

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting**  
**Agenda Item G-3**  
**March 29, 2022**  
**City Commission Chambers**  
**405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

**City Commission**

**Mayor Vince Lago**

**Vice Mayor Michael Mena**

**Commissioner Rhonda Anderson**

**Commissioner Jorge Fors**

**Commissioner Kirk Menendez**

**City Staff**

**City Manager, Peter Iglesias**

**City Attorney, Miriam Ramos**

**City Clerk, Billy Urquia**

**Public Works Director, Hermes Diaz**

**Planning and Zoning Director, Ramon Trias**

**Public Speaker(s)**

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Agenda Item G-3 [Start: 4:02 p.m.]

An update from staff regarding the 2018 North Ponce Corridor study.  
(Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

Mayor Lago: Item G-3, and update from staff regarding the 2018 North Ponce Corridor study. How are we looking, Mr. Diaz?

Public Works Director Diaz: This is brief. There are three things that have happened currently. We have the Pump Phase 3 Project, which going from...to...Deena is working through a landscaping project from the area of Minora south to Miracle Mile, and in between we actually have a plan at the county right now under review for approval for safety improvements at Madeira and Ponce. Its just like a little – that’s an area there’s been some issues, so what we are doing, we are improving some safety at that location.

Mayor Lago: But my understanding was that we were having some medians that were going to be installed on Ponce in the north.

*City Commission Meeting*  
*March 29, 2022*

Public Works Director Diaz: Ponce Phase 3, I don't know if you remember a few months ago, we did a presentation of 60 percent plans, and that project is moving forward.

Mayor Lago: When can we see implementation on that project?

Public Works Director Diaz: We expect that project to start later this year, towards the end of the year.

Mayor Lago: But its funded, correct.

Public Works Director Diaz: Yes. We may be asking at the next Commission meeting, we have some concerns with the escalation, maybe about the contingency, just the way things are going.

Mayor Lago: It's to be expected.

Public Works Director Diaz: But yes.

Mayor Lago: Can I ask you for a favor, please?

Public Works Director Diaz: Sure.

Mayor Lago: And Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk Urquia: Sir.

Mayor Lago: Through the Manager's office, I need to get a win on Ponce. I need you to start that project before the end of the year.

Public Works Director Diaz: Alright.

Mayor Lago: So, colleagues, we need to get things done and I know that you're not going to talk much about it, because obviously you have a vested interest in it, but it's long overdue.

Public Works Director Diaz: It is.

Mayor Lago: Its long overdue and its not staff's fault, its nobody's fault. We have for too long not paid the proper attention to the North Gables in regard to Ponce. We've been concentrated in other areas. The future growth of this community is in North Gables, in the area concentrated around North Ponce in that area. So, we have to provide the necessary resources and infrastructure to ensure that we can elevate the quality of life in that area. There are going to be a lot of projects and a lot of development, so I want to make sure that we have the proper curb appeal for developers, residents, business owners, I'm even looking at buying property in the North Gables because I think it's a great opportunity to potentially put my business there or part of my business

*City Commission Meeting  
March 29, 2022*

there. So, I need to get a win and that win is starting this project, I'm not telling you finish, I'm just saying starting this project in 2022.

Public Works Director Diaz: I think you're going to see some work this year.

Mayor Lago: Okay.

Commissioner Anderson: Twenty-plus years ago, I looked into buying an office space there and that was part of the vision, look at what's going to be out here, and we are still here.

Commissioner Menendez: I was about to say the same thing. I was told, this is it, North Ponce, 20 years ago.

Mayor Lago: By the way, there's a park, a green space where there is a nice little fountain that has a lot of history, and I was reading about that history a long time ago. I'll share with you, I know you're a history buff, so I'll share with you.

Public Works Director Diaz: Ponce Park.

Mayor Lago: There is a beautiful horse fountain. There were some plans, I remember for that fountain, and I've talked to the owners of Officina, and they've even said that they are willing to pitch in some money to potentially fix up that park, and I don't know whatever happened to that. Whatever happened to that vision? Mr. Trias.

Planning and Zoning Director Trias: Yes. We had a fully designed plan and what happened was, I don't think we had the management that we have today, that's what happened.

Mayor Lago: Good answer. I like that. Alright. So balante, we keep moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Diaz.