

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item H-1
May 8, 2018
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

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

City Staff

City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
Assistant City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Dillon Graham
Mari Tere Rojas
William Brosland (phonetic)
Volker Anding
Raul Mas
Ivan Silva
Sam Joseph

Agenda Item H-1 [10:17 a.m.]

A discussion regarding safety measures in public schools located within the City, including the placing of CGPD officers at those public schools that do not have an SRO (School Resource Officer) assigned and the connectivity of cameras to CGPD. (Sponsored by Commissioner Lago)

City Commission Meeting

May 8, 2018

Agenda Item H-1 – A discussion regarding safety measures in public schools located within the City, including the placing of CGPD officers at those public schools that do not have an SRO (School Resource Officer) assigned and the connectivity of cameras to CGPD.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: H-1, Commissioner Lago, discussion regarding safety measures in public schools.

Commissioner Lago: Thank you, Mayor. I'd like to recognize our School Board member, Mari Tere Rojas, for being here. I would like for her and her staff -- I know we have the Chief here -- from the School Board to please come to the podium. I know you've taken time and we're grateful that you're here, and I know you're here under some circumstances that -- family issues, but we're grateful that you're here. Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Commissioner Lago: This is a simple, simple conversation.

Dillion Graham: Before you proceed, my name is Dillon Graham. After they speak, I'd like to be heard on the issue as well.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Would you fill...

Commissioner Lago: Fill...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: A card, and I will recognize you when the time comes.

Commissioner Lago: Yes. Thank you, sir. You know, we've been having some serious discussions as of late on -- in reference to the schools here -- the public schools in the city, and I know that Commissioner Quesada -- Vice Mayor Quesada is going to speak about public schools later, but I think it can be kind of -- there's some interplay here between both. We're really

looking forward to seeing how the City can work with Miami-Dade County Public Schools on delivering the most safe schools in Miami-Dade County.

Mari Tere Rojas: Absolutely. Well, thank you. Good morning, Mayor Valdes-Fauli...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Morning.

Ms. Rojas: And Vice Mayor Quesada, as well as all of the Commissioners and our visiting public. Thank you so much for allowing me to speak here this morning. I am Mari Tere Rojas, again, the proud School Board member representing District 6, within the City Beautiful. With me today, I have next to me Commander Ivan Silva, from Central Operations for Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and also, Ms. Eva Regueira, director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Grants Administration. First and foremost, I want to express my sincere gratitude to Commissioner Vince Lago for demonstrating your commitment to safety by sponsoring item H-1 and for inviting us here today. The safety and security of our students and our workforce is the number-one priority for me, for my colleagues on the Board, particularly, for our Board chair, Perla Tabares Hantman, and our superintendent of schools. Following the tragic event at Marjory Stoneman Douglas Senior High School, in Parkland, Miami-Dade County Public Schools took immediate action to increase safety and security, including IDs being required for all of our students, particularly in the high schools and middle schools, working our way down to our K-8s and our elementary schools, locking classroom doors during school hours and reducing the points of entry into each one of our schools. As you may be aware, the State Legislature approved a school safety package with -- which appropriates \$98 million statewide to enhance school security MDCPS gets 13 percent of this allocation. And although we have not received a final number yet, we expect to receive about \$10 million. These funds are appropriated for all public schools, traditional and charter. MDCPS currently has an SRO assigned to every middle and senior high school. And the goal is, district wide, to have one assigned to every single one of our schools, including the ten schools in the Coral Gables feeder pattern and the one charter school that we have here in Coral Gables as well, by the start of the upcoming school year.

Currently, the cost of an officer is approximately about \$100,000 for the first year. And this would include the hiring, the training, the vehicles and their salary and benefits. Thereafter, it becomes about \$70,000, because the cost of the vehicles is no longer included. However, even if we received enough funding to cover all of the officers, it would take about 18 to 24 months to fully staff all of those schools due to the required time for hiring and training. For these reasons, I am in full support of this item, because any assistance to ensure the safety and security of our children and our workforce is greatly welcomed. This item also focuses on camera surveillance system, the possibility of allowing the connectivity of the cameras to the Coral Gables Police Department. I have been in communication with our School Board attorney and there are some concerns in this arena regarding the legal components related to this item. It appears that this matter was discussed approximately about four to five years ago and the majority of the apprehensions at that time were related to the cameras located inside the classrooms and inside the schools, because of the protection of our student privacy. Cameras located on the outside were of less concern at that time, but would still have to be discussed further. Again, all options would have to be thoroughly vetted through the mutual agreements and we need to continue these very important conversations. It is critical for the community to work cohesively towards achieving a safe environment for our children. And because of this, I do want to share that I recently proffered a Board item, which will now allow for us to share with the municipalities the floor plans for our schools. Again, I just want to say thank you to all of you for allowing us to be here today. I look forward to continued collaboration with all of you. In my opinion, teamwork makes the dream work and it takes all stakeholders working together for our children, our future leaders of tomorrow. And if we can do that, I can assure you we're going to have a win-win for all. So, if you have any questions, I have the members of our staff here to respond to any specific questions that you may have.

Commissioner Lago: Thank you, Madam School Board member.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much. Thank you very, very much for the presentation and everything you're doing for us.

Commissioner Lago: What I wanted to do was -- and if I may quickly -- if I may bring ACM Fernandez up here. I wanted to present to my colleagues a real option that we can deal with the issue. And I think that you summed it up pretty well in regards to -- if we want to meet our goal of school safety immediately, it's going to be virtually impossible because as a result the funds are not there. And the issues are not only funding, but the issue is that if the funding was there, you would have a situation where it would take 18 to 24 months to ramp up in regards to training -- not only training. First, we got to find these individuals, and we're dealing with a bunch of other municipalities, as Frank Fernandez and I spoke about yesterday, that are right now targeting the same applicant pool, so that makes it very, very difficult. I think 18 to 24 months -- could it potentially happen? Yes, especially if certain things that we do come into play. So, what I wanted to speak to my colleagues about today was two-fold. Number one, the School Board member addressed it. It's getting the information necessary so that if something were to happen in a school, we would be -- while we're on the way to that school to address the issue, we have all the pertinent information to address it as clearly and as focused as possible. That is the floor plans for all the schools. That is connectivity in regards to the CCTV system. And, the City of Coral Gables is now ramping up and implementing a significant CCTV campaign, which we've been doing for the last two or three years. Whatever we need to do to make sure that we have access to the School Board's CCTV program, if it's our City Attorney has to deal with your attorneys and make sure that we're in compliance and that we're meeting all the needs in regards to Jessica Lunsford clearance and all the requirements of the School Board. I want to make sure that we do that. And, I want to make sure that my colleagues are on board with that, so that we can get that -- that's the simple first step that we can do that will at least -- if there is a major issue at a school, while we're on the way, we can find out exactly where that culprit or that issue may be and address it as quickly as possible. And hopefully, you know, save lives and bloodshed. The second issue that I think is critical is that if we're serious about school safety, then we need to figure out a way for the City to plug the holes for the next 18 to 24 months. I was under the impression that we had 11 schools. I was educated yesterday by staff that it's 7 schools actually, correct? So, I misspoke at the last Commission meeting. I apologize for that.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Sir, I think it's a difference of -- she's talking feeder, so schools outside of Coral Gables. And we were talking within the municipality.

Commissioner Lago: Yeah. So, I just wanted to make sure, you know, because...

Ms. Rojas: Yes.

Commissioner Lago: I made a comment before when I misspoke. So, after speaking with ACM Fernandez, I wanted to talk a little bit about how could we potentially plug the hole over the next 18 to 24 months. Can you talk a little bit about that?

Assistant City Manager Fernandez: Sure. Good morning, Mr. Mayor, Vice Mayor. Thank you very much for the opportunity. School safety for our kids is paramount and (INAUDIBLE) tasked us with coming up with a strategy of working with the School Board Police. Chief Hudak has met with the School Board Chief and they've coordinated their resources. So, today, just to put people at ease, we are in straight coordination with the School Board Police. We have the schools covered throughout the end of the year. Going forward, you've asked us to look at different options in terms of how do we -- or how can we police the school. A couple of different options are to have a full-time officer or a seasonal officer cover the school. As such, working with Chief Hudak, we've identified three additional positions should you choose to go that route to, in the interim, as the school police builds up their staff. Again, today, we do have all the schools covered. We, in partnership -- direct partnership with the School Board police. I'd like to ask Chief Hudak to come forward and elaborate to you on the meeting that he had with the School Board police and their coordination efforts. Chief Hudak.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Good morning, Chief.

Commissioner Lago: Good morning, Chief.

Chief Hudak: Good morning. Good morning, everyone. Yes, we continue to have meetings -- the main meeting we had was at Miami Beach, at the request of the superintendent, as well as the Chiefs of Police from all the other municipalities and elected officials. Understanding the issues closer to home of hiring and what it takes, we understand that this is going to be a yeoman's task for the School Board Police Department. I believe -- and we do have a good working synergetic type of relationship with the School Board police officers and have continued to have it through both emergency situations and daily activities. We do have School Board officers that have been -- worked in partnership with our youth resource officers. We will continue those programs. We've extended or expanded, if you will, some of our patrolling on-site personnel throughout the duration. Our training exercises over the summer, we'll make sure that we have the appropriate staffing in place and trained as required. So, we're kind of ahead of the curve. Historically, the work between the Coral Gables Police Department and the Miami-Dade School Board's Police Department has been tested, tried, proven. That's not just Chief Moffatt, but everyone else. So, we're very confident on that on the public school side. The private school side, we continue to have our officers deployed in those areas during those critical times of dismissal and ingress.

Commissioner Mena: Can I ask a question?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Sure. Go ahead.

Commissioner Mena: Chief Hudak, in conjunction with your meetings with the School Board, do -- are we doing active shooter trainings? I know we do them generally. Are we doing them on-site at these locations, so that there's a familiarity between your police department and these facilities sufficient to navigate that situation if they were ever in it?

Chief Hudak: Yes. We have -- historically, we have used West Lab school. We have used Gables Elementary. Now, I'm going -- when I say historically, it's like I went through the training, so it was a long time ago.

Commissioner Mena: Right.

Chief Hudak: However, I believe the officers that are assigned in those areas; those beats are more frequently in the schools to get the layout. They've really kind of taken the initiative. We have done certain things with the school resource officers, our school resources officers as far as armament and preparation and kind of a more detailed on-campus presence. We have worked together with our Fire Department as we review our SOP 122, which is our threat assessment. We've worked conjunctively with the Fire Department in getting them in faster. We have worked, in the past, with Miami-Dade School's police on some exercises. But going forward, we're looking at some innovative evening hours throughout the summer. I would imagine we would have a lot more interaction and training. Myself and Chief Moffett from the Dade County School Board's police had a conversation. He's on board. Again, we'll defer to the City Attorney and the County Attorneys to make sure that we have all the indemnifications and we have an outside person that I've contacted to try and put us through the test, so there is really no familiarity so we are on board.

Commissioner Mena: Yeah. I just want to make sure given what School Board Member Rojas just said about the floor plans, now that we have that, which is great -- thank you for your leadership on that. But, I want to make sure that there's actual on the ground, boots on the ground...

Commissioner Lago: That's...

Commissioner Mena: Familiarity with the...

Commissioner Lago: Yeah.

Commissioner Mena: Facilities.

Commissioner Lago: Yeah, that's why -- go ahead, School Board member.

Ms. Rojas: Commissioner...

Commissioner Mena: Yeah.

Ms. Rojas: If I may. Prior to this incident occurring, as a matter of fact, I also proffered a board item prior to Marjory Stoneman Douglas for active shooter training in our schools, reviewing all of our protocols and our policy. And, I want you to know that Miami-Dade County Public Schools has been conducting active shooter training for all of our employees and our school sites. And I don't know if Commander Silva would like to expand on that, but I wanted to make sure that you knew that. And we also have, in addition to Chief Moffett; we also have Chief Lopez, who has been working actively on this as well. So, we're very, very involved in that aspect of the active shooter training.

Commissioner Lago: Well, I just wanted to add a few points and kind of refocus on the issue, and that is that we have currently how many SROs in the City of Coral Gables working with the schools? How -- let me phrase the question better. How many schools are missing SROs currently?

Chief Hudak: Currently, we have two assigned SROs...

Commissioner Lago: For the seven? For how many schools?

Chief Hudak: Well, they're assigned to Gables Elementary. They were going back and forth between -- I'm sorry, Ponce Middle and Carver Elementary. The School Board Police Department is now taking on those two schools. We've moved our resources to a permanently assigned person to Gables Elementary, a permanently assigned person to Coral Gables High

School, and we are covering West Lab with rotations with our officers as well as the University of Miami officers.

Commissioner Lago: Obviously, that's a pretty significant cost when you start using Coral Gables officers. You have the pension costs. You have other outside costs that I think are -- you know, are going to obviously impact our bottom line. So, what I -- that's another reason why we need to make a decision today or in the near future, in the next week, two weeks, before our next Commission meeting. What I talked to ACM Fernandez and our police chief about is we need to be ready and deal with this issue, because we're not going to have an answer in regards to SROs for the next 18 -- just say 24 months, two years. What I propose is an idea that ACM Fernandez brought to my attention and that was let's use seasonal officers, nine months. There's no pension liability. Those individuals can work at the schools, and if we need to use them, we can use them for other events, if they want to work overtime. These are licensed, retired police officers that still have all the -- what?

Commissioner Keon: Certified.

Commissioner Lago: Certified. That's the appropriate word. Thank you, Commissioner Keon. And I think it's an opportunity for us to plug the gap. And I have the funding in place, which, hopefully, if we vote on second reading on F-2 and F-3 -- F-3 and F-4, which is the migration and the revisiting of the parking code from the County -- I know our staff will be talking about this later. We have the necessary funds in place that will be coming in to hopefully address this issue. And I think that this is paramount. I mean, this is the safety of our children. I mean, we're talking about -- I think you said -- you mentioned -- I think it would probably be two or three hires that we would have to make?

Chief Hudak: Well, right now we are -- we're pending training...

Commissioner Lago: I'm not going to hold you to it. How many...

Chief Hudak: No, no, no.

Commissioner Lago: If we were going to take City of Coral Gables police officers out of the mix and let UM do their job, how many officers -- how many seasonal, certified police officers that are retired will we have to hire to meet the goals of the City of Coral Gables?

Chief Hudak: For the presence requested that we're doing now, it would be a minimum of three seasonal...

Commissioner Lago: Okay.

Chief Hudak: Officers during that year that we would have to do that.

Commissioner Lago: And the great opportunity about this -- this is something that we were discussing and brainstorming -- is let's say these individuals work, obviously, an eight-hour day and we have an event that evening at Giralda or we have an event, let's say, at Miracle Mile or whatever the case may be. We can offer those individuals, listen, would you like to work a little overtime to meet our goals for an additional. And these are individuals, again, who have lived a life of public safety. Their number one goal -- and they want to be -- continue to be active and continue to serve this community. So, I'm just trying to see how we can deal with this school safety issue and really deal with it...

Assistant City Manager Fernandez: (INAUDIBLE).

Commissioner Lago: Before 24 months from now when the School Board finally has the ability to, you know, deal with the issue. And it's not that they don't want to deal with it. The School Board wants to deal with it, but again, limited resources. ACM Fernandez even told me I think

Broward is trying to hire I don't know how many police officers right now. Other municipalities are trying to do their best to hire, so there's a limited pool.

Commissioner Mena: I like the idea a lot, Commissioner Lago. I think, you know, we talked about in the past at our Sunshine meeting that touched on this issue, you know, we also need some sort of commitment, though, from the School Board on a drop-dead date of when it will fully transition, because otherwise my concern -- and I think you agreed at the time...

Commissioner Lago: One hundred percent.

Commissioner Mena: Was once we're filling these roles it's very hard to then transition it out because...

Commissioner Lago: People get comfortable.

Commissioner Mena: It's a cost and people get comfortable with the state of affairs. So, you know, we need to work that out. How much time you're targeting and how much time is really an absolute guarantee that you will have those roles filled by, so that we know what to expect and we can budget for it more than anything.

Commissioner Lago: And on that point, you know, I think that's one of the critical top two or three points when we discuss today. I want to make sure that besides getting cooperation and getting an agreement in regards to CCTV cameras, I'm going to give you the 24 months. I'm going to even go -- I'm not going to go 18. I'm going to say it's going to take two years to get this done, and we're going to cooperate with the School Board because, you know, public safety is our number-one priority as elected officials and we want to make sure. And, I want other cities to basically look at what the City of Coral Gables is doing and our leadership and how we have made this our number-one priority since that tragedy that occurred in Parkland and we're going to deliver. And other municipalities should not -- again, and with all due respect -- should

not have to wait on the School Board, because the School Board has limitations and has restraints. I mean, they're dealing with thousands and thousands of children. You can't expect from one day to the next that they deliver. But I think that municipalities can step up and, you know, meet the goals of the residents and of the children.

Ms. Rojas: Thank you, Commissioner Lago. And I absolutely concur with you. Safety and security is of utmost concern to everyone. And, I want you to know that we have been working cohesively with the municipalities and with Miami-Dade County and we're very fortunate to see that everybody has immediately said present and they are trying to do the same thing we are doing here. So, I'm very pleased to announce that. And additionally, I just want you all to know that it's not just the hiring of SROs that we're dealing with here. We are also having to hire counselors, mental health personnel. I mean, we have a lot of requirements that we have to abide by, by a certain date that the Legislature has given to us. So, we are working tirelessly on this particular endeavor. So, your assistance with the three -- particularly, with those three schools that don't have SROs right now is going to be greatly, greatly appreciated. And I want to thank Chief Hudak. He has been just fantastic, not just throughout this process, but when we went through the hurricanes and everything else. They have been present at Coral Gables Senior and at the different schools that I represent. So, I thank him and I thank all of you for allowing that to happen.

Commissioner Keon: (INAUDIBLE).

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Commissioner Keon: (INAUDIBLE) renovations at Coral Gables High School. It's a great opportunity to build in those measures into the school itself, with the wiring and whatever to be able to have cameras and to have different things within the school that will provide added safety. And I'm sure that, you know, you have a safety team that reviews all those plans to make those recommendations, so it's a very -- it's very timely for us. When did you plan to -- when

are you coming back for the plans for Gables High School? When are we going to -- when is that meeting again?

Ms. Rojas: Well, we are -- we're going to actually be meeting with Mr. Tarence and I will be getting back with the principal with an exact timeline and we will inform you as well. But during the summer, we're going to be very actively involved...

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Ms. Rojas: In working at Coral Gables Senior High School. I'll make sure that you all get the information.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you.

Ms. Rojas: Yes, ma'am.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much.

Ms. Rojas: Thank you very much.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We have three members of the public that wish to speak.

Commissioner Lago: Perfect.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: William Brosland (phonetic). Please come up and give us your address.

William Brosland: Hello. So, as a student at...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: No, no. Give us your address, please.

Commissioner Keon: Your name and address.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Name and address.

Mr. Brosland: Oh, William Brosland, 9770 Northwest 51st.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Mr. Brosland: So, as a student at Coral Gables Senior High School, and as a representative for the students across the county and across the nation, we feel that the actions that have been taken towards preventing tragedies like the ones that happened at Parkland all -- have all been reactive in the sense of cameras and more security. I think we would feel much more represented and safe if we -- if you all, as elected officials and representatives of us and like people we've elected to make change and protect us in this sense, if we took a more proactive approach to preventing these tragedies. I think installing cameras is great, but they don't prevent somebody from coming to school with an assault weapon designed to...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: What would you suggest we do?

Mr. Brosland: As elected officials, we would suggest that you push for more...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: (INAUDIBLE) messed it up. What would you suggest we do?

Mr. Brosland: So, we would feel -- we would be much -- we would appreciate it very greatly if you all pushed for stringent gun control in the sense of controlling guns that come into our...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We have done that. We have done that, and there's a state law that forbids us from doing it, but we are trying to do our best. And as you can see from this morning's

discussion, we're very much aware of the problem and dangers and we're really doing our best. And if you have suggestions, we would very much -- we welcome them.

Mr. Brosland: Okay. But I just wanted to make...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Mr. Brosland: Our point that we feel that all of the actions that are currently being installed are completely reactive instead of proactive and would not prevent a tragic event like the one that happened in Parkland. Again, cameras are great, but once the person is inside with an assault weapon designed solely to kill people, there's nothing the cameras will really do besides help you find them once you get in. So...

Commissioner Keon: You are aware that the State Legislature has prohibited us from taking any action...

Mr. Brosland: I am.

Commissioner Keon: On guns, so...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Commissioner Keon: We hope we continue...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We tried.

Commissioner Keon: To have that conversation with the state legislators, because we would have done it had we been allowed to do it.

Mr. Brosland: Yeah. And we appreciate you taking that on and being civilly disobedient in the sense that we feel -- we do appreciate that and we do see our actions and what we've done is being supported through you guys. But I just wanted to...

Commissioner Lago: And let me just address you one second, if I may, you know. First of all, I commend you for being here because it takes a lot of guts to come up here, especially at your age, and come up and speak at a Commission meeting, and I think that's spectacular. So, I commend you for that. I disagree with you in reference to your opinion on whether, you know, assault weapons and guns -- I think that's a separate issue. What we're dealing with today is real school safety. By you going out there and banning assault weapons, you're not -- this is my opinion, not the opinion of my colleagues. And I respect my colleagues beyond measure. In my opinion, I think it's all smoke and mirrors. What I think needs to be done today -- and if you're serious about school safety -- is what this Commission is about to do. And, I'm going to make a motion right now to make sure that we memorialize this and it gets done. We're about to put a certified police officer in every single school, which you do not have right now. So, that would deter someone, hopefully -- I mean, unless they come in, you know, guns blazing and -- again, outside of having a moat around a school and metal detectors and -- you know, I think that it's very, very difficult, but it's another deterrent that currently doesn't exist in reference to the school safety. I cannot and I'd leave it up to our School Board Member Mari Tere Rojas to tell me any other city that has taken the measures as quickly as we are. Public safety meetings, Sunshine meetings, where our School Board member has probably been here a dozen times to meet with the members, to address this Commission. So, I think that we're being the most progressive outspoken city and we're dealing with the problem. We're not just saying that we're going to ban assault weapons and then there's no protection in your school. Because, again, like I mentioned before, the School Board is under a lot of stress right now. They're trying to deal with the issue, but there's a limited amount of resources that were brought down by our State Legislature. If there's anybody to pick a bone with, you know, and you got to fight with, it's the State Legislature, not the local Commission, not the local mayor and staff who are doing their best to deal with this issue. But, I just want you to know that I commend you for coming up here

and I ask you to continue, you know, to be an advocate on behalf of any cause because we need more young people like yourself. It doesn't matter if I agree or I disagree on the issue. You need to be vocal and you need to be an advocate on behalf of something. And that's why I think we fall short, so I commend you on that, okay?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much. Thank you.

Mr. Brosland: Oh, could I...

Commissioner Lago: Yeah, of course.

Mr. Brosland: So, kind of piggybacking on what you said about us being more -- most progressive in this cause, I think that's a reaction to what happened in Parkland seeing as we are the closest major city to Parkland. I don't think it has anything to do with preventing future ones. I think it's -- if it happens, what are we going to do about it instead of how are we going to stop these things from happening. Marjory Stoneman Douglas had a security guard/officer/guard and nothing -- it did not deter them at all. So, I'm not saying we shouldn't implement these school resources officers I think is what they are called. I think -- but we need to take more measures to prevent these things from happening.

Commissioner Lago: Then what would you recommend? Because I'm voting right now with this Commission to actually install a police officer in every single school.

Mr. Brosland: I understand.

Commissioner Lago: A licensed certified police officer.

Commissioner Keon: Okay. I think he understands that. I think he's speaking to the larger issue related to guns in general.

Commissioner Lago: That's why I told you you need to go to the state...

Commissioner Keon: And I know that you are...

Mr. Brosland: And I have.

Commissioner Keon: Yes. And there are many...

Mr. Brosland: I have...

Commissioner Keon: Of us that do support you in that, but it is -- we don't have the ability...

Commissioner Lago: Yeah, we don't.

Commissioner Keon: To do that, but thank you for coming here.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay. Let's go on. Thank you very much, sir.

Mr. Brosland: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Dillon Graham.

Dillon Graham: Good morning. I'm Dillon Graham, 1324 South Greenway Drive. I've lived in Coral Gables since 1972. I went to Ponce. I went to Coral Gables Senior High School. I went to the University of Miami. I'm -- I have a law office here in Coral Gables. I have two kids at Coral Gables Prep, the Upper Academy. It used to be Coral Gables Elementary. They're going to be going to Coral Gables Senior High School next year. I am, you know, worried about their safety. We have -- you know, from watching the news, I can tell that we have a -- we're living in

an age of the new normal. And the new normal is that sick people are targeting schools for -- to commit, you know, horrible acts of violence. So, the idea that I have is we have a great police force here in Coral Gables. I went to the Coral Gables Courthouse a couple of Mondays ago, maybe three Mondays ago now. And when I got there -- I've gone there over the years. I've been in practice for 35 years now. And -- but there were like two or three Metro-Dade police cars outside. When I walked through the front door, I had to go through a metal detector. And on the other side of the metal detector was a person with a wand. And I said, why all the police presence? And she said, that's normal. And then I walked inside the courthouse and there's all these armed, uniformed officers carrying guns. And it seems to me that we have -- now the Coral Gables Police Department is at full staff. They should be -- they should have a presence at the school. We have the guys...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Frank -- I think that they're there for traffic tickets and they're there for court appearances and not necessarily for protecting the courthouse.

Mr. Graham: Yeah, so -- well, but we have -- right now we have a police force in Coral Gables. Why can't they have -- why can't they have a presence at our local schools?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: They do.

Mr. Graham: Let them walk...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: They do.

Mr. Graham: Let them walk through the halls. Let them drive around. Let their police cars be seen.

Commissioner Lago: That's currently what's occurring. And what we're trying to do -- and that's why we're having this discussion -- is trying to find an answer, over the next 18 to 24

months, so that our police officers -- maybe hire, like I mentioned before, seasonal officers who have all the necessary certifications and come in and do the job immediately, provide the coverage that we need and then we can remove the officers from the schools and let them patrol the streets, which is, I think, just as important.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: But, don't use the courthouse example because...

Mr. Graham: Yeah, I understand what you're...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: They're going for court.

Mr. Graham: My point is is that we have plenty of police in Coral Gables. They need to make the schools part of their patrol area. And they -- and what they do is instead of going into the schools, they go around. They go everywhere except to the school...

Commissioner Lago: And that's another...

Mr. Graham: Let them come to the schools.

Commissioner Keon: Well, I think that, you know, our School Board representative could address that as the School Board is its own separate entity by state charter and they have jurisdiction within their schools and they -- it is -- it would be through a cooperative agreement, but they have their own police and we will cooperate with them on that.

Mr. Graham: So, yeah, coop -- let's...

Commissioner Keon: But maybe you can make that clear.

Ms. Rojas: Thank you, Commissioner.

Mr. Graham: I mean, let's cooperate. Let's, you know -- because I don't think there's...

Commissioner Lago: But we...

Mr. Graham: Disagreement.

Commissioner Lago: We are -- we have -- right now, like you heard from our Police Chief and also our ACM, we are right now having our actual police officers from the City of Coral Gables addressing our needs. The only school that does not have that is West Lab, where we have a cooperation between UM and the City of Coral Gables to make sure that that's dealt with.

Mr. Graham: Yeah. I...

Ms. Rojas: If I could just...

Mr. Graham: I feel like the school resource officer is not enough. When I went to Ponce, we had a school resource officer. He was like a liaison. He was like a -- you know, made friends with the kids. He was like Officer Friendly. He -- you know, we need a police presence at the school. And just having a police officer assigned there, he's going to get into a regular pattern, human behavior being what it is, he'll be sitting in the office and he'll develop his pattern and anybody that wants to come in the school and do harm will know what his pattern is. They'll go around it and the shooting will occur. If we have, you know, a beefed-up police presence at the schools, it'll make it a hard target. It seems like an easy fix to me and it won't cost any money.

Commissioner Lago: Okay.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you, sir.

Commissioner Lago: We're working on that today.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Commissioner Lago: Hopefully, if my motion is granted, we'll...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah. This discussion is part of what you're talking about.

Ms. Rojas: And if I...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Ms. Rojas: If I may.

Commissioner Lago: Yes, ma'am.

Ms. Rojas: Just for clarification's sake, first and foremost, we're very, very fortunate because Miami-Dade County Public Schools is only one out of four counties in the state that has their own police department, so this is extremely important for the public to know, because we have officers assigned to the majority of the schools. Do we have them in all of them? No. And that's where our joint partnership takes place. But, it has been taking place prior to this incident occurring, not just now. So, when you refer to the issue of being proactive in lieu of reactive, we have certainly been doing that with the City of Coral Gables and we thank you because you have always been, again, present. I want you all to know that I -- our MOUs are being revised as we speak. And, all the municipalities will be receiving them by this Wednesday with all the updated information that you are going to need to address what Commissioner Lago has been alluding to throughout this meeting.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Ms. Rojas: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Great.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much, Mari Tere. Next is Volker Anding. Good morning, sir.

Volker Anding: Hi. Good morning.

Commissioner Lago: Good morning.

Mr. Anding: My name is Volker Anding, 600 Biltmore Way, in Coral Gables. I have been a community guest at the Educational Committee of the City of Coral Gables various times. I've been following this safety situation. As I understand, the schools are already now under firm instructions to have clear and effective access control, so the doors are either -- to schools are either closed or that there's a person that controls the access and this is, in fact, not happening. There are indications that at many schools the doors are not locked. They're open. Anybody can get in any time. I think there should be more control and verification, even if the school administration or the principal reports, yes, we are doing all this. There have been indications that this is not always really done effectively. And, it has happened that an occasional teacher who saw somebody walk in through an open door had to talk to this person and then ask, well, to please identify and go to the administration. This is not how it should be done. So, please control and verify. Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you, sir. Raul Mas. Good morning.

Commissioner Lago: Good morning.

Raul Mas: Good morning, Mr. Mayor. Good morning, Commissioners.

Commissioner Mena: Morning.

Mr. Mas: Raul Mas, 610 Vilabella Avenue. Just a comment. I had the opportunity to attend six of the funerals at Parkland, for Alaina Petty, for Peter Wang, and also for Martin Duque. Those were the three young men and women that were JROTC cadets and were killed at Parkland. So, I want you to understand that when I come up here and I talk to you guys about gun violence and other issues like that, I am not, you know, dismissing the very real pain and hurt that these families experienced at Parkland. But, I think one thing that is being ignored in this whole discussion -- I think we need to pay an enormous amount of attention to -- and I'm specifically discussing this with the Miami-Dade County school system is the Miami-Dade County school system, along with the law enforcement community in South Florida has created these juvenile diversion programs that have allowed individuals like Nikolas Cruz to basically get away with 30, 40, 50 contacts with law enforcement and really not be dealt with. And that is something that I think needs to be addressed very seriously. These programs were instituted as a way of keeping individuals out of the court system. In fact, it was a federal mandate during the Obama Administration to basically look to make sure that there was no sort of racial animus in terms of school discipline. And, what ended up happening in many school systems is they became gun-shy -- pardon the poor use of language, okay -- but they became very nervous about basically imposing the necessary discipline in school systems and reporting some of these repeat offenders over and over and over again to the police department. And that, quite frankly, is why you have individuals like Nikolas Cruz go to Parkland after 30 or 40 contacts, okay, and not being addressed. Secondly, the bureaucracy at the school system -- something needs to be done about it. Because, you know, I had a conversation not long ago with one of your colleagues about an idea that I had to basically bring in US Army trained medics. We have the Army's trauma training center here at Jackson Memorial Hospital. It is the premiere center for trauma training in the United States military. These folks are willing to volunteer their time to teach our school officials, our coaches about, you know, how to treat massive trauma wounds if something like

this were to happen in our schools. And, what I was told is that that was going to be very difficult, because we had to pay the teachers overtime to basically take this training, and on top of that, we had to basically find substitute teachers while they were undergoing the training, which, to me, it just kind of makes no sense. I mean, if we can bring something that's free to the table in the sense of having volunteers come into our school system and say, hey, I want to do this. I want to volunteer my time as an army soldier to train, you know, teachers and coaches on how to deal with these injuries if they were to occur. You know, we shouldn't be basically putting up walls and saying, well, we can't do that because, you know, we've got union rules that prohibit us from, you know, taking too much of our teacher's time in other subjects. So, just an issue I wanted to bring up and bring to your attention, in particular, the juvenile diversion programs I think need to be paid attention to.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you, sir.

Commissioner Lago: If I could just...

Vice Mayor Quesada: If I could ask a question.

Commissioner Lago: If I could just add -- I want to add something to Mr. Mas' comments, and I think I brought this up a few Commission meetings ago because, again, since the moment that this occurred, this tragic, horrible incident that occurred at Parkland, this Commission has been talking about this on a regular basis. I had the pleasure of listening to Commissioner Joe Martinez on the radio a few months ago when it was fresh in the mind of everybody, a few days after the Parkland incident. They were interviewing him in regards to -- and I think I mentioned this to our staff in one of our meetings. They were interviewing him in regards to School Board incidents and what was happening with these students and how we can make our school safer. One of the points that he made -- because this is his second go around as County Commissioner -- he mentioned that when he was in office 15 years ago, in one of the schools that I forgot the name of the school right now, they had installed metal detectors. And, all the students had to go

through metal detectors and there wasn't any issues whatsoever in regards to crime at all. You didn't find weapons. There wasn't any guns. There wasn't any knives. There wasn't any issues whatsoever. But, certain parents started complaining about the metal detectors saying that, you know, this is not a jail, you know. This is discrimination against certain students, so they removed the -- they had no choice. Someone filed a lawsuit and I don't know the exact mechanism they used, but it was -- the metal detectors were removed from that school. What ended up happening? Violence, knives, fighting, guns, intimidation, a bunch of things. So, we have to make a decision. We have to make a decision. And it's a decision that -- again, some of it's out of our hands. Some of it's out of the School Board's hands, but we have to do our part. We have to do our part.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much.

Commissioner Keon: Can I...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Commissioner Keon: Ask one question, Mayor?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Please. Let's...

Commissioner Keon: With regard to...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Continue.

Commissioner Keon: We use the schools as polling places for our elections. Does that require -- is that a problem, I mean, with the added security that you are trying to establish at schools and control who comes into the school and out of the school? Does that affect the ability to use schools as polling places or are we looking at other facilities for polling places?

Ivan Silva: Good morning, everyone. (INAUDIBLE) cases where we use school sites for polling...

Commissioner Keon: Yeah.

Mr. Silva: They -- the local jurisdiction usually takes care of security folks, like Miami-Dade Police Department are usually -- are the ones that are on site handling security.

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Mr. Silva: We're usually there with them...

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Mr. Silva: But, we work in case anything else comes from it.

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Mr. Silva: And we assist them there.

Commissioner Keon: I just want -- because I know we use Ponce and I know we use the high school both as polling places. In the more -- most recent election here a couple weeks ago, a couple people commented about the -- trying to get in and out of the school and that it was -- people were concerned about who they were, which, rightfully, they should be. But I wondered if, you know, you were going to maybe change your -- or would take a look at whether they are appropriate places as polling places or there's other places we should look to and we should have the Clerk, you know, address, you know, is that -- are they appropriate places for polling places and that you would let us know in time for an election. If you can have that discussion so that

arrangements could be made, you know, if you believe that it's necessary. I mean, if you don't, that's fine.

Mr. Silva: Yeah. Historically...

Commissioner Keon: That would be your call.

Mr. Silva: Yeah. Historically, they've always used the school sites for...

Commissioner Keon: Yeah.

Mr. Silva: Polling. We never had an issue as far as...

Commissioner Keon: No, I don't think so either.

Mr. Silva: Working with the jurisdictions as far as when we're there. They usually take care of that part for us. We have a designated area. It's always under review. If an incident...

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Mr. Silva: Comes out of it, we always review and make sure we prepare for it in case for next year...

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Mr. Silva: Or the next election process.

Commissioner Keon: Alright, thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much.

Mr. Silva: Thank you.

Commissioner Lago: Mayor, if I may, just one last comment.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah, one last comment.

Commissioner Lago: I'd like to see if my appointment, who's the chairman, Sam Joseph, of the School Advisory Committee would like to make some comments. We'd really appreciate it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes. Let's wrap this up. Sam, come up.

Ms. Rojas: If I may, just prior to that.

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

Ms. Rojas: In reference to the gentleman that spoke previously, for the record, I want it to be known that the School Board has spent endless numbers of hours addressing the issue of safety and security and we have looked at every option, sir, which includes having retired police officers, retired military, whatever we can look at that may make a difference, we are doing exactly that. So, I want you to know that we do listen to the public, but we also have a lot of initiatives of our own that we are looking at as well and...

(COMMENTS MADE OFF THE RECORD)

Ms. Rojas: Yes. And what I would like to also state, sir, anyone who would like to address my office -- I can only speak for myself -- our number is 305-995-1334. I'm very open to meeting

with all of our constituents and addressing any issues that ultimately, at the end of the day, will result in...

Commissioner Keon: But you also...

Ms. Rojas: A positive outcome.

Commissioner Keon: You also have hours here in the City of Coral Gables...

Ms. Rojas: Yes.

Commissioner Keon: In City Hall.

Ms. Rojas: Yes. I meet here -- I have also a satellite office here thanks to Mayor Valdes-Fauli and our Commissioners.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And you're very welcome.

Ms. Rojas: I come here the third Thursday of every month.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much.

Commissioner Keon: You have served us well.

Ms. Rojas: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Sam, you want to say a few words?

Commissioner Lago: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And then we'll need a motion from...

Commissioner Lago: Yeah. I'm going to make a motion.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Commissioner Lago.

Sam Joseph: Thank you, Mr. Mayor, Vice Mayor and Commissioners. Just a couple words because I don't want to repeat what's already been said. Two things, first of all, in terms of the number of schools that are covered, I just want to make sure we're clear about that. We have 11 public schools, which are identified in the statute for -- the resolution for the School and Community...

Commissioner Lago: That was -- but see, that's -- then if I may interject. That's the numbers that I used and I've used for the last few months, and now we have contra -- you know.

Mr. Joseph: And I just wanted to be clear. Eleven schools listed, one of them is a charter, so that would make 10 public schools.

Commissioner Lago: Okay.

Mr. Joseph: At two of those schools, we have resource officers right now, Ponce Middle and the high school. Now, they're assigned multiple schools to cover, but they are located and housed right now at Ponce and the high school. And, that is the district's minimum requirement is that there's at least school resource officers in the middle and the high school grades. What's not covered is the elementaries and K-8s, and that would be 7 to 8 schools that are not covered right now, and that's what the district -- you can find out more about specifics of...

City Attorney Ramos: Mr. Joseph, I think that there's a distinction between feeder schools and schools in our jurisdiction. Is those -- are those 11 including feeder schools or are you saying the...

Mr. Joseph: They do...

City Attorney Ramos: Eleven are in the City of Coral Gables?

Mr. Joseph: They do include feeder schools -- and I'm talk -- and again, look at the resolution for setting up the SCRC. All of them are listed specifically. And so, only two of those schools literally are covered right now.

Commissioner Lago: But I want to make sure...

City Attorney Ramos: Right, but our...

Commissioner Lago: Are those the -- are those -- those 11 are not within the boundaries of the City...

City Attorney Ramos: Correct.

Commissioner Lago: Of Coral Gables.

Mr. Joseph: Not all of them, no.

Commissioner Lago: I would love to do everything in my power to be responsible for those, but I mean, again...

Mr. Joseph: Of course.

Commissioner Lago: We also have limited resources.

Mr. Joseph: Of course, of course

Commissioner Lago: And I have one Commissioner already...

Commissioner Keon: (INAUDIBLE) have jurisdiction.

Commissioner Lago: You know, who's adamantly told me on multiple occasions that 18 to 24 month window if we're going to move forward on this.

Mr. Joseph: I...

Commissioner Lago: So, I got to make sure I -- if we're going to get this passed today, I got to make everybody happy here and I got to make sure that, at the end of the day, we watch out for our pocketbook.

Mr. Joseph: Of course.

City Attorney Ramos: Commissioner, in addition, we have jurisdictional issues. We can only put a CGPD officer...

Commissioner Lago: Of course.

City Attorney Ramos: In a CGPD...

Commissioner Lago: Of course.

City Attorney Ramos: Located school.

Commissioner Lago: I know, I know.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright, Commissioner Lago, you want to make a motion?

Mr. Joseph: And then the...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Oh.

Mr. Joseph: Second thing I wanted to mention is -- and somebody brought it up here. Trust, but verify. Look, everybody has been shaken by what happened in Parkland. But, I -- I've said this in our meetings and I'll say it again. Everybody followed procedure, policy and protocol on the day of Parkland, everybody did. We're talking about the edges now and what folks should have done morally, but everybody followed procedure, policy and still 17 people died and another 17 to 20 were injured. We need to make sure when these trainings are happening who's getting them, how often and are they ready when the time comes. It's nice to have reports that you can click off. It's nice to click a button a computer to say that I did this, but we need eyes that verify that they're actually being done and the folks have the skills they need to act in emergencies.

Commissioner Lago: Before I make this motion, I just want to be very clear. And I want to put this on the record. I do not want to make a motion that, again, later, is misconstrued. This has to be used and the way that we're going to fund this and the way that we're going to bring these seasonal officers in is for one seasonal officer per school, not -- I know the School Board may be applying a different criteria, but we will be providing one seasonal officer per school. So, my motion is to adopt a resolution directing staff to budget for and hire X amount of seasonal officers, depending on the schools and directing staff to work on technical requirements of

camera connectivity in regards to the CCTV. I want a deadline. I want a deadline in regards to achieving this goal.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Is there a second?

Commissioner Lago: And, I would also like a schedule to meet this goal because you can have a deadline, but at least -- I'd like to see some progress moving forward. And using the funds from our F-3 and F-4 second readings today, which is the migration in regards to the Parking Code from Miami-Dade County.

City Attorney Ramos: So, Commissioner, if I could just speak on two items.

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

City Attorney Ramos: Regarding the connectivity, I know that the School Board member brought up the legal issue. We have done research in our office. We do not believe that there's a legal issue, because there is an exemption under FRPA for law enforcement agencies, but that's a discussion we can have with the School Board attorney.

Commissioner Lago: And by the way, on that issue -- and on that issue, we also said we'd be more than flexible and we would sign whatever legal documents that's needed so that we can deliver on having that technology available to us as we're going into a school. We don't want to -- we don't want to monitor the School Board. We just want to have that ability the moment that, again, 911 receives a phone call stating there's an issue at a school. The school has three floors. There's thousands of kids running everywhere. Who are you looking for? Where is the gunfire coming from? Where is the incident? And that is where it's critical and you save lives.

City Attorney Ramos: Right. So, the first half will be connectivity to determine the connectivity piece of it. And then once that's determined, then we would enter into an MOU and we could debate the legal issues with the County -- with the School Board attorney's office.

Commissioner Lago: Okay, but those are two separate issues that can be worked on.

City Attorney Ramos: Sure.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

Commissioner Lago: Also, along with the issue of budgeting for the staff positions. You know, we hope to get both of them and I want to get both of them, because I think it's in the best interest of the children, you know, in school safety.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: And Commissioner...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Excuse me, sir. As clarification, it is for the public schools in Coral Gables.

Commissioner Lago: Public schools, yes.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: And, it is for physically in Coral Gables or is it for the feeder?

Commissioner Lago: No, in Coral Gables and applying Commissioner Mena's comments about 18 to 24 months.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Understand.

Commissioner Lago: So, ensuring that when the SROs are delivered from the Miami-Dade County Public Schools, obviously, our staff members, which are seasonal, can either find other employment or we can use them as a resource...

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Or traffic...

Commissioner Lago: Or maybe at that point we need them for traffic or we can use them for another resource in the city.

Commissioner Keon: So, your item is to give direction to...

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Keon: The City Attorney, the City Manager and...

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Keon: To provide a resolution that will come back to us...

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Keon: On this issue.

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

City Attorney Ramos: If you...

Commissioner Lago: And by the...

City Attorney Ramos: Vote on it today, it does not need to come back.

Commissioner Lago: Okay. She just said it doesn't need to come back.

City Attorney Ramos: If we vote on it today, it doesn't need to come back.

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Commissioner Lago: And by the way, let me be clear. I'm not asking to hire more police officers with, you know, the budget constraints and...

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: No, no, no.

Commissioner Lago: Pension benefits. I'm talking about seasonal officers.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: We understand.

Commissioner Lago: Okay. I want to be very, very clear about that.

Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Commissioner Lago: Okay.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright. Let's...

Commissioner Keon: I'll move it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: There's a motion made. Is there a second?

Commissioner Lago: Second.

Commissioner Keon: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you call the roll, please?

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Mena: Yes.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes.

Commissioner Keon: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes.

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much.

Commissioner Lago: Thank you to our School Board member. I appreciate it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Commissioner Lago: I know that I made you the chief for a day, but you're the commander. So, thank you for that and I apologize for the faux pas.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thanks a lot.

Commissioner Lago: Thank you.

[End: 11:09:20 a.m.]