

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-14
July 11, 2017
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

**Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Pat Keon
Commissioner Vince Lago
Commissioner Frank Quesada
Commissioner Michael Mena**

City Staff

**City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
City Attorney, Craig E. Leen
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia**

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-14 [2:52:12 p.m.]

Update regarding transfer of special taxing districts
(Sponsored by Commissioner Mena)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Commissioner Mena.

Commissioner Mena: We'll be very quick. I asked the City Attorney to give us a quick update. You recall we transferred the guardhouse and the special taxing district associated or at least approved the transfer of that special taxing district on Old Cutler Bay recently. We are now moving forward and trying to transfer the remaining guardhouses in that area and so I wanted Craig and Cristina to give us an update on that; and also Craig or Cristina, if you could address the issue that we discussed about there was some discussion about whether to do two and then the rest later or do them all at once. I'd like for you to address that so that the Commissioners can consider that.

City Attorney Leen: So, just as a brief introduction and I'll turn it over to Cristina. This will be very brief. The City Commission has already indicated the policy decision to go forward with

transferring of the special taxing districts. We've already taken action as to two of them, which will go to – as to Old Cutler Bay and we have not acted yet as to – OK. So, we've taken action as to Old Cutler Bay, Cristina will tell you about the status of the other ones. The concept though which we would just like your support for is that as each homeowners association informs us that they are willing to go forward, then we will place a resolution or an omnibus resolution for all of them in front of the Commission, you would approve them. At that point it will go to the County Commission and we'll go through the process Cristina is going to explain. The main issue for you is if you are OK for us to go forward with all of them at once or whether you want us to go forward with two or three of them or a pilot program or something like that. Right now we believe that the current direction is to go forward with all of them at once. I've spoken with the Director of Public Safety; he views this as a force multiplier. He believes that by having control over the security guards that that will give us additional eyes and ears, and also, then we can place things on the guardhouses like cameras and things like that, that could help us to reduce crime. I do know that the ACM Building Official, our ACM for Operations, also our Finance Director, they just want to be clear that this is the first time that any city is really doing this, and some other cities are doing it simultaneously, but the first time that we are doing this, so it may take a little while to do and the target date that we are looking for is October 1, 2018. Cristina.

Assistant City Attorney Suarez: Good afternoon. Briefly, the process we've discussed it with the County Attorney's office. The first step is the City passes a resolution indicating that interest in having them transferred, which you've done already as to Old Cutler Bay; Snapper Creek Lakes has also reached out to us through their attorney, Laura Russo, and they have an interest in also being transferred; and I understand generally the feedback has been that all the special taxing districts want to be transferred. Then the next step is a joint resolution and an interlocal agreement between the City and the County that would provide the terms of that transition. If adopted then it would be subject to a majority vote of the property owners from the special taxing district by mail ballots; and then we have to enter into an agreement with the Property Appraiser, Tax Collector, to collect on the tax bill; and then finally, we would either enter into our own contracts with the vendors who provide the services or adopt the County's existing contracts for those services and obviously, the plan being to solicit vendors and so forth pursuant to a solicitation. The earliest that the special taxing districts would be transferred is October 1, 2018, which would also coincide with the start of the new fiscal year. We had requested that our special counsel, Craig Collar, prepare a report to present to you in the August meeting; he would address certain questions that have been raised by staff such as, what those contracts are that the County has?- what services are included?- how much the County collects?- how much does it retain for administrative fees?- what level of security guards does the County currently contract with and so forth, and so that would be presented to you in more detail at the August meeting.

City Attorney Leen: So, we will proceed along those lines unless there is any objection. Thank you.

[End: 2:56:07 p.m.]