

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA URGING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, THROUGH THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MAYOR AND BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE WITH THE LOLA B. WALKER HOMEOWNERS FOUNDATION REGARDING THE BAHAMIAN VILLAGE PROJECT, AND ASKING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO CONTINUE WORKING TO HAVE THE ITEM PLACED ON THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AGENDA AND TO DIRECT STAFF TO EXPEDITE THE APPROVAL OF THE BAHAMIAN VILLAGE PROJECT.

WHEREAS, the Lola B. Walker Homeowners Association represents the residents of the MacFarlane Homestead and Golden Gate neighborhoods of Coral Gables, which includes the MacFarlane Homestead Historic District, which is on the national register of historic places; and

WHEREAS, this geographic area of Coral Gables has an extraordinarily rich and important history, as it was built by the Bahamian settlers who worked with George Merrick to build the original homes throughout Coral Gables, and whose children and grandchildren continue to live there today; and

WHEREAS, the Lola B. Walker Homeowners Association represents a number of Coral Gables families with lower incomes, and received a land grant through the related Lola B. Walker Homeowners Foundation that includes a duty to build a community center at the corner of US-1 and Grand Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the Lola B. Walker Homeowners Association wish to see a community center built at this location; and

WHEREAS, there have been delays related to development of the property over the past decade that have caused concern by all stakeholders; although it should also be noted that a significant economic recession occurred during this time; and

WHEREAS, the City has approved the site plan for the community center and recently approved a regulatory covenant regarding the community center that will allow it to proceed once a permit is issued; and

WHEREAS, litigation is occurring involving the owner/developer of the property and the County that could impede or delay the ability to complete the community center; and

WHEREAS, the County named the Lola B. Walker Homeowners Foundation in the litigation, and is taking a position that could effectively divest the Lola B. Walker Homeowners Foundation of its entire interest in the property; and

WHEREAS, the City is significantly concerned with the impact the litigation may pose to the community center and the surrounding neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to urge Miami-Dade County, through the Board of County Commissioners and the Mayor, to reach a settlement with the parties to the litigation and allow them to proceed to complete the community center project; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to appear before the Board of County Commissioners in furtherance of this matter; and

WHEREAS, the City will simultaneously expedite the permit process for the Bahamian Village Project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES:

SECTION 1. That the foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution upon adoption hereof.

SECTION 2. That the City Commission does hereby support the City Attorney in continuing to work to get this item on the Board of County Commissioners' agenda and assert the City's rights under the Citizens' Bill of Rights.

SECTION 3. That the City Commission directs staff to simultaneously expedite the permit(s) for the Bahamian Village Project.

SECTION 4. That said Resolution shall become effective upon the date of its passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS TWELFTH DAY OF JANUARY, A.D., 2016.
(Moved: Lago / Seconded: Keon)
(Yeas: Quesada, Slesnick, Keon, Lago, Cason)
(Unanimous: 5-0 Vote)
(Agenda Item: I-2)

APPROVED:



JIM CASON
MAYOR

ATTEST:



WALTER J. FOEMAN
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



CRAIG E. LEEN
CITY ATTORNEY