

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item C
December 10, 2024
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago
Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Commissioner Melissa Castro
Commissioner Ariel Fernandez
Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez
City Manager, Amos Rojas, Jr.
City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Maria Cruz
Jackson Rip Holmes
David Renshaw

Agenda Item C [10:10 a.m.]
Public Comment

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk Urquia: First speaker for Public Comment, Mr. Mayor, is Mrs. Maria Cruz.

Mrs. Cruz: Mrs. Maria Cruz, 1447 Miller Road. This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. It's not a happy day for me, but I have something to say. Last election when the incumbent supported a candidate running for office, all the bullying didn't work, and they lost. Things clearly changed from that point on. Now, the bullying and the intimidation for everyone, residents, employees, anybody, has become a practice. Earlier this year, when my husband passed away, and my family was concerned about my well-being – Mayor, are you going to listen or should I stop.

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Mayor Lago: You have my full attention, but I have to also read these documents.

Mrs. Cruz: Well, I'm sorry, I think you need to respect me.

Mayor Lago: I am respecting you.

Mrs. Cruz: As you respected the previous one that you were busy while he was talking.

Mayor Lago: I am respecting. You can please move forward.

Mrs. Cruz: I will not, unless you are paying attention.

Mayor Lago: I am paying attention, so please move forward, Maria. Please move forward. Mr. Clerk., next person on the roll.

City Clerk Urquia: She still has two minutes, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Okay. Again, I'm here and we are here listening to you. I have to read this email that was just handed to me by the Clerk.

Mrs. Cruz: Okay. Let it be known that the Mayor has been looking at his phone and reading stuff while people have been talking. Like I said, my family was concerned about my well-being. I requested a police watch order. Why did I do that? – because I became aware that our Mayor had been saying publicly that he was going to destroy anybody who didn't agree with him, anybody who didn't agree with him. Well, Maria Cruz was one of those. So, I had to go through a whole lot of bullying from his cronies. I had to hear his friends say that I had a police detail assigned to me. The attacks began. I was accused of taking advantage of police resources and even when the Mayor wanted to request information about my watch order, and he used his alto-ego, Albert John Carlo to request it. The police department released my watch order information. That became public and that was published all over the place and it was used again to attack me for having the guts, I guess, to go against the Mayor's wishes. Employees, as strong as the Police Chief, came into play. I know that both the Mayor and the Police Chief are going to deny it. Of course, they are going to deny it. But guess what, after many years of having the same NSA in our zone, he was rotated like everybody else. Yes, he was rotated. Isn't it interesting, isn't it a nice coincidence that now during the holidays when the criminals come out, because they know that we're busy with holiday issues, when the criminals come out, because we are going to have lots of packages delivered is when we change the NSAs. Why? – because we don't want the NSAs that know us, that could be taken care of a lady that lives by herself and is afraid because, who knows what could happen. We do not want that to happen. Let's take this opportunity now to discuss the abuse of power, that a mayor who is not a strong mayor, takes his power to tell employees, the Police Chief, the Code Enforcement people, and if you have been visited by Code Enforcement or Public Works lately, please contact me and I will tell you if your address is on the list of the concerns. Maybe

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it's time to ask the Mayor and the Chief to stop lying, and by the way, I did get the emails today, today, right before this meeting that specifically says, the change was going to start December 2nd, not after the holidays, like it was requested. Enough is enough. The Mayor wants his way or the highway and found a way to get back at me. Sad day in the City of Coral Gables.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk Urquia: Jackson Rip Holmes.

Mayor Lago: Good morning, sir.

Mr. Holmes: So, I got lucky, because I have good news to report. Do we have the video ready to go, do you suppose.

City Clerk Urquia: I can try sharing your video.

Mr. Holmes: Okay. I'm going to give a quick intro. Many of you know that I've been working on trying to keep us from drowning due to sea level rise and I have friends who have been working on free energy experiments which I propose that we do one with water from Biscayne Bay to see if it works. I've gotten lucky because a close friend of mine has done this video where, check this out, I ask you, have you ever seen anything like this in your life. They melt steel at room temperature. What I'm talking about is a hallucination, it's impossible, it's this or that, but you're going to see in this video that a friend of mine melts steel at room temperature. Are we ready?

City Clerk Urquia: Yes sir. So, if Cable TV could share my screen.

[Video Presentation]

City Clerk Urquia: Try sharing it one more time.

[Video Presentation]

City Clerk Urquia: That's it, sir.

Mr. Holmes: Okay. So, we're back. The next step – what we need to do, we're all under threat. Coral Gables could be under water in 150 years and exist no more with rising sea levels. We don't want to become the lost city of Atlantis. The next step that we need to do, now that I have proof that the seemingly impossible technologies exist. My friend, my friend who could come here if we had to, if I had the money to pay him, and talk to you, has melted steel at room temperature. The next step is to convince the University of Miami to help with a fairly easy experiment on heavy sea water and just run a quick electrical thing through it. The theory is, and I'll just finish this now. If we get seawater that contains deuterium, its finable in Biscayne Bay or close by, and run a current from one end of a lab tube to the other, think of a bottle, right, we should get, or we'll find

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out, we should get more electricity coming out than we put in. This is an experiment which has been done about 100 times successfully. That's our next step to convince the University of Miami to help us do that experiment. Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Thank you, sir.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor next speaker is on Zoom, its Mr. David Renshaw.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Renshaw, good morning.

Mr. Renshaw: Good morning. David Renshaw. Yes, thank you. Just want to say really quick, just complimentary to the City Manager moving the current meetings outside of City Hall to where we're at now as taking care of the staff, the employees and everybody there. Just wanted to go on record that we received some good complimentary from the folk's membership there and appreciate the efforts of keeping everybody there. So, thank you.

Mayor Lago: Thank you, sir. Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk Urquia: That's it, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Alright. Thank you.