

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item C – Public Comment
May 10, 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

Public Speaker(s)

Maria Cruz

Mark Trowbridge

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Lago: Would you like to move onto Public Comment. Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk Urquia: So far, Mr. Mayor, we only have two speakers. The first one is Mrs. Maria Cruz.

Mayor Lago: Ms. Cruz, welcome to the City Beautiful. It's a beautiful day to have you here. Thank you for being here.

Ms. Cruz: Much to people's surprise, Mrs. Maria Cruz, and I have a nice comment today. I do not have any significant comments like the previous ones that you heard. Thank God,
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every time I've called, it hasn't been a matter of life and death, but since I guess some of you do know, my husband is diabetic, and sometimes he doesn't really take good care of his blood sugar, so I've been the recipient of many visits from these lovely people that you had here today. And I can tell you, that some of them could have been life or death, because Emilio sometimes had blood sugar less than 40, and they came and they did it, and they did what they had to do, and all we had to do was make sure he has breakfast and he'll be fine. And it was very nice to see him home and to see them come to my house and be so professional and so good. So, I'm going to add, this is from a resident, a taxpayer, that sees the goodness of our Fire Department. Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Thank you. Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mark Trowbridge.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Trowbridge, good morning. Thank you for being here.

Mr. Trowbridge: Good morning. Good morning, everybody, Mark Trowbridge with the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce, located at 201 Alhambra Circle. First of all, I want to thank you all for the Proclamation that you did for Economic Development Week. As you know, we are very close partners with Julian and his team and have had a great opportunity over these many years to work closely, not only with their department, but also work jointly to recruit and bring some of the businesses that you saw today being recognized and honored. So, thank you very much for that opportunity. Last week, as you know, was National Small Business Week, and you all were kind enough to provide a Proclamation for that a few weeks ago, and it was a great opportunity for us to really celebrate the businesses that are the very backbone of our local economy here in Coral Gables. That event concluded with our Small Business Summit and our Diamond Awards, and I certainly want to thank Commissioner Anderson for being with us at the luncheon and helping present a couple of the awards. Its always great for our businesses to see how invested and engaged our elected officials are in supporting their efforts as small businesses. And that day we honored a number of businesses, so I thought I would just read those very quickly into the record. Our outstanding small business was DLE Legal; the outstanding large non-profit, more than 25 employees was Chapman Partnership; outstanding hospitality and restaurant business, Sushi Machi; outstanding woman-owned business, Granny Nannies of South Florida; outstanding health care organization, Choice MD; outstanding family-owned business, Peter Weber del Prado; outstanding small non-profit less than 25 employees, the Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida, who is celebrating their 100th anniversary this next year; outstanding law firm, Barakat and Bossa; and our outstanding large business, Garcia Espinosa Minyares Rodriguez Trueba and Company,

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known as GEM-RT. We also took time to recognize our 2022 Business Leader of the Year, a gentleman many of you know, Alirio Torrealba of MG Developer. As you might imagine, its always a great opportunity for our Chamber to honor those doing great things, not only in their business, but in corporate citizenship, workplace environment, customer care, and their ability over the last two years really to pivot. I will mention that we have another downtown cleanup coming. So please put it on your calendar. The Mayor and many of you, I know will be there presiding over that. That's Monday, May 23rd at 5 p.m. and we'll meet at our Chamber offices and work like we've done over the last year or so to continue to beautify our downtown. I want to thank Commissioner Anderson, she's leading a workshop for us later this month, really great for small businesses, addressing ADA issues. So, I look forward to that, that's on the 18th at 4 o'clock, and we look forward to welcoming her. And the last thing that I would mention is, we have our summer internship – wow, that is aggressive – the summer internship program...

Mayor Lago: You have the floor, please speak as long as you like.

Mr. Trowbridge: I just want to recognize and welcome Diego Urena, who is a student at UCF. He's a rising Sophomore. His mother is a great banker here in Coral Gables at City National Bank. So, Diego if you'll stand up so we can recognize you. He'll be working with us this summer. So, thank you for the extra seconds.

[Applause]

Mr. Trowbridge: And its always a privilege to work with each and everyone of you and looking forward to a great summer. Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Thank you Mr. Trowbridge. Mr. Clerk.

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

Mayor Lago: Let's close the Public Comment. That's refreshing. I want to make sure that everyone is aware, we welcome everybody to speak, that's why we instituted Public Comment. We are one of the few cities that offers that, and it gives everyone an opportunity to engage and be involved with your city. So, I look forward to people coming before us and speaking.