

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item D-1
September 26, 2017
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

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

City Staff

**City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
City Attorney, Craig E. Leen
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Public Safety Director, Frank Fernandez
Parks and Recreation Director, Fred Couceyro**

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item D-1 [9:41:53 a.m.]

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Valdez-Fauli: In the Mayor's comments, I would like to discuss vulnerable populations in emergency situations and the creation of an emergency registry.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Mr. Mayor, I can join with the Assistant City Manager/Director of Public Safety, when these kinds of storms happen, residents that are previously quiet, let us know that they have medically dependent needs and we want to know who they are and we want to plan for that, and so your idea of creating an emergency registry updating that emergency registry is critically important. And, Assistant City Manager/Director of Public Safety would you like to comment on that.

Public Safety Director Fernandez: Mr. Mayor, during the mobilization we do have a global population list that is governed by Miami-Dade County, there is a governing body there that has specific regulations on how to place someone on that list and there is an application to go

through, so we definitely push that out to the public and our residents here in Coral Gables. If they need information they can dial 3-1-1 and obtain that information. Additionally, through the Adult Activity Center, we have an additional list that we follow up with the Parks Department to make sure that that vulnerable population that needs assistance is provided with care and needs that they need regarding emergency mobilization. Additionally, the County has also an evacuation list for those in need for an adult population that need assistance in the event of an evacuation. So, there is also another list that Dade County provides that information as well. I would like to ask Director Couceyro to come up and talk a little bit about our preparation and our follow up following this last mobilization regarding the Adult Activity Center and that list that they provide.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We have all of those lists, but obviously it wasn't that good because we got, I'm sure all of us got calls from people that needed oxygen that were...dependent, and I would have a suggestion that every time we have a 9-1-1 rescue call, with people in those circumstances maybe make a note of it, and then we follow up with a letter, would you like to be placed on this in case of another hurricane, emergency, whatever it is.

Public Safety Director Fernandez: We absolutely will double-check on that. I will reassure you that our Fire Department has a significant amount of resources available to them and do follow up consistently to make sure that vulnerable population is provided with assistance as needed; and one of the ones is 3-1-1 opportunity to call and get on that special registry list with Miami-Dade County.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Before the Director begins, it is really important that we know that kind of information and what was helpful to me was the City Attorney has concluded that it is not a public record, so if someone is bedridden, if someone is oxygen dependent, we can keep that record as an emergency resource for us and we don't have to open it up to public inspection.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Very good – that's very important.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: And, I think that's an important privacy issue that we are able to maintain.

City Attorney Leen: Yes, it's exempt, it's exempt.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: That's very good. Alright – yes sir.

Mr. Couceyro: I think it's important to know for the purposes of this storm what we did is, we had a list that was developed through our Adult Activity Center and what we were looking at was our residents that needed some wellness checks before the storm, to make sure they are OK, and then to be able to check for them after the storm. In terms of some of the situations that you are talking about now with oxygen and that kind of thing, medical emergencies, we referred them to the County list. So, what we did is when we had our – we had a list of about 20-25 names and we actually had two lists, because we had a second list which was the younger population, our Special Populations Coordinator, we had a list of all of the children that are in our special populations and special needs program, we also did a check on them after the storm. So, we did phone calls and we did visits right after the storm. There were a couple of people that needed a couple of items like ice or things like that, because of the power and we were able to get them ice in subsequent days, and anything that was an emergency what our staff did, is our staff referred that directly to the emergency, and I know that we had some CRT teams later on that were able to, that had a firefighter or police officer and were able to provide some of that emergency care. So, that's how we treat it as a wellness check and we checked on them after the storm to make sure if there was anybody that needed additional assistance we referred it to the authorities.

Public Safety Director Fernandez: Mr. Mayor that list kept by the Parks Department, as the Director mentioned, we had triple checks on them, a triple...; they checked pre-storm, they checked post storm and after the fact we came back with the development of request response team that entailed the team members of being a police officer, a paramedic, and a parks representative that deals with these individuals. They went house to house, door to door and made contact with them, they did an incredible job of making sure we followed up and those that we were able to make contact were very receptive to our ability to check upon them.

City Attorney Leen: If I could add something. I have a child who has special needs and something I'm going to be looking into, the vulnerable population list, but I actually don't know if she would qualify and I think a lot of people don't know and they also don't know what the benefit is of being on the list. So if its OK Madam Manager, if the ADA Coordinator could work with Stephanie, maybe put together a little synopsis of who would qualify and what is the benefit of it, I think it might be helpful. There was one evening where it was so hot in my house that my daughter has to have the windows closed and the door closed and locked and I felt it was too hot in her room for her to be there, so I had to basically stay up all night with her with the windows open because she may wander, so she could climb out the window. Now maybe that qualifies her as a vulnerable person, but I feel like we should look into that, because I haven't heard a lot of talk about it in the special needs community and maybe we need to provide more information.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: So, one of the things that we talked about is it's a great partnership with the Senior Advisory Board on how we can have them help us with it; how do we define medically dependent?- how do we define vulnerable populations?- what types of expectations we can manage through this process?- but we did get running a 24 hour 7 day a week call center, pre, during, and post storm, we did see residents come forward unbeknownst to us that had bedridden parents, that had oxygen dependent members of their family, and having that list working with 3-1-1- and the County, but also supplementing and enhancing it with the Gables Registry, I think would be very helpful in the future.

Commissioner Lago: Madam City Manager, if I may, Mayor, Commissioner Mena and I have actually visited an elderly couple, whose husband was actually bedridden who was like in his 90's, correct?- right next to the Granada Golf Course we delivered some ice to them. I think it was 625 – I don't want to say distraught, but she was obviously very upset, she was in a very tough situation, her husband wasn't mobile and anyway that we can alleviate them. Those are the types of individuals I'd love to see on the list. Another thing that I thought of and I wanted to commend the Mayor, because this is a great idea. This was discussed actually on the radio the other day and one of the points that they discussed was Miami-Dade County and I think Jim Defede was discussing it on the radio, it was a weekend discussion and it was about, I know this is not our purview, but it was about children who get breakfast and lunch through Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and those individuals again, kind of fell by the wayside.

Vice Mayor Keon: I heard that. I think they said there was no one available to provide food.

Commissioner Lago: And, those young children that depend on that breakfast everyday probably went hungry, not just one, but probably two meals, because they are a sensitive population, which obviously needs that assistance. I'm not saying to add those individuals, because they don't live in the City of Coral Gables, but maybe that's something we could work with the School Board to figure out if some of those individuals do live in the City, because maybe we can account for them also in some way or form. I think it's a spectacular idea from the Mayor, it really shows the City will do the best that we can to prepare, and this could be obviously part of the Blue Ribbon discussion as-a-whole.

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

Commissioner Quesada: Mr. Mayor one more quick thought on this, because I had discussed this with the City Manager. One way that I think we can at least have a list of all the individuals maybe over 80 years old or we pick an age just to check on them after these types of emergencies, because when I was delivering ice the other day also, I came across a lady who was on oxygen. When I saw her she was livid obviously, and she was going through a hard time.

Again, similar experience what everyone else has had, but at a minimum I know we can get from voter records or public records just people with their ages over a certain age and we just add that to a checklist, so whenever there is an emergency, as soon as its over, we have a team deployed to check up on each one of them.

Vice Mayor Keon: Check up on them before and make sure that they have what they need, if they need ice to keep medicine, we can help them to make sure they have things in place that they need prior to the storm, so maybe they are not so apprehensive after.

Commissioner Lago: Maybe you can appease or ease their concerns, especially the elderly about giving their own private information. There has to be some sort of form that they can fill out. I'll leave it up to staff; they are more than capable...

Commissioner Quesada: Yes, but we can always just based off age and just check in, just check in.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And, there are some 80 year old people who would be offended...

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: I understand Commissioner Quesada's point, because more and more people are choosing to age in place, and so they are not going to perhaps a retirement community. It is their home and that comes with opportunities for the City to serve.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: You have your marching orders and your suggestion is a good one.

[End: 9:51:31 a.m.]