

City of Coral Gables
Special City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item C-1
May 6, 2025
City Hall Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Melissa Castro (Absent)

Commissioner Ariel Fernandez

Commissioner Richard D. Lara

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez

City Manager, Alberto Parjus

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Maria Cruz

Jackson Rip Holmes

Agenda Item C-1 [11:01 a.m.]

Discussion regarding City Manager
(Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

Mayor Lago: Moving onto C-1, the last item on the agenda, Madam City Attorney.

City Attorney Suarez: Yes, Mr. Mayor. So, we have a pocket item related to the City Manager. Copies have been provided to each of you and the City Clerk has extra copies as well. I will read the item into the record. It's a Resolution of the City Commission accepting the resignation of the City Manager, providing for transition and approving a cooperation resignation and severance agreement. It provides, as whereas City Manager Alberto N. Parjus tendered his resignation effective May 22, 2025; whereas, the terms and conditions of Mr. Parjus' employment were set forth in Resolution No. 2025-16; and whereas, its in the best interest of the city to ensure a smooth transition through agreement with Mr. Parjus for his cooperation, knowledge and operational expertise; and whereas, the City Commission meeting of May 6, 2025, the City Commission

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accepted Mr. Parjus' resignation, provided for transition and approved a cooperation resignation and severance agreement, substantially in the form is attached Exhibit A, which has also been provided to each of you. And now, therefore be it resolved by the City Commission that the City Commission accepts the resignation of City Manager Alberto N. Parjus effective May 22, 2025, approves a cooperation resignation and severance agreement and substantially the form attached is Exhibit A, with such modifications as may be approved by the City Attorney consistent with the Commission's intent. That the Deputy City Manager Joe L. Gomez shall serve as Acting City Manager effective May 7, 2025, that the City Attorney is authorized to interpret and implement this resolution and the cooperation resignation and severance agreement that will ensure an orderly transition.

Mayor Lago: Thank you very much, Madam City Attorney. Mr. Manager, the floor is yours.

City Manager Parjus: Thank you Mr. Mayor. Distinguished members of this Commission, Vice Mayor, Mayor. I just tendered my resignation; you have a copy of it, and I would like to have a minute to read some statements on the record. Serving this community, the City Beautiful has been among the greatest experience of my professional life. Over the past three years, I, especially during my three-month tenure as the City Manager, I have had the privilege to work alongside a team of talented and dedicated professionals who embody the highest standards of public service. But in this time, I am proud of the progress we made together to improve the quality of life for our residents and make our government service efficient. We advanced operational transparency, implemented modern project management systems and introduced performance indicators and evidence-based evaluation tools to support better decision-making. We enhanced financial and budget reports to make them clear and more accessible and launched the City Asset Review Program to ensure the responsibility, stewardship of city-owned property. I am proud of the significant investments made in community assets and services. This includes improvements to the Coral Gables Golf and Country Club, the ongoing restoration of the Venetian Pool, enhanced Code Enforcement efforts, the installation of temporary speed tables to increase safety and several projects to elevate the city's safety, aesthetics and public spaces. Additionally, we initiated a detailed assessment of the building permitting process to include customer feedback. This decision was not made lightly. I am confident the city is well-positioned for continued success, thanks to the leadership and the commitment of the workforce. I leave with immense gratitude for the opportunity to serve this remarkable city and the trust you placed in me. Thank you for allowing me to contribute to the legacy and future of Coral Gables. Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Manager, it's been an honor to serve with you. We've worked on many projects. I want to thank you for always being incredibly responsive and most importantly being a gentleman. You leave here with your head held high, having served this community and we're grateful for your hard work and your integrity. Thank you, sir.

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City Manager Parjus: Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Madam Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I will echo the Mayor's comments and thank you for your service. I know someone needs to move this. I will move it and God speed.

City Manager Parjus: Thank you.

Commissioner Fernandez: Second.

Commissioner Lara: And although I haven't had the pleasure of working with you very long, I do have the distinct honor of knowing that your reputation as a resident, as serving as Assistant City Manager, as the City Manager, and all of your work all this time has preceded you and that I echo the Mayor's sentiments that you are appreciated for what you've done and you leave here with your head held very high with the gratitude of the residents.

City Manager Parjus: Thank you.

Commissioner Fernandez: Mr. City Manager, you have served this city with distinction for several years now. First as Assistant City Manager, then Deputy City Manager, Interim City Manager, and City Manager. You have elevated our budget process to a new position where we now can understand better what has been spent in the past in certain areas, what is being spent now. We get our quarterly reports that are, as you said, more understandable for the average resident to go through them. The data that you have been providing us on a weekly basis on all different aspects of Public Works, Police, Fire, letting us know exactly what our city is currently doing, what we are working on and what is being addressed of residents' needs, having elevated your position. I seconded this item reluctantly and I support your decision today, as I have supported you every step of the way. As you know, you've always been my first choice as City Manager. You and I share a bond that goes back many years. You worked with my father many years ago and I often heard about you and the work that you did, not just in Coral Gables, but Miami-Dade County, City of Miami. The moment you were appointed City Manager, I had former City Managers from other municipalities and folks you worked with in the county called and said, what a great choice you were to lead our city. So, I appreciate what you have done for us and don't be a stranger.

City Manager Parjus: Thank you, Commissioner.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor, we do entertain public hearing, public comment.

Mayor Lago: I entertain public hearing as long as we stick to three minutes per person, please.

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City Clerk Urquia: First speaker Mrs. Maria Cruz.

Mrs. Cruz: Mrs. Maria Cruz, 1447 Miller Road. Obviously, this was not a surprise, it was expected, and I find it again very hypocritical. We campaigned on the fact that there were three managers in one year, now this will make it four managers in one year. So, I guess it's not what's good for the goose is not good for the gander. You know, whoever is on top can do whatever he wants and once again, the king is in, let's see how long he stays in.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk Urquia: Jackson Holmes.

Mr. Holmes: So, thank you. You've been a quintessential gentleman throughout this process. I'm actually, I'm disappointed, I'm surprised that you are not having people to encourage you to stay. I'll miss you, but I'm just lucky that I have the chance to thank you for your courage, your integrity, and your knowledge.

Mayor Lago: Thank you. Mr. Clerk.

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

Mayor Lago: Mr. Manager, thank you. I want to apologize for Mrs. Cruz statement. There is no place for that right now, especially when we are honoring your service. So, thank you for that. Moving forward before we adjourn, is there anything else that we need to speak about, Madam City Attorney.

City Attorney Suarez: We do need a vote on this item.

Mayor Lago: Yes, I know. We have a motion and a second, Mr. Clerk.

Commissioner Fernandez: Yes

Commissioner Lara: Yes

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes

(Vote: 4-0)

Mayor Lago: Thank you.

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