

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting**  
**Agenda Item K**  
**October 28, 2025**  
**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 Richard D. Lara**

**City Staff**

**City Attorney, Cristina Suárez**

**City Manager, Peter Iglesias**

**City Clerk, Billy Urquia**

**Public Speaker(s)**

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Agenda Item K [Start: 5:32 p.m.]

Discussion Items

Mayor Lago: Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Anderson: November 8<sup>th</sup>, I guess going to be a very busy day between walking dogs and Adventure Day over at Salvadore Park, we also have the pickleball and I know Mr. Urquia is going to be there, right, and you have a little poster to put up to remind people to click the QR code, get your tickets. You want to help sponsor it, there's an opportunity to, there's more sponsorship opportunities. It's for a great cause for Ronald McDonald house like Nicholas Children's Hospital provides wonderful things for our children who are in need, families have a place to stay with their children while they're going through some very serious and difficult times of their life with medical issues. I went to the Red Shoe Society meeting which was another fundraiser for Ronald McDonald House and the speaker who didn't think she was qualified to stay in there, she had to go up to, I believe, Chicago and they opened their doors and made it so much

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a warmer experience for the most difficult time in their lives where there was a delicate procedure that had to be done. Hope to see you all out there. If you need to find that site again, if you look for Ronald McDonald House of South Florida, you can Google it and you can get some more information; 6 p.m. now for the elected leaders to be out there, showing our support.

Mayor Lago: I'll be there.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Thank you, appreciate it.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner Castro.

Commissioner Castro: Number one, Happy Halloween, well this Friday is Halloween. I hope everybody has a very, very safe Halloween. And the other one is again, please register for the dog walk, it's going to be really fun. Go into my social media, the registration link would be there and the route's going to change just a tad bit, because I want to highlight some restaurants I didn't highlight before and register. It's going to be very fun. Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner Lara.

Commissioner Lara: Right. So, following up on and wishing everybody a very safe and enjoyable Halloween. A couple of places that everyone should consider swinging by is Santa Maria is always a great place to see some of the finest turnouts you'll see for Halloween and I invite people to come by on historic Coral Way as well, because the residents on that street have really gone all out with respect to the Spirit of Halloween, but I would encourage everybody to start early and end early too, for safety purposes, as well and just also, I'll be out there pickleballing, if that's the right term.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I will find out. I mean We'll have to learn from the experts.

Commissioner Lara: And lastly, just reminding everybody again during today's meeting, I'm reminding and inviting any of the residents who would like to meet, I hold my office hours since I was elected Monday mornings or let me know if you want to meet somewhere else, I'd be happy to do so. So, thank you.

Mayor Lago: Thank you, sir. First and foremost, I want to wish everybody a Happy Halloween. Come by our neighborhood San Amaro, UM, a great area, a stone's throw away from Santa Maria. It's maybe five minutes walking and it's a great neighborhood for the kids that's a great opportunity. Mr. Manager on the next Commission Agenda, I would like an action plan for the referendum city website, E-NEWS, along with a press release and whatever my colleagues would like to add in regard to the action plan for the eight referendums. I want to make sure we are reaching as many people as possible. So, I'd like to see it on the next agenda, a small action plan explaining what we're planning on doing, so I want to make sure we get as many people to come out and vote. Those eight referendums are critically important. I would like for, you know, there to be a detailed

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website explaining every single referendum questions. You can have a Town Hall meeting, we can send information to homes, you know, make sure people are well aware. I plan on doing my own outreach and spending my own money in an effort to make sure that people come out and vote. Next item. We're planning on going to Tallahassee in November. I think it's important um as per legislation the Mayor dictates who will be attending Tallahassee. I'd like for the Vice Mayor who came with me, was very successful a few years ago. We raised record numbers, the most we've ever received, not one year, but two years in a row in regard to appropriations and she has a very distinct and positive outlook, and she gets along very well with the elected officials. I'd also like for Commissioner Lara, who's never been to Tallahassee, to join me. I think less is more. As the Vice Mayor can tell you, multiple times we spoke to our lobbyists and we spoke to our elected officials up there, they did not want to have so many the entire Commission come up. They wanted to have the Mayor and maybe one or two other individuals come up and I think it's important in an effort to make sure that we can deliver on our legislative agenda. So that's the request that I'm making, Mr. Manager, and I appreciate that. Also, I don't know if any of my colleagues received this phone call. Do we take any action on that, Madam City Attorney?

City Attorney Suarez: No Mayor, you designate.

Mayor Lago: Okay. Perfect. Thank you very much. I also want to make sure I'm not sure if any of you received notice, but I received notice from two residents, two or three in regard to Sunrise Harbor Park, 25 East Sunrise Avenue. It's a beautiful little park, but it has a basketball court and Madam ACM, I don't know if any of you want to come up, they wanted to add a pickleball court, because they say the basketball court is not getting used, but the problem is this, this is the way I see it, okay, ready. Remove the basketball court, we immediately going to get five phone calls saying, hey, I haven't used the basketball in three years, but I want to use it today. So, you had a good idea.

Assistant City Manager Vester: So, there is an abandoned pump station that would allow for an expansion of that park, when we did the renaming for Salley, for the Jude's, there was a lot of input at the at the unveiling. They're saying that they would love to expand, maybe have restrooms there, maybe have pickleball, maybe have basketball, So I think there's an opportunity to do all of that. There is some money speculated for next year for design, but we'd have to look at the budget for that.

Mayor Lago: So again, I am asking through the Manager and through my colleagues, I think it's a great opportunity. It's a park that gets a lot of use, you know better than anybody else, and I think pickleball will be appropriate there, as long as, as long as the resident next door is okay with it, because pickleball makes noise, so I just want to be up front. We want to make sure that everybody's fine with it, okay. I like the idea. I think it's interesting and it'd be another amenity in that park. I think it would bring maybe older kids, you know, not just young kids that want to play

in the in the play area, which is amazing, by the way, it's a great park you guys have done a great job, but maybe we can bring some older kids, maybe some kids that maybe do not get much physical activity, maybe this inspires them to come out and play a little pickleball. I think it's a beautiful opportunity to get out there and sweat and meet people. I think it's beautiful and I've said that before and I actually got...

Vice Mayor Anderson: You actually got yourself in trouble.

Mayor Lago: I love it. What's wrong with sweating, what's wrong with going out and meeting people. I just think it's great.

Vice Mayor Anderson: No pressure on you. You better have very good negotiations, so you have more impact fees.

Mayor Lago: You got to be careful, you go out there you get hurt, you know. Let me tell you, anybody can get hurt. I don't care how good shape you are playing a sport that you've never played, it results in you taking positions and dives and different things and you become very competitive before you know you get injured, but I would like support from my colleagues. Madam City Attorney, do I need to take a vote on this for us to explore pickleball in next year's budget and if there's any money available, which I know there's not, because we're very tight this year, that potentially can at least we start looking at designs, pre-design, budgets, and start working on it, so we don't have to wait till next year so we can at least maybe put one of our in-house consultants to tell us, look, this will be a good layout and this is what it's going to cost, \$30,000, \$40,000, to recon...maybe we have to reconfigure the basketball court, we may have to, to make it work. Maybe we have to maybe pour more concrete, maybe we have to move something, but I would like to at least be ready for the budget season saying look, Vince, this is going to cost \$75,000, \$50,000, whatever the number is.

Commissioner Lara: Well, I'll move for exploring that. I'll move it.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I'll second it. You better be successful on Monday.

Mayor Lago: I'm going do my best.

Vice Mayor Anderson: No pressure, no pressure.

Mayor Lago: I'm going to do my best. Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk Urquia: All in favor.

All: Aye.

City Clerk Urquia: Thank you.

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Mayor Lago: Alright. So again, thank you to staff. I appreciate you. Again, I want to congratulate our incredible staff for doing a wonderful job in today's Commission meeting all week. It's been amazing. I've met with many of you; you've met on site with me. You've really delivered on behalf of the residents in the business community. We ask a lot of you, a lot, a lot, a lot, and I just want to say on behalf of the Commission that we're incredibly grateful for always being there, always answering the phone, answering emails. I'm in contact with the DCM and the ACM and the Manager literally every single day of the week, on weekends even more, and you never fail to respond on behalf of the residents. So, I want to say thank you for your hard work. Thank you so much, and by the way, I want to compliment Code Enforcement starting to look really good. We're educating in regard to plastic bags you can't leave, you know, your garbage bags five, six days. You know I'm getting a lot of complaints. As you know, Mr. DCM, it was actually used miserably in the last campaign against me. People actually would see me, and they would say, Vince, keep doing what you're doing, it's great keeping the city beautiful. So, what ended up happening was, thank you so much, because the residents of North Gables are so excited, because they're seeing their neighborhood finally be clean. I mean people are finally people are throwing out garbage bags, because they don't know. So, like I tell you. What I tell you, Mr. DCM, what I say, after I give you the address, I say, please educate, please educate, please educate. They didn't use those, the firefighters didn't use those when they were handing them out last year in their effort to take me out, but it is what it is. But we'll continue working on behalf of the city doing the right thing and I want to thank you, because the work by the entire Code Enforcement Department and your leadership has been amazing, keeping our city clean, keeping our city up to the standard that it should be. So, thank you again. God bless all of you. Have a wonderful Halloween and thanks again, take care. Bye.