

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item 2-1
March 28, 2023
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Michael Mena

Commissioner Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner James Cason

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Assistant City Attorney, Gus Ceballos

Public Speaker(s)

Maria Cruz

Agenda Item F-1 [1:57 p.m.]

An Ordinance of the City Commission amending Chapter 54 - “Solid Waste” to prohibit placing clean yard waste in trash bags and depositing trash bags in trash piles before 6:00 p.m.; providing for severability clause, repealer provision, codification, and providing for an effective date. (Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

Mayor Lago: Moving onto F-1, ordinances on second reading.

City Attorney Suarez: F-1 is an Ordinance of the City Commission amending Chapter 54 - “Solid Waste” to prohibit placing clean yard waste in trash bags and depositing trash bags in trash piles before 6:00 p.m.; providing for severability clause, repealer provision, codification, and providing for an effective date. This is a public hearing item and Assistant City Attorney Gus Ceballos is here to answer any questions.

Mayor Lago: Are there any changes since first reading?

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Agenda Item F-1 – Ordinance amending Chapter 54 – “Solid Waste” to prohibit Clean yard waste in trash bags

[Date]

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Assistant City Attorney Ceballos: Good afternoon, Mayor, no, there are no changes.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk, do we have any public comment?

City Clerk Urquia: Yes, Mr. Mayor, we do, Maria Cruz.

Mayor Lago: Ms. Cruz.

Ms. Cruz: Mrs. Maria Cruz, 1447 Miller Road, Coral Gables, FL 33146. Sometimes I guess I take the time to read stuff, and after what happened last time when I tried to talk about bags for leaves, I decided to do a little research, and I found on November 9, 2022, on page 2 of the verbatim comments, Mayor Lago and Paula Rodriguez were talking about the bags, and in the second paragraph, and on the first paragraph it says, the bags and they are talking about bags and he said, its completely allowed by the code. Then on the second paragraph Mayor Lago says, so you can have a black bag or ten black bags in your trash pit and that is completely allowed by the code; and then later on it talks about, they can be there seven days and nothing can be done about it. And my assumption is, and I know when you assume you may be making the wrong idea, but my assumption is that we are where we are because that conversation of the black bags in the pits seven days a week and whatever. But I went further, and I requested public records and because I knew that we had discussed it here last Commission meeting, but I knew that there was a second reading today, and then I requested and much to my surprise, really may I finish please.

Mayor Lago: Will you bring it in for a landing please.

Ms. Cruz: Excuse me.

Mayor Lago: May you bring it in for a landing please.

Ms. Cruz: Okay. I'm going to do my best. That I found out that since January, people have been given warnings and citations for having bags in their trash pit, when this hasn't been enacted yet. So, we've been penalizing people and I have the information here if you want it, Gus, for having the bags in the trash pits for an extended period, but this hasn't been enacted. So, I suggest that maybe this is not China, this is not Cuba, maybe we should enact first and then penalize and warn, not the other way around.

Assistant City Attorney Ceballos: I can address it. So currently the code does not allow you to put trash bags in your pit before 6 p.m. the day before. So what technically is allowed is that you could have bagged up your clean yard waste and put it out there. So to remove that ambiguity, to remove that confusion and to basically prevent people from putting those large black trash bags that may be filled with leaves, which is unsightly, now that option is removed. So no trash bags, nothing can be put out, no household refuse is allowed to be put out there before 6 p.m., that's already

what the code says, the only thing that's changing that you cannot put your clean yard waste in trash bags before 6 p.m. the day before your collection.

Mayor Lago: Thank you sir. I appreciate that. As always, there's no nefarious activity, no underhanded, just painted that way by one individual who wants to ridicule the Commission in the city. Mr. Clerk, do we have any other comments?

City Clerk Urquia: No sir, we do not.

Commissioner Cason: I'll make a motion.

Commissioner Menendez: Second.

Commissioner Cason: Yes

Vice Mayor Mena: Yes

Commissioner Menendez: Yes

Commissioner Anderson: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)