'll never use the word sexual assault or rape on a radio, okay, or in public. And we avoid one-on-one male caregivers if we're in the presence of a female victim. Whether, so we either try to incorporate a female paramedic on that call. And if there's not one

immediately available while we're addressing that patient, then we'll lean on our law enforcement folks to provide a female presence during our physical examination and care of that patient. Some of our best practices. As the Chief mentioned before, we have a common public safety answering point, our 911. Usually, that is the first place that starts to flag frequent calls, for instance, to a specific location, whether it's a business or a resident. We have that integrated response with our police officers that they go on the majority of our calls. We use a unified command intelligence meetings during major events or significant trends throughout Miami-Dade. So, as we approach Moda and we approach Carnival on the Mile, Police and Fire will have meetings together where our plans are reviewed and any actual intelligence that we've received either through our end or through law enforcement is shared as precautions. We coordinate with the Police Department on frequent emergencies or suspected abuse. As I mentioned before, we use the Florida Abuse Hotline as our direct contact for these patients. We also have a number for elderly patients, as I mentioned before, that are either unable to be cared or we recognize that there's neglect or abuse. We are mandated by state statute to complete the hotline form and document it in our patient care reports. EMS must report the incidents that are in 415 even though police or the hospital may be involved as well. And there is mandatory requirements for minors. And reports that are unlivable or self-neglect conditions when appropriate, mainly with our elderly, is mentioned as well or shared. So, what do we do to prepare for major events? During major event planning, the Fire Department will assess our operational response, readiness, training, and prevention. So, as we approach Moda, we approach Carnival, our operational protocols, whether it's mass casualty incidents, our incident command, our site planning, all of that is reviewed. Firefighters will receive training and updates through roll call announcements, situational reports, and real-time information. Our personnel are trained or assigned through our training portal courses on awareness for human trafficking. I put that because that was the subject matter that we're presenting here today. But we also receive training through that portal for mass casualty, for command training, and other related either medical or fire training that we use that portal or engage that portal for. Our online courses, there's about 240 in that library. They're all accredited. And the courses contents that reinforces the paramedic training and reporting criteria as previously mentioned are all part of our common protocol and paramedic training. The courses that our paramedics are receiving currently for human trafficking awareness are the same ones that Miami Beach Fire Rescue, for instance, are using in their preparations. So, we have unified command briefing. We partner with agencies for situational awareness and information sharing. We've participated in major event tabletop trainings with FIFA in preparation for the G20 2026 to G20 Miami and other scheduled large events. So, in summary, our paramedics have training and recognition in the management of vulnerable and/or exploited victims. The Coral Gables Fire Department utilizes a common protocol for the assessment, managing and reporting criteria of abuse, neglect, and exploited and vulnerable populations. And that includes sexual assault, Coral Gables Fire is providing training awareness to our paramedics that reinforce our protocols and reporting criteria. Gables uses a joint PSAP for

911 center that identifies potential instances of vulnerable or exploited victims. We use an incorporated response with our police partners. It collaborates with the police department in case management and information sharing. And the department participates in regional security groups that provide for critical information and potential threats to vulnerable or exploited victims throughout our region. And that summarizes my presentation, ladies and gentlemen.

Mayor Lago: Thank you, Chief. Chief Hudak.

Chief Hudak: So as mentioned earlier, the human trafficking is handled on a statewide level as come up now. And now more importantly, the State Attorney Katherine Rundle has had a human trafficking task force for years of which your Police Department has been a part of to the point where the person who is the executive director or the executive officer of this countywide task force is a retired Coral Gables Police Sergeant. We also have a detective that's assigned to it. We have actively worked alongside all of those detectives from all the different jurisdictions. Last year, that task force handled about 20 cases. I'm sorry, investigated 20 cases and had operations throughout all of Miami-Dade County. Approximately 20 of those cases were investigated within the task force, some by our detectives. In the City of Coral Gables itself, we have had two of those operations resulting in arrests, search warrants, and identification of trafficked people, as well as subjects that were actually trafficking them. The press conference that the State Attorney General had was in deference to funding specifically to that task force for the upcoming FIFA World Cup events. Now, because of previous issues, going back to the Super Bowls and things like that, there is a coordinated silo breaking type of theory that the State Attorney herself has. So, our people from SALT, as we know, right, SALT, they're brought in. There is a building, an undisclosed building in Miami-Dade County that runs the human trafficking side that provides assistance for any of those people that are identified. The State Attorney's goal, your Police Chief's goal is not to deport anybody like that. We understand that. We are not looking to take them off the street. We're looking to get them assistance like everything else our city does with the homeless population. The second part of that is we are going after the Johns. We are number three behind New York and Texas and us. And we know because of the intelligence that we have within the police departments throughout the country that they're bringing these women here. When I tell you the atrocities that I've seen and the pictures that I've seen and what these vile humans do to these poor women, it would turn your stomach. So, we have been committed to that. The money again, the money that the Attorney General sent is specifically for that. There is going to be a large task force of officers, ours included, that are going to be attacking the human trafficking that is coming this way from around the world. To the Commissioner's point, how do we notify them? There are, and if we go into some of our businesses, some of our hotels, there are human trafficking posters. The latest one coming up is all about shut out human trafficking. It is specifically geared toward the upcoming FIFA event. This was put out the other day. The numbers are different. There's a QR code. So, you will see these in backstage areas around hotels where we're trying to get people to identify things

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that they have seen. Attorney General Upmeyer has also put out the report of crime. I don't believe it's the same number, which has me thinking about that because I'm not smart enough to get the Florida safe numbers on our phone, right? But these are things that we have started to put out. Part of those monies that were allocated the other day are going to go toward the human trafficking task force. It is going to be a joint operation. As the Chief talked about, and I can't reiterate enough, your police department responds on every overdose. Just thinking about that, the reason why we respond to overdoses is not to penalize the person that's in a medical emergency is to try and backtrack where the drugs came from. So, we send our narcotics people after the fact to try and find out and stem the tide of fentanyl overdoses that we've seen. So, we are used to that. The police department, police officers also get State of Florida training. And to be honest with you, it's not very much, but they also retrain every year or every two years, I believe it is, we're doing online for recognizing domestic violence. That's those kinds of issues. The human trafficking side has put in that as well. So, is it on the tip of everybody's tongue? Not necessarily, but is it in the forefront of every officer's and firefighter's mind? Absolutely. You know, we are dealing with unique times, whether it be somebody working at the house that's worried about it. But again, I can't state enough. The propaganda about who's getting deported throughout this country or the statements are huge. I can only go by the law. As I've told this body before, for Statute 908, we are not allowed to notify ICE. Now, that being said, if the State Attorney's office has an operation, which we have done in this city, we have had ICE agents embedded, not to go after the victims, to identify the traffickers. And those are the kind of cases that if we don't have enough, and I've told you this, if we don't have enough to arrest that trafficker and they are deportable, why would we not turn them over to ICE? That's the traffickers. The victims are the victims. That doesn't make a difference where you were born or where you came from. That's pretty much in a nutshell how we've addressed the issue. Again, as you've heard me say this, we are going to have all hands on deck for the better part of 30 days between crowd control issues coming in, but we are not losing sight of what we are going to do with our human trafficking side. To the point of you all know we have a Financial Crimes Task Force. That's also the fiduciary responsibilities out of Coral Gables, but they're going to be focused on the monies that are coming in from human trafficking during that time period as well. So, it is going to be a concentrated effort.

Mayor Lago: Thank you, Chief. Go ahead, Commissioner.

Commissioner Castro: Most of the Commissioners here have their minds made up already before this item even came up, and that's really sad. I understand the City Manager, without even talking to me, opposed my resolution before even me even saying anything about it, just by reading the language. And I also understand that the City Manager is your boss. I also understand the City Manager is the police's boss. So whatever directive he gives you, I understand you need to comply with. However, I am asking for stronger training for firefighters. And from the presentation that you gave, it wasn't very reflective on human trafficking. You mentioned human trafficking once.

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I went through training protocols. It was just a lot, a lot of things. It was like a word salad trying to confuse me a little. Before I continue talking, I want to be thankful because we do have a wonderful force, police and fire, and in no means is this meaning to diminish your work, which I think you guys are exceptional. But do I think we can improve? Absolutely. Do I think there's room for improvement? 100 percent. So, I don't want you to take this personally because you guys are outstanding, okay? The other thing is there is no fiscal impact to the training that I am proposing to this department, okay? And the other thing is we should not be implementing this on special events. Do you think this is what our taxpayers are accepting to? Should we not have year-round training specifically targeting human trafficking, especially when I'm offering you solutions, where I can offer you state funding that is more easy, okay? There is never enough to say this is enough training, especially for something that is invoking into our community so deeply. I know you spoke about the migrants, and we have the biggest coastline here in Coral Gables. So, for you to say we have sufficient and there's no gap, I strongly have to disagree with that. Now, what you're trying to tell me is that we won't benefit from additional funding. I would, once again, want to call Marivi, that she's an expert on this. And really, do you feel that after this presentation, there is no room for improvement? And I'm calling you because this is still my item. So, when maybe the Chief steps aside, you can approach the podium.

Chief de la Rosa: So, through the Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Yes sir.

Chief de la Rosa: If you don't mind, I just want to clarify one statement that you made. So, human trafficking is part of our all-encompassing medical and trauma protocols. This falls under the protocol that I mentioned before, which was vulnerable and community services to the vulnerable population, which is human trafficking, amongst all the other vulnerable population that I've identified, whether it's children, the elderly, sexual abuse, was another protocol that I mentioned. Those protocols, as I stated in my presentation, are presented and tested on an annual basis. They are, again, presented and tested under consideration for rescue assignment, which is our advanced life support units, and as part of our promotional content of information that has to be, they have to read and they're going to be tested on. Human trafficking right now for special events is, as the Chief stated, on everybody's forefront with the upcoming major event. So, I just point that as a clarification that to my residents, human trafficking and all vulnerable population protocols are reviewed on an annual basis. The awareness that we're presenting currently towards human trafficking, as well as mass casualty training, as well as active shooter, as well as command training, are all commensurate with a major event, whether it's a Super Bowl or FIFA. So, it is in conjunction with. But as you mentioned, our taxpayers, our medical protocols and our fire department's standard operating procedures are constantly evaluated and trained on. And I just want to make sure I'm very specific on that.

Mayor Lago: Thank you, Chief. But if I may, Commissioner, we've been going back and forth. Let's allow some of the Commission to get a little word in here. Please sit down, I don't want. Thank you very much. First and foremost, I just have a few questions to ask you. To the Chiefs, all three of you. I just want to be very clear because the word word salad was used, and I think it's important. I see a lot of word salad on training and training and training and training. I have these two documents here, Common EMS Protocols. This says, Coral Gables, Hialeah, Miami, Miami Beach, and Key Biscayne. The protocols are delineated here very clearly, correct?

Chief de la Rosa: Correct.

Mayor Lago: These are protocols. Do we train on these protocols every day, every week, every month, once a year, once every 10 years? We're constantly training on this, correct?

Chief de la Rosa: They are trained on and we participate in a protocol test annually, as I just stated. Then again, when you're assigned to, when you're being considered for an assignment to rescue, and then again, as the reading content for promotional opportunities.

Mayor Lago: So let me just ask you a question again. I think using human trafficking as a political ploy is ridiculous and it's disgusting. So, I just want to understand something, because I'm not an EMS expert, I'm not a firefighter, I'm not a police officer. When you, when you, when you, train on a yearly basis, okay, and you bring in existing staff and new staff, and you have a conversation about human trafficking, and you find out new information from professionals that are the ones that write these protocols and then provide it to us. For example, the physician that we have on staff, who is our head medical director, correct?

Chief de la Rosa: He's a doctor, yes, director.

Mayor Lago: So, what happens is that we update these protocols, correct? And we say there's a new key target, there's a new, you know, way of attracting young women or young men, we update this, right? We don't continue to keep our old protocols in place. And this is continuously, it's an organic document that's evolving, correct? To better benefit the community.

Chief de la Rosa: Yes, sir. Hence why I presented at the beginning, it is very important and an objective of ours to participate in regional task forces, in local working groups, whether they're security or fire rescue, because medical protocols, actionable intelligence, and all that information will push to change the manner in which we conduct our systems.

Mayor Lago: Okay, so I want to just show you two documents that I read through that are pretty comprehensive. Again, I'm not a human trafficking professional or a person who is, I'm not a professional, like these young ladies that came up and spoke who are medical professionals. That's not what I do for a living. Okay, what is a vector solutions manual here?

Chief de la Rosa: So I was asked to provide the training curriculum for human trafficking that we are disseminating currently and we'll be disseminating to our paramedics throughout the time approaching FIFA. Those are the course curriculums, as I was asked to provide for the online training that our paramedics are taking currently or will be taking as part of our training plan moving towards FIFA. Could I have this up on the camera, please? Vector solutions is the software or the training portal that we contract with. That training portal allows us to put our protocols on there, our standard operating procedures. Anything, whether it's a new device, drug information, new medication or medication review that we want to provide, anything that's a training aspect that's not hands-on that can be delivered through an online portal, it is included in the vector solutions or training protocol.

Mayor Lago: And Chief, because I've never, and I'm sorry.

Chief de la Rosa: That's all right.

Mayor Lago: Finish up, finish up. I don't want to put words in your mouth.

Chief de la Rosa: So, I was just going to say. These two courses are part of their 200 and something odd courses that they offer through their training libraries that are accredited.

Mayor Lago: And what is the requirement of your team, of everyone who's a firefighter?

Chief de la Rosa: So everyone will be assigned this training. They have to complete it. And we'll get a report monthly as to the level of those that are still needing to complete that training.

Mayor Lago: And as this document evolves every year, it gets updated, correct? And then you do new things or maybe not this document, but our standards and protocols, correct?

Chief de la Rosa: Or we use other aspects that are in that library for training, whether it's fire, EMS, ISO criterion to meet our ISO mandates. It's an all-encompassing global training solution that we have.

Mayor Lago: I think the gentleman who came up and spoke to you in public comment made a comment that I think is always the standard that Nicole gave us. Our requirements, for example, for police officers, requirement of two years of higher learning, correct? Requirements of firefighters. You have to have certain standards, and you have to have gotten certain certificates, for example, EMS, that is not required, for example, by Miami-Dade County, correct?

Chief de la Rosa: Correct.

Mayor Lago: Correct me if I'm wrong. So, we have the highest standards already. That's why people come here to cherry pick some of our employees. And it's happened in the past, okay? And

I'm happy to see that we're pretty much the fire department and the police department at full capacity. I think maybe we're, how many short? Would you say the chief right now? Yes.

Chief Hudak: I can let you know exactly.

Mayor Lago: I have that with me. Just want to put it on the record. I know that obviously the fire department is always stacked and people are waiting in the wings.

Chief Hudak: Give me one second.

Mayor Lago: Don't worry, sir. Take your time.

City Manager Iglesias: Through the Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Yes, sir.

City Manager Iglesias: All our firefighters are paramedics.

Mayor Lago: All our firefighters are paramedics, which I don't think any other city, correct me if I'm wrong, can say that, correct?

Chief de la Rosa: I believe in Miami-Dade County, we're the only department that requires you to be a state certified paramedic upon the job offer.

Chief Hudak: We currently have four total vacancies. We have five cases in background, 18 in the academy, and two that are awaiting the next academy.

Mayor Lago: Thank you. So, I want to talk about, you know, again, listen. We're invested in the fire department and the police department in providing the best services. I want to talk about a little bit about, because I know that this is, again, something that always comes around during FIFA but all the elected officials want to line up and take pictures because obviously when we talk about human trafficking, it gets a lot of clicks, okay? Mr. Clerk, Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk Urquia: Yes, sir.

Mayor Lago: Can we put on my presentation? So, I want to bring back a little bit of go down memory lane. So, for items F-2 and F-4, and the Chief, please step in whenever you'd like because you were part of this, okay? I introduced in 2016, 10 years ago, a radical new zoning change which outlawed hourly motels in the City of Coral Gables. I received, to say that I received immense heat from that is an understatement from the motel owners both in the City of Coral Gables and in the City of Miami. The individual who then ran my campaign was a gentleman by the name of Steve Marin who came to me and introduced me to the motel owners who lobbied me incessantly to not pass this legislation. I passed it anyways. We were the first, that I'm aware of, city in the state of

Florida to ban hourly motels. I then went to the City of Miami, and I'm going to backtrack to the City of Miami. I personally went to the City of Miami, and I went to the city of Miami-Dade County to get this legislation passed. We were able to get some sort of iteration, but it wasn't really that as effective as I wanted to. I ended up taking measures into my own hand and going to Tallahassee and meeting with the Governor and the Governor made it a state mandate. Some cities have been able to circumvent it by doing two hours or three hours instead of hourly. Again, these are individuals that, again, they only care about is money, the bottom line. You're reading blogs that I went to the City of Miami in December to support Commissioner Rosado who was putting money in the budget which I wholeheartedly agree they should. They should buy up all those properties, and they could do something with them. What I would love to see them do is, for example, I sit on the board and I've been helping for over five years Glory House which is another resource here like Lotus House. And what we do there, I give a lot of charitable donations to Glory House. I attend their gala, I help emcee the gala, I'm a sponsor of the gala. What they do is they take women off the streets and they house women. So, the city, through the leadership of the Chief, the Manager, myself, and the Commissioners that were on the Commission in 2016, I wrote that legislation. Can we have the next slide? I'm very proud of that legislation. It stopped hourly motels here in the city. Now, what do we do further? And I want the Chief to talk a little bit about it. I went on overnight raids to see this myself. I've gone on over a dozen with the City of Coral Gables, City of Miami, Kathy Fernandez Rundle's department, Doral, Hialeah. It was a joint enforcement effort. I've gone on 12 where we've done overnight raids. I've seen it all. What the Chief says he's seen, I've seen the same thing. I even mentioned it in the City of Miami. So, I am encouraging the City of Miami, use funding to buy these motels and take them offline. And why not build a halfway house for the women? Instead of saying that, the blogs that many of you are supported by end up thrashing me and making up another ridiculous story, which is absolute insanity. But it is what it is. It doesn't matter. Chief, will you talk a little bit about the joint enforcement task force? Another thing that I'm very proud of, a piece of legislation that I passed with the help of the Chief and the Manager, was a piece of legislation that allows the City of Coral Gables, it's the first of its kind that I'm aware of. I haven't seen it. You can educate me if maybe people are doing it now, but at that point they didn't do it. Where the City of Coral Gables can go 100 feet into the City of Miami and arrest pimps, arrest drug dealers. I've seen them with my own eyes. Residents have called me in North Gables. I've gone there 11, 12 o'clock at night. I've seen them. That's where we worked on this legislation. And what they would do is they would come to the City of Coral Gables side. When the police would show up, they would see them coming. They would run to the other side where the motels were. For now, we can go into the motels and we can literally go in there. We see somebody who's taking advantage, who's being trafficked. We saw people being beaten on the street there. So, to make a long story short, this legislation, nobody had done this before, and we did it here in the city. Will you give a little bit of background of what that is?

Chief Hudak: So, there are, within the agencies, or the police agencies, there's what we call a mutual MOU, mutual memorandum of understanding. These are legal documents that give us cross-jurisdiction on many issues outside. Specifically, the way it was written with the City of Miami is that our jurisdictional boundary stops at the double yellow line along 8th Street and along Douglas Road. This legislation that came from this body through the Mayor, or the Commissioner at the time.

Mayor Lago: Yeah, I've sponsored it.

Chief Hudak: Right. So, it came through and was approved by this body and then also approved by the City of Miami. So, our jurisdiction actually goes to the north side and to the west side, or the east side, if you will, of Douglas Road by agreement with the two entities. So, we were able to do that. It kind of stopped there. We talked with the county at the time, but it did not get extended with the county for whatever reason. So, it did give us the ability, as the Mayor alludes to, is that if our cars drive down the south side of 8th Street, the people that were either walking the street or being nefarious would walk to the north side, thinking they were out of their jurisdiction. After about a month of us going and grabbing and picking them up and not having to worry about City of Miami being there, that really kind of dissipated even further. We still, to this day, continue to work those areas on both sides of the streets, both collectively with the City of Miami. So, we have many operations I'm not going to talk about. I mean, we've had one get interrupted because somebody wanted to advertise and put up names of our undercover officers, which was a problem for me, and had to stop the operation. But we still continue that same process. And it was the same thing that the lady's testifier, the silo, I'm very happy to say, is being broken down, just on the human trafficking side. But it's because of the legislation in the MOUs that gives us the ability to step outside Coral Gables and arrest those individuals that are preying on people in our city as well.

Mayor Lago: So, to bring it in for a closing, okay? This is a feel-good resolution. We have to vote for it at the end of the day. Because if we don't vote for it, tomorrow we'll be in the blog saying that we are in favor of human trafficking. There's no choice, we got to vote for this. But to say, I want to put very clearly, our chiefs are doing a great job. They're doing everything above and beyond. I don't think there's another department in Miami-Dade County that is taking the level of training that we have already. And by the way, it's not because the Super Bowl's coming, they've been doing it for years. We have legislation in place to be the first to address hourly motels. When other cities don't have the courage to take it, because again, there's a lot of money between the motels and contribution. We are the first to do a joint enforcement task force where we're able to address issues outside of our jurisdiction. And it's very clear, as you can see here now, the amount of training that we're doing and the protocols that we're doing. And when new things come out, we're doing everything we can to make sure that our employees are in the best hands and have the best information to address horrific situations of human trafficking. Now, do you feel there's

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anything else, any other level of training where we fall short that another municipality offers where we could do better to ensure that human trafficking is stopped?

Chief Hudak: And looking at the resolution and actually hearing it presented today, if in fact this passes, I believe through the Manager who, as you said, is both of our bosses. So, I believe, and again, I don't want you to think walking out of here that there is a one-size-fits-all training that's going to be able to tell them and my people what to do and how to do it. And when I'd say human trafficking changes daily, all of my officers don't know what's going on. We would have to rely on the detectives and the hostage negotiators who have hundreds and hundreds of hours of training to come in. Because they are certified instructors by the state, if this passes, then what we would do, as we have done many times before, is come up with a curriculum to supplant, not supplant, but on top of their electronic curriculum, have a part of that to be put on by our detectives on any other kind of nuances of what would be recognized, which I think would, if it passes, and that's what I would recommend we do. There's not a cost associated with that. It would be using our in-house people and bringing the information from the State Attorney's office and other parts of the country on what the trends are to what we should be looking at.

Mayor Lago: Like I've said before, I have the full faith and confidence in our Manager and both of our Chiefs, but when you use a word like additional training, it's so broad that, I mean, how could you not say, let's do additional training, let's do it? Madam Vice Mayor?

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, throughout the course of my legal career, I've had the opportunity to represent victims and also folks that do bad things. And looking at this proposal together with my background and experience, dealing with victims of all types of crimes and witnesses of various types of crimes, the biggest gap that we have is educating the public. And the public is our eyes and ears. I've had residents contact me and I've picked up the phone and called the Chief thereafter because they were witnessing something they had no idea what they were witnessing. But I recognized it because of the experience that I've had. I've had victims and also witnesses in my career that were unwilling to step forward or unwilling to prosecute. And I convinced them to do so because you need to think about something more than yourself. You need to think about the next victim and stopping the cycle from going again and again. So, I did take the time, because I knew Katherine Fernandez-Rundell has a human trafficking task force. I was aware of it when I was a young lawyer. I've been over the State Attorney's office. I've been through the protocols that they go through with children's victims and adult victims. And I knew that they have an extensive network in there. They have six numbers on their website that people can call for human trafficking, Project Gold, Victim's Compensation Bureau, 24-Hour State Florida Domestic Violence, National Human Trafficking Hotline, Florida Human Trafficking Hotline. All of them are on there. None of them are this number on this card. Reading it through a lawyer's eyes, this card is directed at the Johns. This is directed at the individuals that are bringing the people over. So yes, I'm sure that the federal government would be interested in it, but it'd be the last number I

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would ever call and the last number that I would select because I want my local law enforcement to show up and analyze the situation. You want your NSAs observing things. We have some wonderful residents in our city that report Airbnb's to us. It's a hot area for crime to occur. Anytime that you see a marijuana grow house, a meth lab, any type of crime situation, it's usually not inside someone's own home. It's in something that they rent. It's in a hotel. It's an Airbnb because you can pick up and leave and not leave a trail. And they're not necessarily going to use their own name when they're renting either. They're going to try to cover themselves. And they're not necessarily going to be calling Fire Rescue because the last thing that they want is somebody from law enforcement or connected to law enforcement showing up and be able to have a data point there. But you're more likely to be able to see the items that the Human Traffic and Task Force have on there for identification of the various issues that occur in signs of human trafficking. There's a litany of them listed on State Attorney's website and Commissioner, I appreciate you bringing this up because I think this speaks to a bigger problem that we have and that is that we need to educate our residents. Why do I say that? Got up one morning, my husband told me a story about somebody walking on a wall in the middle of the night at three o'clock in the morning. I said, well, dear, did you call the police? No, no, I didn't see them doing anything. The fact that they were walking on the wall across the street on my neighbor's house was enough for me to raise an alarm bell that this is illegal activity going on. They're either casing the joint or they just got done doing something or stealing something. I myself, I walk in the dogs, I see a woman on the side, something didn't smell right to me, I call the police.

Chief Hudak: We call it a clue.

Vice Mayor Anderson: We call it a clue.

Chief Hudak: Walking on the wall, that's what we would.

Vice Mayor Anderson: You know, these are the, you know, people need not to think, ah, you know, I didn't actually see that act happen. Call the police, it can be the non-emergency number, let the police connect the dots. The fact that Airbnb's exist gives a greater opportunity and there's many other names for them other than Airbnb's, greater opportunities for crime to occur untraced. So that's where I see the greatest efficiency and I would love to hear from Katherine Fernandez-Rundell where she feels that there's gaps in our training, where we can do better, because this is borderless crime. So, this is not just City of Coral Gables. Red Road's right over there. We need to deal with this county-wide, a comprehensive plan. And, you know, I've put victims and I've connected with not only state but also federal to put victims and witnesses into protective custody. Change their name, give them a new home, move them around, why? Because they're not going to sit on that witness stand and they're not going to report the crime because they're too afraid of what's going to happen to them tomorrow if they do so. We have to protect them. So that's where I see the biggest gap and I'd ask you to really take the advice of the State Attorney's Office of

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running this Human Trafficking Task Force and I'd love to hear from you, Chief. Further on that, based upon what I've just said, your thoughts.

Chief Hudak: Absolutely. Vice Mayor, you are wise beyond your years. What I can tell you is that we have solved a lot of crimes because people have called us on what they thought was suspicious but we haven't solved one ever when somebody didn't call us. So, we pick up the pieces after the fact. Going forward and the reason why the State Attorney and the other Chiefs are forwarding, the victims and the human trafficking aren't here in our community yet. They will be brought here and that is why the focus for FIFA and these events throughout the country are looking at it both state and federally. I believe, and it was mentioned previously by some of the people from SALT, this is a model, our State Attorney has a model of how we do human trafficking. The police department's a part of it, the notifications, which is why I say we can do the training, what you're looking for and again, that's something the police, the fire department can look at for us but again, it's letting us know, this has been taken care of because the moment that they feel that somebody clicks that trigger, sheepish, scared to talk, coached, bruises not consistent with what the call is, it's automatic and even the officers, the first arriving officers would probably call our human trafficking detective which is why the training will never keep up with the trends.

Mayor Lago: Chief. Madam Vice Chair.

Vice Mayor Anderson: No, no, I was just going to ask, I mean, could you reach out to the State Attorney's office and provide us recommendations perhaps by the next meeting?

Chief Hudak: Yes.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Okay.

Mayor Lago: Thank you. Commissioner.

Commissioner Fernandez: I've been involved in this issue for many years back in my days in Congress. I handled all domestic issues for Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen and then we had numerous meetings back then and the Vice Mayor brings up a great point that it was always part of the discussion. I remember we had a large meeting with federal, state and local stakeholders on how to raise awareness on the issue and it was always about how to bring that information to the people on the ground who are the ones who can bring that information forward and how to put them in a situation where they're not afraid to stick their necks out because one of the issues that we had back then, we still have it today, is they were always concerned about bringing up the information and now they have a target on their backs and I think these cards, if they were made at some point, the phone number obviously should have been changed if these were delivered to the public because they're not conducive to anything, they're not solving the problem. I think these two resolutions are no-brainers. Chief, you're always talking about making sure your officers have

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the right tools, you are as well. I think if there's a tool out there that we can help in doing your job and getting the information, we should try to embrace it, we should bring it in, we should incorporate in any way that we can. I think you two are the only ones that I ever go to and I say, what do we need to include in the budget that will make things easier for you to do your jobs? All the other departments, I tell them let's find a way to do it in a few years but with your two departments, I always say let's find a way to get it done because you are the ones that provide safety for our residents and we have a very large university right here in our City Beautiful and those students can be targets of these human traffickers and that is something that would concern me and I want to make sure that we're providing not just Coral Gables PD but UMPD with whatever resources are necessary to protect. Going back and just thinking back on all the different meetings that I've been in on this topic in the past, you brought up a good point and it's that we can never keep up with what they're doing and you always say it, for every criminal that we catch, they're trying to find a new way to do it. I remember speaking with Scott Carmichael, Carmichael was the one who brought down Ana Belen Montes, she was the Cuban spy in the State Department and it took them 20 years to bring her down and one of the things that Scott, I drove him around for a few days when he was here in South Florida, one of the things that he told me was, the thing that kept me up at night was not the fact that she was doing what she was doing, it was the fact that it took us this long to figure out who it was and the fact that we don't know which others are out there doing the same thing and I think getting additional training, no brainer, let's do it. If there's a way that we can do an awareness event for residents, some training, I know that the State Attorney's Office does trainings all the time for numerous issues because they talk about it at our Crime Watch meetings, they're an active member of our Crime Watch, they're always there talking about the different programmings that they offer but maybe that's something that they can incorporate into the offerings that they have, maybe it's something that we can host at the Public Safety Building and have residents come out. You're always concerned about the information that you're putting out there too because you're showing your cards, when you have a deck of Uno cards, you don't want to show your deck so that everybody knows what you have to play and that's always the problem but there are markers that we can give people as reference points to say, there's something suspicious here, there's a number you can call, the police non-emergency number or the number that's provided by our Attorney General. I think the Attorney General's campaign is a great campaign that they're launching right now for FIFA, it's always talked about, and I bet you a lot of people don't know, the one event with the largest prostitution and trafficking events are political conventions. Here we have an event that is an international event that's going to be attracting people from all over the world and not only for smuggling but also for trafficking because they will be targets as well and I think it is our responsibility to make sure that our team has whatever training is necessary, whatever training is out there, let's give them that tool, let's equip them with that tool, let's get them out there on the streets with everything that they need. You watch these television shows, FBI, FBI Most Wanted and part of that discussion is always whether the officers

at the local level had the training that the FBI team did and I think the campaigns that are being offered now and I think the State of Florida has been leading on these issues for many years with our task force to ensure that everybody has the same information. Everybody's prepared to address whatever issue is out there. I did the ride along a few years back and we had two domestic calls that night and even back then, our officers were trained on what to look for and as we did the walkthrough, they kind of told me these are the markers we're looking for. In fact, in one of the residences, they arrested both the husband and the wife because they were both bloodied but it's about ensuring that, I thought you were saying something. It's about ensuring that the resources are out there and that our team is ready to address it and I agree with the Vice Mayor, there's something that we can do to get the public involved. We've done a great job with the public in the past. I think our biggest eyes and ears are our public out there giving us information. Let's just get them on board on this issue as well and give them some pointers on what we can do.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner Lara.

Commissioner Lara: Thank you both for your presentation today. I mean, as everybody here knows, right, how can anybody take a different position with full support of all of our first responders' efforts to combat human trafficking, sexual assault, domestic violence, right? But these are obviously serious crimes, and I understand and know, especially buying through your presentations today, that our first responders already play a very crucial role in protecting the most vulnerable of our individuals. My hesitation though with this resolution, really directed to Commissioner Castro, who's the sponsor, it's about its clarity or its scope, not about its goal. I think the goal is laudable. The resolution expressly states that it's policy guidance only and it does not create new law. It does not create new funding. It does not create new procedures. So, for me, that raises a threshold question. What operational change are we looking to actually make today with this proposed resolution? If the resolution is symbolic, then I question whether we even need a formal resolution, whether that's even necessary. If the resolution is intended to influence future enforcement or even nuisance abatement review, focused specifically on the resolutions, then I believe a discussion should occur through a more structured policy process with clear safeguards. What I'm hearing through your comprehensive and extensive recounting of what you've been doing and how this is an ever-evolving and up-to-the-minute training that's going on for your officers and your first responders is laudable, but I don't see how this particular resolution adds anything to what you all are already doing right now. So, Commissioner Castro, if there's something in, well, let me ask you this first. Did you speak with the Chiefs here today and were you presented with the laying out of all of the protocols, training, policies, procedures that the first responders are trained prior to you bringing this resolution today?

Commissioner Castro: Yeah, and let me go ahead and put a point of clarification, but I'll answer your last question first.

Commissioner Lara: That's my only question.

Commissioner Castro: Yes, no, no, the first one was that you didn't understand what I was putting forward, but let me ask you that question.

Commissioner Lara: I'm just saying this question, the only question.

Commissioner Castro: Through the Mayor. Yes, I reached out to Chief Hudak for some clarification, which I was very satisfied with his response, number one. Number two, I reached out to Chief De La Rosa via email, and I believe the Commission was also copied. I went through all the protocols. I went through what I also noticed, that the training was actually an online platform or videos in which you just check mark and that's the training. Me personally, I wasn't satisfied with the level of training. It could be sufficient. Maybe that's the norm for me. For human trafficking, I think we need something more hands-on. Now, when you say for the, there's two resolutions. It's F-2 and F-4. F-2 resolution is taking a stance saying that this is our priority. And F-4 goes into the actual explanation and policy of what training should be. And that's the difference between both.

Commissioner Lara: So, on F-1, which is where I'm,

Commissioner Castro: F-2.

Commissioner Lara: I'm sorry.

Mayor Lago: No, go ahead.

Commissioner Lara: No, no, you.

Mayor Lago: No, no, no. I just want to, do you feel that the response was appropriate? What I'm dealing with and I'm not able to understand and I'm, if you want to pass a feel-good resolution today, I'm all for it. I know, I'm all good, I'm fine with it. We're literally spending an hour and 15 minutes on something that literally says more education. I'm all for it. But there's actually nothing, nothing of tangible, concrete plan of action. There isn't anything, no resolution that's being shown. I know it's election season. I know everybody wants to get out there and be able to put things that I passed, you know, human trafficking, stop human trafficking. But the people who are the experts here are telling you that they are already doing above and beyond what any other department does. We passed legislation to stop hourly motels. We have a joint enforcement task force with not, by the way, to correct the record because somebody said that it's only on 8th Street. No, we actually have it with West Miami, correct?

Chief Hudak: West Miami.

Mayor Lago: We have it with 57th Avenue, also on two borders of our street. That was also my legislation. So, my point is that I just, we could talk about this till the cows come home, but I think what's important is coming back with actual robust legislation that sits down with the two Chiefs, not something that was taken. Let's just do something today to do something because we can hit it on social media. We really, really have to like drill down and bring things here that take time, that take work. You know, it just, it's not about, you know, clicks. So, Commissioner, I just want to, I don't want to spend the whole day talking about this.

Commissioner Lara: Well, I appreciate that any time that I'm being given to be able to say.

Mayor Lago: Take as much time as you want to say, but it's just.

Commissioner Lara: But you're really encapsulating, you know, where I'm going with this, right? So, while I think that the intent is laudable, right? I mean, look, I'm a father of three daughters. I have personally worked with Katherine Fernandez Rundle for over a decade on a human trafficking task force. You know, the company I work for and I serve as an Executive Vice President has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars, including a billboard on US1 and Southwest 27th Avenue to provide a hotline, QR code, and to raise awareness precisely during F1, Super Bowl, FIFA upcoming here right now. So, I mean, I take a personal and professional stance to be more than just against this, to do something about this, right? So, this cannot be intended, and I'm expressly saying it isn't. My lack of support for this resolution, as I said at the beginning, is based upon the fact that it provides nothing tangible to what we already have, but I think it's a great idea to always be focused on it. But if we're intending to do something to affect future law enforcement, we need much more than this resolution.

Mayor Lago: Yeah, but that's, if I may, Commissioner, now you're playing with fire, because you know where that's going to put you, right? And I got to have this conversation here in the public. If you vote against this, I promise you, I promise you, my advice to you is just don't do it, because tomorrow you will get eviscerated. You are in favor of human trafficking, you're this, you're that, it will be a destruction. Just like if you vote, so you have to understand, I'm just giving you, as a person who respects you, who knows what you've done, who knows your efforts and your intentions, which are in a good place, what I would hope is that we will use common sense. This is basically, they're putting a little rat trap there for you, they're dying for you. They're dying for you to just go in there and get your hand caught in the rat trap. They're dying to do it, so they can all look at the crowd, they're here. You got the unions in the back, you got this gentleman that's never shown up before. It's, you know, they're teeing it up for you, they're teeing it up for you here, they're teeing it up for you, to make this into a circus and to say that we are anti-human trafficking. Even though the legislation says, even though the legislation clearly says, it's just more educational. So, I'm just giving you my fair bit of advice that I hate what this has become, this is politics central, please sit down, this is politics central, politics central, you have two trained

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professionals that have told you, this is what we're doing, this is the protocols, this is how we're head and shoulders above any other organization in South Florida and this is what we're doing here, what do you think?

Commissioner Lara: I truly appreciate your concerns for me, right? As the newest elected Commissioner here. A couple of things I'll say and I'll finish on this point.

Mayor Lago: I'll also be a little facetious.

Commissioner Lara: A little.

Mayor Lago: Little bit.

Commissioner Lara: You know, I trust and know that the two Chiefs are here before us today, right? Have given your thoughts, your professional views and opinions, independent of any undue influence from anyone. Am I correct in that?

Chief Hudak: Yes, sir.

Chief de la Rosa: Yes sir.

Commissioner Lara: Okay, because I would take offense if anybody would have thought to the contrary. I'll finish by saying this. I am not supportive of this resolution as it's currently drafted, but Commissioner Castro, I think that my concerns are things that can be addressed with some more work on it. I would suggest that we work maybe together on an amendment to it that actually accomplishes better, I think, your goal of trying to shore up, address a gap or produce a more robust and effective means of addressing human trafficking. I just feel that the way it is right now doesn't get us anywhere near there. I don't think it moves the needle in any way. Why be symbolic when we have an opportunity to be effective by putting some actual real teeth in it? So that would be my friendly suggestion to do that.

Commissioner Castro: Through the Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Before you take the floor, I just want to ask the two chiefs a very simple question. I don't want to belabor the point anymore. I'll let the Commissioner finish off. Do you think we are head and shoulders above every other department when it comes to human trafficking education and our efforts to eradicate human trafficking? Chief.

Chief Hudak: I mean, I think we are ahead of a lot of other departments smaller than us. I mean, can we always do more? Yeah, but it's going to cost money and resources. I mean, could I put three detectives out there? So, yeah, it's a constant balancing act. And, but, I mean, if this were to be worked on some more, I think there's something that maybe we can all come up with and the Fire Chief and I can look at both his, I hate to use the word silo, but his area of training and my

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area of training in police. We may be able to come up with something changing for municipalities our size.

Commissioner Lara: Through the Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Yes, sir.

Commissioner Lara: So, I'd like to move based on what Chief Hudak just said to table this item so that we can maybe all get together and work on an amendment to it to take into consideration the points raised by the two Chiefs today to make sure that we make a more comprehensive resolution. So, I would like to move that.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, I'm going to second that based upon my request to have the State Attorney's office to weigh in on it because I think we can do some, I think we can do better. I think we can do more, okay? And I think it's something that has to be addressed county-wide, it's a borderless crime.

Mayor Lago: All right, so we have a-

Commissioner Castro: Through the Mayor. I ask to be recognized before that motion.

Mayor Lago: Just give me one second.

Commissioner Castro: I mean, I would have moved it, but you selected somebody besides me when I was talking first.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner, we can play the tape back. Months and months in the past, it's happened. The same thing's happened before on the other side of the issue. So, you're going to have your moment now. We have a motion and a second, Mr. Clerk. I know, I know, I know. That's what I'm saying, that's what I'm saying. Everybody, just relax. Remember, we're talking about more education. We're not talking about anything, anything here. More education, okay, guys? We have a long item of things to finish up the city with. So, Commissioner Castro, how would you like to finish? Go ahead.

Commissioner Castro: Yes, before you, I wanted to go ahead in response to you because I spent countless hours actually looking at trainings and protocols, okay? And that is the reason that I wanted Ms. Marivi to come up.

Mayor Lago: Do you have a copy of that? I want to see what you studied. Can you send me? No, no, but not her. She spoke already. We give public comment.

Commissioner Castro: No, that's not public comment. That's my expert testimony, and this is my item. I called her up before. I'm so sorry.

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Mayor Lago: Commissioner.

Commissioner Castro: Please, I have the floor at this point, okay?

Mayor Lago: Commissioner, I'm running the meeting. Let's be respectful.

Commissioner Castro: You are running the meeting, but right now the floor is mine.

Mayor Lago: We're not going to get into a debate. We're not going to get into a debate.

Commissioner Castro: Well, you don't have to debate with me.

Mayor Lago: Madam City Attorney.

Commissioner Castro: The floor is mine.

Mayor Lago: Madam City Attorney.

Commissioner Castro: I was recognizing the floor is mine. Please let--

City Attorney Suarez: Mayor, yes, I understand that you recognize the Commissioner, but the Mayor does preside over the meeting. He runs the meeting. So, in terms of speakers, I think he's said that the speaker has already, you know, so her time to speak.

Mayor Lago: So what I think we need to figure out-

Commissioner Castro: I'm so sorry. The floor is still mine. Please respect that. Like, I'm asking you graciously. Respect that. This is my item. That is not public comment. That is my expert testimony, okay? There were concerns brought up to this Commission. I want her to go ahead and clarify that we have been working on training. That's the only state-approved training regarding human trafficking. So please, Ms. Marivi.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner, the City Attorney has spoken. Please finish your statement, please.

Commissioner Castro: I'm trying to, but you keep on interrupting me. Marivi, can you please explain the training before this motion goes through so that the Commission can hear, clear the concerns that they are having?

Commissioner Lara: Through the Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Again, can we stop? Stop. I will, please don't make me do this again. I know you guys want it for the blogs. I know, I know. I'm not going to give it to you today, okay? The City Attorney has spoken. Please, Commissioner, I'm begging you. Finish your statement. No one else will be speaking except for the Chiefs and the people on this dais. We're done with public

comment. We're done with expert testimony. As the City Attorney will tell you, that's the way it works. Please, take the time that you need to finish your legislation and let's move forward.

Commissioner Castro: Okay. Commissioner Lara, I have been working on the training. This is only approved training for human trafficking, okay? It's not going to cost us anything. And not only that, but they are going to assist us with state funding. I've worked really hard on this. And I've worked hard on it because it means a lot to me, especially having children, as you do, that are women. Okay, and I've also researched where the human trafficking is happening. And a lot of it, from public records that I've read, is in Miami Beach and in the Brickell area and in Airbnb's. Not in these hourly motels. What's happening in these hourly motels are actually prostitution. Okay, so I am very, very, very involved. And I'm not just bringing up a resolution. This is a meaningful one. And I would appreciate your support.

Commissioner Lara: Through the Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Excuse me. If I may answer. I think the great thing to do is, she has all this information. She's not willing to share it here today. She doesn't have it here. The training, stuff that I guess is happening in other municipalities that's not happening here. Let's get all that information and let's present it at the next Commission meeting after the two Chiefs have reviewed it. Have you reviewed the training that she's talking about? The additional training?

Chief Hudak: No. No.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Manager, Mr. Manager, have you reviewed any of this additional training she's talking about?

City Manager Iglesias: We've provided nothing, Mayor.

Mayor Lago: When I present something, when I present legislation and I say I have something, I provide it to staff. I write a memo to my colleagues. I work on it for a while. And we try to figure it out before we present it that it makes coherent sense. So, you have a lot of ambiguous training. You have a lot of ambiguous facts that, again, they're not here. Let's get it on order. Let's present it in a resolution or an ordinance, a body which has approval from the Chiefs that says, listen, we're not being redundant on these facts. Put it through the Manager and we'll bring it forward. I think I'm more than willing to do that. Yes, Commissioner.

Commissioner Lara: Well, I was going to say, and not to engage in an extensive back and forth, Commissioner Castro, that one, the reason I asked you whether you had gone through what the presentations we just saw today made by both of the Chiefs was for the follow-up question, was there an area that you, not another surrogate, could address, but you could address is where you believe it came up short in specific training. But I'll withdraw that question because I think that we

can work together on making a stronger resolution. As I said before, I think the intent is laudable. I just think that the way it's written right now, you can't get my support, but you will get my support to see if we can make it a better one, and that's why I made my motion.

Mayor Lago: Yes, Commissioner.

Commissioner Fernandez: All right. Government works a lot better when you remove the word I. And I'm tired of hearing I. I want to hear results. This is a resolution that sets us on the right track. It may not come attached with a full plan, but it is giving directive to the City Manager to get that plan going. We are kicking the can down the road two weeks just because it wasn't our idea. It was Commissioner Castro's idea. That's the reality that we're seeing here. And you know what? I'm fed up with it. Human trafficking victims will benefit from this legislation. Our officers and our firefighters will benefit from the training that comes from this legislation. And because it wasn't somebody's idea in the majority, it's not good enough. Commissioner Castro, thank you for putting this item on the agenda. Thank you for the work that you've done. I think this could have passed. And within the next two weeks, a formal plan could have moved forward. And if it needed to be codified, it could have been codified. Many items come up here as resolutions without a plan attached, showing that the Commission supports the action. Instead, we're kicking the can down the road. I'm sorry to the human trafficking victims who are going to suffer because of this. I'm sorry to the members of our community. I'm sorry for our firefighters and our police officers who are gonna have to continue to wait for the training that could have helped them during this process. Your motion is on F4, correct? Or on F-2?

Commissioner Lara: Two. And F-4.

Commissioner Fernandez: Okay. All right.

Mayor Lago: If I may, thank you for that. Just to put two things on the record. Number one, if you look at F-6 and you look at F-7 and you look at F-8, discussion items are for the Commission to talk in the Sunshine and talk about things and get ideas and put pieces of legislation together and see how we can work together. You also can write memos amongst each other and you can do a lot of things to try to build legislation and to try to do things that build consensus. Chiefs, that's what you should do, that I recommend. Chief, both Chiefs. So, the discussion here, the key sticking point here is education. Commissioner Lara said that he's going to work with Commissioner Castro on this effort to provide you with more education in regard to human trafficking. You feel comfortable with that?

Chief Hudak: As far as providing-

Mayor Lago: More education, more resources.

Chief Hudak: Yeah.

Mayor Lago: Do you feel that today, that if we don't pass this, as Commissioner Fernandez said, that victims of human trafficking are going to be further penalized or further put in a bad position as a result of us not passing this legislation today that calls for more education?

Chief Hudak: In that context, no, I don't.

Mayor Lago: Okay, all right. I want to make sure, if you say that, do you feel the same way or do you feel differently?

Chief de la Rosa: So I'd like to add that, as I mentioned in my presentation, there's always opportunities to improve or gaps that we try to identify. Hence why I tell you that our departments participate in every domestic security task force opportunity that we can be part of because that's where we identify trends. That's where we identify our gaps. That's where we identify training opportunities or enhanced training opportunities. I'm welcome to look at and evaluate along with Chief Hudak whether that training comes from the State Attorney's Office, whether that training comes from what Commissioner Castro stated or her expert testimonies. I can say that in the areas that I participated, which are statewide or four counties wide, I'm interested in looking at the training that is supposedly state certified and that is presented or that was discussed here today because I'm unaware of it. That doesn't mean it doesn't exist. It doesn't mean that it can't enhance our response and our education to our first responders. I'm just saying that whether it is through our local committee amongst EMS chiefs or whether it's at a regional state, folks come before us and provide intelligence sharing or training opportunities or build a better collaboration with first responders, whether it's law enforcement or fire in which issues are discussed, whether it is elderly abuse and vulnerability or neglect, whether it is enhancing our relationship and support with American Heart or the Alliance for the Elderly or in preparation with special needs victims through hurricanes or autism. Folks that have training or provide for training opportunities that can enhance our response in any aspect normally come before us. I invite this group that presented today to come before the fire officers of Miami-Dade, EMS subcommittee, present their training, the validation of that training and if it enhances not mine but regionally wise, our training, I welcome it as I do with the validated training that can come through law enforcement and that they share with us with the State Attorney. I can say, however, at this moment, this is the first I've learned of it.

Mayor Lago: Chief, thank you very much.

Chief Hudak: My biggest concern on the issues as, and again, I don't know if legally I can do this and that's why I've got questions which I want to work with everybody to answer them but on specific on F-2, the part where it says acknowledging priorities generated, repeated calls for service may warrant review through a nuisance abatement project. I can't agree legally that the police

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department can agree to a nuisance abatement policy. If you all were to put that into a resolution, it's one of those things that I don't know if I could partake in that as a police department because our statutes and things that we do through our victim advocate program are things that we're allowed to do. So again, I think we all want to get there. Here's the one thing, and this goes back to something earlier. The City Manager has allowed me and the Fire Chief to talk with you all individually not to violate the Sunshine. He's understood as my boss that you can call me all directly and I think everyone on this day has when it's come issues. The Manager has never stopped me from that. These are conversations that we can have to get where you want to get. Nobody doesn't want to do that. My concern, Commissioner Fernandez is that there are certain things past as is that would come back and I would have to tell you all individually that's not something I can enforce. And again, I don't know what the training is. I know of SALT. I know the value that they have. But if we're going to incorporate that as a guide on for this, I'm not there yet. Second part of that, the education part is we've given that flyer out and we will work through the Manager's office and Martha Pantin and my people to start pushing out the awareness. The see something, say something has worked magnificently for us. This is just a bigger, broader picture of it, right? So that to my point is that's my trepidation of if this has passed the way it is, I don't know how I can answer that. We've had this conversation on ordinances.

Mayor Lago: So what I recommend is go back, sit down with the Chief, with the Manager, have a robust discussion so you can bring back something that again, offers true value and can offer help to these victims and to, like I've done before, is try to avoid having any more victims in the future. And that's the plan.

Chief Hudak: We've got 119 days until FIFA starts coming. So, I will make myself available, Commissioner Castro, Commissioner Lara, and we will bring in our experts, Vice Mayor, and we will put something together in a very timely fashion with the permission of the Manager because I don't want it to belay any longer than we have to.

City Manager Iglesias: Through the Mayor.

Chief de la Rosa: I echo that.

Mayor Lago: Yes, sir.

City Manager Iglesias: Through the Mayor. The issues I have is when we see nuisance basement issues or emergency medical assault, human trafficking course. The reason I asked the Chiefs to provide this presentation, which I didn't even see until right now, was that we are doing all these things right now. Can we get better? We will be happy to get better. However, I don't want the public to think that we are not doing anything.

Mayor Lago: Of course.

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City Manager Iglesias: And this is not possible. Our Chiefs are doing a phenomenal job. Our fire department is incredible. Every one of them is a paramedic, every single one of them. When they see something happening, they immediately work with police, which would be probably there at the same time. So, are we doing these things? If we want to do better, I'll be happy to work with the two Chiefs to get something, to get a resolution that really addresses anything that we can add. As you saw by the presentation, it's extensive, the amount of work that police and fire do on all these abuse issues, all of them. And that is my concern.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner, and then we'll take a vote.

Commissioner Lara: So briefly, thank you again for illuminating these points. All more to the point that we need to make sure that we look before we leap and that we actually do some more homework before we put forth a resolution that may actually do more harm than it would do any good, or at best would actually not move the needle forward one way or another. But I want to make one comment and to you, Commissioner Fernandez, that respectfully, because I do respect you. I think it's pandering of the worst kind to say or to insinuate that my wanting to work together with Commissioner Castro to improve what I think is a laudable but flawed resolution as presently drafted, would in any way insinuate that I'm in favor of human trafficking or seeking a way to better their environment to commit the heinous crimes that they do. I take offense to that if that were your insinuation. I don't believe that the Chiefs here today would say that the failure to sign this off today versus not signing it off, signing off and voting for it today would in any way impede what the first responders are doing with respect to evidence that they encounter of any sort of harm or victims due to human trafficking. I'm hopeful that's not your suggestion, Commissioner Castro, Commissioner Fernandez, but I wanted to be clear that that's not my intent.

Commissioner Fernandez: Go through the Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Yes, go ahead.

Commissioner Fernandez: Just a clarification, that was not my comment. My comment was regarding on who brought up the legislation. And on the second point, we've been talking about this issue for an hour and 40 minutes and this is the first we hear that you have a concern with the actual language and that the Manager has concern with the actual language. I discussed this with staff during agenda review. Nobody brought up issues about the language of the resolution at that point either. That is a concern and I think we should address it after this meeting because we've always had an open line of communication. When you've had any issues with any resolution that's come up, you've read them beforehand, you've come up to me and said, this needs to be out. You never brought that up to my attention. I'd appreciate it, all of you, if in the future there is a concern with any part of the language of a resolution or anything that's on the agenda that I be brought into your concerns beforehand so that I can be aware of those. Because to this point, an hour and 40

minutes into the discussion, there's the first I hear of any concern with the language of this resolution.

Commissioner Lara: Through the Mayor. Briefly, briefly, briefly, okay? So, Commissioner Fernandez, I believe that during the course of this discourse that we have on the dais, and you yourself have said this before on the dais that during the course of our discussion, you're illuminated. You've seen things that you didn't see from the first instant, right? So, I would leave the option open that the Chiefs listening to our discussion may be looking at it from a different angle. And by the way, the length of time that we spent discussing this was largely taken up on a very comprehensive presentation by the two Chiefs, as well as the experts in the area, not necessarily in the dialogue in and amongst us on the dais.

Mayor Lago: By the way, just, and we'll take it for a vote just so you're aware, Commissioner, so you don't feel left out. The Chief did not call me and tell me, hey, I'm worried about X, Y, and Z. Again, we had our pre-agenda meeting. We all have our pre-agenda meetings. You're more than welcome to ask questions. I had an hour-long pre-agenda meeting. I sat there, I had conversations. I asked a very simple question. What, like I do with every piece of legislation, what does this legislation do to move the needle? And the answer amongst everyone, well, it just calls for more education. I need to understand what type of education? Where's the funding coming from? What bill are we looking at in the Senate, the State House? What's going to be our agenda? How are we going to train these individuals? But at the end of the day, all we talk about is how great our police and fire are, how they take it to the next level, how everybody wants to emulate what the city does. And so, moving forward, I think we've discussed this ad nauseum, and I think we're going to come back, we're going to table this item, we'll have a vote, and we'll come back and hopefully deliver something that actually has examples of education that supposedly the state is doing that we're not doing. Maybe courses that we can take that are not online, maybe they're in person. Again, find something that gives us the warm and fuzzies that this course is going to be, this new education's going to be great, and hopefully, at the end of the day, stop human trafficking, because that's the goal. That's why, I know Fernandez doesn't like it, but I wrote legislation here to stop this from happening. Giving the powers to the police that they never had before, stopping hourly motels, and there is human trafficking across the street. And I will have our Police Chief, who knows more than anybody, Chief, there was a statement here made that across the street, human trafficking is not happening. Can we please clarify that, please?

Chief Hudak: Human trafficking is everywhere, happening everywhere. And it is not the traditional, I mean, they will rent hotel rooms, and they will use that amount, they will go to hotel rooms. I don't want to discuss some of the things that we use tactically, but it could be at an Airbnb. So, there's so many different ways that people will come across people that are being trafficked, but I do want to say, Commissioner, the only person that I had a conversation with was the sponsor of the bill, that was it. And my boss, the Manager, I told him, this is the conversation that I had

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and those issues were, I think we addressed back and forth and my concerns were aired. Quite frankly, I was focused on F-4, more so than F-2 with the Fire Chief and that's it. Any other kind of briefings, that goes to the City Manager on those.

Mayor Lago: Madam Vice Mayor and then we'll take a vote.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I just have one question for the Chiefs because we've had a wonderful turnout, thanks to the fire department, the doggy CPR and everybody was interested in it at the Farmer's Market. If you were provided some time at the Farmer's Market to do a presentation on human trafficking and try to get the, hear something, see something, more education out there, would you have time to do it here in March before we run out of time?

Chief Hudak: Yes, we would incorporate that into the Crime Watch group of which we meet weekly, I can put that, or monthly. The executive board does, but we'll make sure that they're out in there and we'll put that human trafficking. Again, those posters that were given were, fresh off of the press conference this past week and they will go out again.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, I'm referring to the tent that's in the middle.

Chief Hudak: Yes, yes.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Just like we had the doggy CPR, we can have some, you know, put a banner up there, provide people with all the six numbers that the State Attorney's office has, the signs that they should be looking for, you know, and things such as, is it a short-term rental? Is it a rental piece of property? Things like that that will help make people more aware and perhaps we can get this so you don't worry about the delay in passing this more education for the fire department, really getting the more education for the public so they can call in suspicions and let you know what's going on. That's my respectful suggestion.

Mayor Lago: Thank you, Madam Vice Mayor.

Commissioner Castro: Through the Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Yes, Commissioner.

Commissioner Castro: Yeah, before we go to a vote, I just want to go ahead and move on my item too, just let the Commission know we have two options. I know we're going to be voting on one first. I'm going to go ahead and move on both of my items and not only that, but I want to go ahead and offer you some ease and maybe remove that word that was troubling for you.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner, if I may. Madam City Attorney, can you address the fact of moving on two items, please?

City Attorney Suarez: So, we have a pending motion, so we can't have another main motion while there's a pending motion.

Mayor Lago: Okay, so moving from this, okay. Mr. Clerk, we have a motion and a second to table this item.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor, confirming we're made, the motion and the second is to defer both items.

Mayor Lago: Yes, sir. Okay.

City Clerk Urquia: Commissioner Castro?

Commissioner Castro: No.

Commissioner Fernandez: No.

Commissioner Lara: Yes.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes, I feel it needs work.

Mayor Lago: Yes, thank you. Thank you very much.