

# City of Coral Gables

405 Biltmore Way  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
[www.coralgables.com](http://www.coralgables.com)



## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 11, 2019

5:00 PM

The Board meets the first Thursday of each month.  
Adult Activity Center, 2 Andalusia Ave, Coral Gables, FL 33134  
**Senior Citizens Advisory Board**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**@ 5:08pm**

**ROLL CALL**

**All Board members present.**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**Motion to approve by Richard Thurer. Celia Suarez seconds the motion.**

---

## **FIRE CHIEF PRESENTATION**

Introduction of Fire Chief Marco De la Rosa and Lieutenant Amador – Lieutenant Amador is the public information officer for the City of Coral Gables. Along with former Chief Mark Stolsonberg, who is now with the emergency management department.

Jane Mass mentioned how she feels we became acclimated after Hurricane Irma. Many residents had made plans to evacuate to hotels, then having them close at the last minute. This forced them to shelter in place, which was not part of their original plan. Jane mentioned that the long term interest of the board is how they can get more people involved and seek out the people that need more help.

Fire Chief DE la Rosa gave an introduction on how the emergency management works. How the city functions, what has been learned recently and what is up and coming. He stressed that this is an entire city, all departments working together, in restoring the city back after a storm and addressing the needs of the community. The Emergency Management Authority starts with the County, State and then Federal Government. He stated that all needs start at the local level. Whatever is beyond our capacity moves up the chain.

The official title of the EOC is to provide essential location for which Government at any level can provide emergency coordination and executive decision making to support emergency response.

Miami Dade County has 34 municipalities. Each one does not have their own EOC. The counties are put into manageable sections. The county is divided into 7 divisions. Coral Gables is one of the divisional EOC's. The City of Coral Gables represents South Miami, Palmetto Bay, and University of Miami, Sweet Water, Pine crest and West Miami.

There are 3 levels.

Level 3 is monitoring

Level 2 is watching how the weather might impact our region.

Level 1 is now open and working as an Emergency Operations Center.

We all function under a National Response plan. This was developed after 911. It states that the entire Nation, whether you were a local municipality, a tribal, county or state operate off the same core. It basically states that everything is the same regardless of where you are at, in our Nation.

Storm surge is a major concern here. It is very important to know what zone you are in.

An evacuation recommendation is an early pre warning, to give people extra time. Once an evacuation is announced, centers will start to open up and become available. Not every location will be open, it will be based on where the storm is heading.

Jane inquired about Coral Gables high school becoming a shelter. Chief Stolsonberg states that there has not been a suitable building found for the city. He stated that it doesn't seem like there is one in the foreseeable future. He added that shelters should be considered a last ditch place to go. He suggested finding a friend or family member well inland to ride out the storm.

The Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program is for special needs patients which are medically dependent. People must register for this. They will not have their medical needs addressed, so they are encouraged to bring a caregiver. They will also need a physician to sign off on what their medical need is. They will need to know what type of assistance they will require.

The City of Coral Gables has partnered with WLRN. Whatever information and protective actions are needed, will begin to be pushed out to all people. Whatever information the major networks are reporting, it is for all of Dade County. Once an evacuation order is called, the TV will identify the specific zones that need to be evacuated.

Post storm- difficult to spread information, when the power is out. In addition to that, we will have neighborhood information centers. Neighborhood service aids will create a corner information area that the bulk of the neighborhood can come and receive information and begin to have it flow to other residents. They are unable to go door to door, due to safety concerns.

The Miami Herald is putting out ads with critical information, depending on the fate of a storm. There will be an informational pamphlet. It will have listed the levels of a storm and the dangers that come along with each one of them. There is a checklist with important actions to take during a hurricane watch and also one for a hurricane warning.

Wellness checks will be done by Fred and his staff after a storm. There is a form that must be filled out, so that it is known where you are.

The Recon Team, act as the first responders after a storm. They deal with emergencies and also opening up the roads. There are about 145 to start.

When the power goes out, some elevators in older buildings will not work.

Battery powered chairs have been purchased. A firefighter can bring someone down who is unable to walk. Battery powered stretchers are available as well. We also have high wire carts that are good for clearing dense areas with down vegetation.

Two high water boats have been purchased. They are not intended for evacuation. They are made for waist high water that can access your home directly and bring you out safely. We have accessed high wire carts that are good for dense areas with down vegetation.

In May of this year, was the emergency management retreat. The attendees discussed their plans and how they are going to improve the system, also getting reimbursed by FEMA. They also participated in their hurricane functional exercises, the state exercise and one with the University of Miami. Rescue Recon had their training and planning.

It was explained, that all information in regards to registering for special needs patients, can be found on the Coral Gables Website. Also, if you are in an evacuation zone.

Jane thanked the guests for attending the board meeting, and addressing them in Hurricane preparedness.

#### **AAC SUPERVISOR REPORT**

Manny states that registration for the Fall is scheduled for July 22nd for residents, and August 5th for non-residents.

Fred gives an update on the status of the new supervisor. He states that he will be conducting interviews and will have a consensus on who they feel is the best candidate.

#### **ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY**

There is no meeting in August. Next meeting will be iSeptember 5, 2019.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**@ 6:24pm**