

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item I-5
June 28, 2022
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Michael Mena

Commissioner Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Attorney, Miriam Ramos

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Deputy City Attorney, Cristina Suarez

Labor Relations and Risk Manager, Raquel Elejabarrieta

Public Speaker(s)

Angie Torres

Gregory Bethune

Agenda Item I-5 [Start: 3:20 p.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission authorizing the City Manager to enter into a cooperative agreement with the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, for Project Victory, a program that assists young adults with disabilities by providing work skills and employment training within the City of Coral Gables.

Mayor Lago: I-5.

Ms. Elejabarrieta: So, I-5 is a resolution. I don't know if, Cristina do you need to read it?

Deputy City Attorney Suarez: Yes. I-5 is a Resolution of the City Commission authorizing the City Manager to enter into a cooperative agreement with the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, for Project Victory, a program that assists young adults with disabilities by providing work skills and employment training within the City of Coral Gables.

City Commission Meeting

Ms. Elejabarrieta: Good afternoon, Commissioners, Mayor. With this agreement the City of Coral Gables is partnering with Miami-Dade County Public Schools to bring to the city Project Victory. Project Victory is a program developed by Miami-Dade County Public Schools to prepare students with disabilities between the ages of 16 and 22 for financial, personal, social and independent functioning, through the acquisition of employability skills essential for success in the workplace. This year, the 2022-2023 school year the city will host 12 students from Coral Gables High School. These students will work first at City Hall in the different departments located right here, beginning with the Mayor's Office, the City Commissioners Office, as well as the City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk's Office, Finance Department and Development Services. Working at the city, the city employees will mentor these students through on the job training and task them with appropriate based on their skill level. This program is in line with the city's goal of promoting meaningful employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities and encouraging their integration into the workforce. The city's Disabilities Affairs Board was instrumental in promoting this and bringing this to the city. They wanted me to express on their behalf how thankful they are to the city leaders for bringing this program to the city and empowering individuals with disabilities. We have here today with us, three representatives from the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. We have Mr. Gregory Bethune, who is the Administrator Director for the central region, we have Angie Torres, Administrator for EFC, and Magalia Garcia, who is the Instructional Supervisor for EFC, and I believe they want to say a few words.

Mayor Lago: Thank you.

Ms. Angie Torres: Good afternoon, I'm Angie Torres, EFC Director for Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Magalia Garcia is with me, she is the Director over the Transition Programs for the district, and I have Mr. Gregory Bethune, he's our Administrator Director for the Central Region Office, and I promise I will make this quick. But I did want to thank Mayor Lago, all the Commissioners, Raquel and the entire City of Coral Gables for this opportunity. It means the world to us to partner with the City of Coral Gables to open the project Victory Program. The opportunities that this will open for our students with autism and disabilities are endless, and I'm very proud to be a part of this inclusive community now.

Mr. Gregory Bethune: On behalf of the Central Region, I'm a former high school principal we have Project Victory in schools. The experience that the students will get is invaluable. It gives them life skills; it gives them confidence and you'll see its benefits in the long term by implementing this program. So, thank you again for this partnership.

Mayor Lago: Thank you. Listen, we are blessed to have this programming coming to the city. You talk about the benefit for the students, but the benefits are going to be really reaped by us. I try to visit as often as I can, I know my colleagues do the same, to Crystal and I know Mary was hoping to be here today, but she was with her mother and this is going to be a great addition to the city, and its going to continue to elevate the city and what we are known for. We are known for being a tolerant community and an inclusive community. So, I'm just super excited that we have this program and its coming to the city and I can't thank you enough for having faith in us to really

City Commission Meeting

June 28, 2022

Agenda Item I-5 – Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Cooperative agreement with the School Board of Miami-Dade County

[Date]

2

provide these students with an opportunity that at the end of the day, we are the ones that are going to really benefit from. Hopefully, private sector entities will pick up on it and we can include these individuals in the Chamber and the Business Improvement District and other organizations which are playing a big role here in the City of Coral Gables.

Ms. Torres: Thank you Mayor Lago on behalf of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Commissioner Anderson: This is like a dream come true. Do we have any public comment, Mayor, or are we ready?

Mayor Lago: I'm sorry?

Commissioner Anderson: Are we ready to move it?

Mayor Lago: Yes, I'm ready. I need a motion.

Commissioner Anderson: I'll move it.

Vice Mayor Mena: Second.

Commissioner Menendez: Yes

Commissioner Anderson: Yes

Commissioner Fors: Yes

Vice Mayor Mena: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Lago: Thank you. Thank you very much. I look forward to hearing the progress. Maybe in a year you can come back, and we can have a little bit of report to see how things go. I'd like to do this on a yearly basis.

Ms. Torres: Absolutely.

Mayor Lago: I don't want the project just to be here in the city. I want it to expand to the private sector.

Ms. Torres: We would love that.