

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-13
June 13, 2023
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, Peter Iglesias

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Deputy City Attorney, Stephanie Throckmorton

Information Technology Director, Raimundo Rodulfo

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-13 [4:00 p.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission directing the City Manager to implement a pilot program placing Automated External Defibrillators (AED) in additional City parks, and a pilot program placing Code Blue Smart Emergency Stations in certain City parks.

(Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

Mayor Lago: Moving on to G-13.

City Attorney Suárez: G-13 is a resolution of the City Commission directing the City Manager to implement a pilot program placing AED in additional City parks and a pilot program placing Code

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Blue Smart Emergency Stations in certain parks. Mayor, it's my understanding that we use that term, but it's...

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: It should be a generic term.

City Attorney Suárez: It should be a generic term, not a specific brand or company for that -- those smart poles.

Mayor Lago: Okay.

City Manager Iglesias: It should be smart emergency registrations.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

City Attorney Suárez: So, if it's adopted, we will revise that before signing.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Yeah, to make clear that there's not a -- that -- you know, to the extent there's procurement regulations that apply, we will apply with those. It's not a waiver.

City Manager Iglesias: And what we're looking at is the pilot programs in Salvadore Park and Rotary Park. And it'll be a budget item because that's probably going to be about maybe \$200,000 to \$250,000.

Commissioner Fernandez: So, Mr. Mayor, the request that I had made from staff, and they said that it had been discussed here as one item, was if we could divide it into two, the AEDs and the smart emergency stations as two. Because I think the AEDs may be quicker to get versus the smart emergency stations. I think I would like a little more clarity on the stations before I'm ready to approve them.

Mayor Lago: What I would like to do and it's very simple is do one -- do it right once. I don't want to have two separate orders. I don't want to spend -- I want to do it right once. And I'd like for staff to tell me what they recommend. What does staff recommend? Do you recommend ordering -- is it one piece all together or--?

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor, the...

Mayor Lago: (INAUDIBLE) or do you want to bifurcate?

City Clerk Urquia: I'm sorry, the resolution does say two pilot programs.

Mayor Lago: I understand that, but I'm saying, but what does staff recommend?

City Manager Iglesias: We are look -- we were looking at a smart emergency station.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

City Manager Iglesias: And an AED station.

Mayor Lago: Okay.

City Manager Iglesias: Two, because as a pilot program, we need to see how it works. And by separating them, I think we have an idea as to which is going to be the most efficient way to go, whether with one or with two.

Mayor Lago: You already have the designated areas worked out as well?

City Manager Iglesias: We're looking at Salvadore Park and Rotary Park.

Mayor Lago: Okay, perfect.

City Manager Iglesias: And we're looking at bringing this as a -- it will be part of the budget for coming October.

Mayor Lago: Okay.

Commissioner Fernandez: Well, I think for the AEDs we had talked about -- and you had even said that you wanted to make sure we got them in all the parks. And then we were doing the smart emergency stations as an additional security measure.

Mayor Lago: I want them in all the parks. That's not my issue. My issue is do we have funding available right now to get this done, or do we have to include it in the budget, Mr. Manager?

City Manager Iglesias: In the budget, Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Okay, so that's the issue. So, that's what we're going to encounter on all these issues. We want a lot of things, but at the end of day, the money's not there, you got to take it from somewhere so...

Commissioner Castro: Through the Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Go ahead.

Commissioner Castro: City Manager, you had agreed last Commission meeting to go ahead and do this in all parks -- correct me if I'm wrong -- the AEDs.

City Manager Iglesias: No, not in all parks. We have 30-some odd parks. We're looking at a pilot program. And we talked about Salvadore Park and Rotary Park as the two pilot areas.

Mayor Lago: I'm ready to do it in all parks. The only problem is where we...

Commissioner Castro: They're \$1,800.

Mayor Lago: But we're -- I know that's a lot of money.

City Manager Iglesias: Mayor, it's a lot of money.

Commissioner Castro: (INAUDIBLE) dollars.

Mayor Lago: That's 60 -- that's \$60,000 plus. We got to find the money and put it from somewhere. Do you have --? Have we looked at the budget and seen where we could cut from somewhere to be able to buy these items and install them?

City Manager Iglesias: We're going to have to make some choices in the budget.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Right.

Mayor Lago: So, one of the items that we're going to talk about in the budget.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Just to be -- just through -- the ACM just noted it's also -- it's my understanding that the AEDs also still need to be electrified, et cetera, so it's not just the...

Mayor Lago: (INAUDIBLE) \$1,800.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Purchase of the item. Is that correct?

City Manager Iglesias: Well...

Mayor Lago: There's something...

City Manager Iglesias: Well, all these items is not -- as -- Mayor, as you know, it's always an (INAUDIBLE).

Mayor Lago: Some infrastructure work that needs to be done, yes.

City Manager Iglesias: Exactly.

Mayor Lago: Okay. So, what I'd like to do is I'd like to move forward on this, if my colleagues will indulge me, and I'd like to identify in the budget if my colleagues are interested in finding the

money to provide these in the parks moving forward. But we're going to have to, again, make tough decisions to find the money. We just can't vote on things and say, hey, do it in all the parks, and then where's the money going to come from?

Commissioner Fernandez: Agreed.

Mayor Lago: So, let's start with a pilot program, start with a pilot program, and then on this budget cycle, we will sit down, we have a meeting tomorrow to start discussing the budget and projects and all kinds of things, and let's make this a priority for everybody in the Commission.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: So, just to be clear, this will still be subject to Commission approval in the budget?

Mayor Lago: A hundred percent.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: So, approval today is not funding it?

City Attorney Suárez: Right.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Castro: Okay, quick question here. Each pole costs how much? The blue ones?

City Manager Iglesias: The blue ones cost about \$75,000 to \$90,000.

Commissioner Castro: Okay. And each AED costs \$1,800?

City Manager Iglesias: Those -- well, you've got...

Commissioner Castro: Around an average.

City Manager Iglesias: Well, you've got the actual -- that's the actual unit, but you've got the actual system and you've got to have it electrified and so forth. So...

Commissioner Fernandez: Same as the poles.

City Manager Iglesias: Yeah.

Mayor Lago: There's costs.

Commissioner Castro: Okay, so if we wait to do both of them together, we're going to have to wait to find funding for \$75,000 to include something that costs a fraction?

Mayor Lago: What we're doing is -- what we're doing right now is we're going to do a pilot program, and we're going to move forward in the budget to say, okay, how's it working? How's the pilot program working? Is it efficient? You know, are we satisfied with the products that we chose? We are? Okay, perfect. Then we will move forward to budget for next year to be able to buy the poles and all of the other systems required.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Mayor.

Mayor Lago: And the infrastructure that's required.

Commissioner Castro: So...

Vice Mayor Anderson: Mayor.

Commissioner Castro: That sounds wonderful, but when would the pilot program start?

City Manager Iglesias: Our director is here. Director, could you --? We have a split cost. Could you split that cost, please?

Information Technology Director Rodulfo: After last Commission meeting, we did a site survey to both pilot sites, Rotary and Salvadore. We identified one of the parks has a façade, so the AED can be attached there, and that's electrical. The other one doesn't have it, so we need to do a separate -- a small pole for the AED and the blue pole. Total cost, close to \$100,000 per site...

Mayor Lago: Raimundo.

Information Technology Director Rodulfo: If we count both the blue and the red.

Mayor Lago: How much --? When can we get this done? This pilot program? When -- if we give the green light today, when will it be installed?

Information Technology Director Rodulfo: The big deal now for everything like this...

Mayor Lago: Ordering.

Information Technology Director Rodulfo: Is supply -- supply chain. So, we are talking about three to four months of supply chain delay for this equipment as per the manufacturer.

Mayor Lago: Okay.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, Mayor...

Mayor Lago: So, (INAUDIBLE) the faster we can get started.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, Mayor, if I may, we can buy this computer today, but to run it out on a site, at a park, you need to have power to charge it and the AED has to have power to charge it. So, some infrastructure has to be installed there to keep this AED running. It's just not going to re-juice itself. So, no matter what, we have to provide some infrastructure. There have been requests long-term at Rotary Park for a camera due to issues there. Salvadore Park, similar issues, but different issues, you know, where residents have wanted some cameras there. You know, we're going to run into that from park to park. It's a big concern, but if we don't start chipping away at it, we're never going to get started.

Commissioner Fernandez: Now, as far as the poles, we'd have to go to RFP, correct?

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: So, depending on the amount of the cost, et cetera, we would follow procurement regulations.

Commissioner Castro: Right, not necessarily an RFP.

Commissioner Fernandez: And timeframe?

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Not necessarily.

City Attorney Suárez: It's a procurement process.

City Manager Iglesias: We would go to multiple vendors to make sure that we have the (INAUDIBLE)...

Commissioner Fernandez: Right, so if you get the green light now, timeframe wise, how soon do you believe we'd be able to have the first (INAUDIBLE).

City Manager Iglesias: We have to look at the availability of the systems, and as the Director says, probably three or four months just to get the equipment. Some of the equipment in construction has been up to a year.

Commissioner Menendez: How long does the...

City Manager Iglesias: Over a year, actually.

Commissioner Menendez: Bidding process take? Because if not...

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: It may not be a bid, and it's my understanding...

Commissioner Menendez: All right, different question.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: First of all, that this is going to go in next year's budget, so nothing could happen before October 1st when we transition to the '23/'24 fiscal year budget.

City Attorney Suárez: Unless the Manager has...

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Unless otherwise directed, yeah.

City Attorney Suárez: Unless the Manager has identified funding for the pilot.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Yeah.

City Attorney Suárez: But...

City Manager Iglesias: We have not identified funding for the pilot. We would have to take funding from something else.

Mayor Lago: Yeah, that's the (INAUDIBLE).

City Attorney Suárez: So...

Commissioner Menendez: Go ahead.

City Attorney Suárez: So, if the Commission approves this today, is it directing to proceed immediately and directing the Manager to find funding or...

City Manager Iglesias: The...

City Attorney Suárez: To put it into the --?

City Manager Iglesias: The issue with providing projects without looking at this for funding is that we have to look at funding to make them happen.

Mayor Lago: Agreed.

City Manager Iglesias: And so that's...

City Attorney Suárez: Right, so as drafted, it says that it's a direction to the Manager to include in the budget process for the next fiscal year.

City Manager Iglesias: We have included it in the budget process for next year.

Commissioner Fernandez: So, then we've already done that.

Mayor Lago: It's to implement -- it's an -- this is to implement a pilot program to see how these two parks do...

Commissioner Menendez: Right.

Mayor Lago: After we've been able to get this through the budget cycle, purchased, sourced, brought in and installed. This is going to take a year from the moment that we vote on it today to see it in Rotary Park. That's what's going to take a year.

Vice Mayor Anderson: But I would suggest...

City Manager Iglesias: We have infrastructure requirements.

Vice Mayor Anderson: That the (INAUDIBLE).

City Manager Iglesias: We have...

Mayor Lago: We got -- the budget starts October 1st. You don't -- you can't -- you can procure it, but you've got to pay for it. So, how are you going to do this? You've got to wait until you have money, and we don't have money in the budget right now. So, unless you're going to say we'll take money from sidewalks, or we'll take money from a project right now that is currently funded, and we'll divert it to this project, I don't think that's the wise thing to do. I think it's wise to wait.

City Manager Iglesias: I mean, we have to be careful when we add these things. We just added, for instance, Burger Bob's. It's going to be almost seven figures. Where do we get that money from?

Mayor Lago: Yep.

City Manager Iglesias: So, I think when we add projects very, very quickly like this, we have to look at that there's budgetary issues.

Mayor Lago: So, we vote on this, we start the process for the pilot program for the two places.

City Manager Iglesias: So, how many do we fund without having them in the budget? That's the question.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Well, I -- we have the budget meeting tomorrow. I do think we need to move forward with a pilot project. Mayor, is that a motion you think is --?

City Manager Iglesias: Can I think we move forward with pilot project? We can probably try to gather enough funds to do so, but we have to be careful when we do that. We -- for instance, we're talking about Burger Bob's. Burger Bob's is going to be seven figures.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yeah, no, I agree.

City Manager Iglesias: And so, where do we get that money from? So, we just have to be careful when we are budgeting, when we're looking at these projects very quickly, that we have the necessary funding in place. This is a small project. I think that we can get it. If the Commission wants this project as an emergency, then we can look at that as an emergency basis.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Well, as written, it's a pilot project for the year '23/'24 budget. We can - - subject to available funding, I think we can have further discussion on this tomorrow in a holistic fashion with the rest of our budgetary items.

City Manager Iglesias: Is it the Commission's will to have this as an emergency funding for these pilot programs?

Vice Mayor Anderson: Well, again...

City Manager Iglesias: If it is, then I can look for that.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Why don't we have that further discussion tomorrow when we're discussing the budget?

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: This just ensures that it's in the budget for your consideration.

Commissioner Fernandez: But he said it's already...

City Manager Iglesias: It's in the budget.

Commissioner Fernandez: It's already in the budget, he said.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Oh.

City Manager Iglesias: It's in the budget. However, if we want to...

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, I'll move the resolution.

City Manager Iglesias: If we want to do that -- this on an emergency basis, then I can look for that, you know, \$200,000, 150 to \$200,000 in the current budget to see what we can do. We do have a lot of things that -- but I think we need to be careful how we add projects that they are budgeted because something eventually has to give, right?

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, can you come back to us with the available funding issue...

City Manager Iglesias: If the Commission wishes for this, this is a small project. The Commission wishes to do this now, I can try to find it.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yeah, and you can come back to us at the next meeting.

City Manager Iglesias: Yes.

Vice Mayor Anderson: If we move this now, second it and vote on it, you can come back next meeting, address the funding issue.

City Manager Iglesias: Yes.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Commissioner Castro: So, it doesn't need two votes. Excuse me, Commissioner, or Vice Mayor, sorry to jump in. But it's a resolution, so it only requires one vote, so it won't be coming back unless it's directed by you all to.

Mayor Lago: And what I would like to do also, Mr. Manager, is I would like to put together a schedule over the next three to five years so that we can fund these systems for the parks. And you know, let's -- tell us what the numbers are going to be and -- so that we can get everything funded in the locations that are required. I think you said 30-plus locations, I think you said?

City Manager Iglesias: I think, how many parks -- you have 36.

Mayor Lago: So, tell me what it'll take over the next five years to do six of those a year.

City Manager Iglesias: The smart emergency station has the panic device also, has the camera, and so it would be, not only a service for a heart attack, but somebody -- but for any other emergency.

Mayor Lago: So, that's -- we'll talk about it in the budget.

City Manager Iglesias: So, there are benefits to having both.

Mayor Lago: We'll talk about it in the budget and talk to my colleagues about it and see if they want to schedule something out over the next five years to get all the parts suited with this technology.

Commissioner Menendez: And for the pilot program, I know we did a bid waiver for Burger Bob's. At one point, if it's needed, can we do that?

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Of course, and just -- I just want to be -- so right now, if we're not moving on anything, it's in the budget for consideration. The Manager has already let that be known. So, you don't need to...

Mayor Lago: We're going to vote -- we're going to vote on this resolution.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: If we don't move on this, it will be just part of the budget.

Commissioner Fernandez: To answer your question...

Commissioner Castro: For what?

City Attorney Suárez: He's saying he's going to move on it.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Okay.

Commissioner Fernandez: I found some online for less than \$25,000. They even had car chargers. So, there are less expensive alternatives.

Commissioner Menendez: To answer my question, if -- once, obviously, the next meeting it comes back, will you say, you know, let's save a little bit more time. We're going to do a bid waiver. Can we do a bid waiver on the pilot?

City Attorney Suárez: The Commission can -- if it's in the best interest of the City, the City Commission, by a four-fifths vote, can waive the procurement process.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Manager, will you do me a favor?

City Manager Iglesias: I'm sorry, Mayor. Go ahead.

Mayor Lago: Will you do me a favor? Commissioner Fernandez says that there's a technology out there that's 25,000 versus 100. Can you have Raimundo please look into this technology and provide us an email...

City Manager Iglesias: Yes.

Mayor Lago: Basically saying, you know, whether it's correct...

Commissioner Fernandez: The quality.

Mayor Lago: The quality, whether, you know, warranty is 10 years, 5 years, 3 years, is it made in China? Is it made in America? You know, all these kind of things are important. So, please

because -- and also get the information from the Commissioner. He says that there's something - there's another model out there for \$25,000.

Information Technology Director Rodulfo: The Code Blue pole that we installed seven years ago, it's made in America, has been withstanding elements for seven years. It's a very good life cycle, very good ROI.

Mayor Lago: Okay.

Information Technology Director Rodulfo: It's very resilient, very reliable.

Mayor Lago: But for the future, it was mentioned here on the Commission floor, I'd like to compare and contrast these two models. It's a pretty significant price difference. So, if you could just give me an idea of what you recommend, and you know, the pros and cons of each model, okay? Thank you.

City Manager Iglesias: And Mayor, may I say something?

Mayor Lago: Through the Manager, excuse me.

City Manager Iglesias: Thank you, Mayor. If we waive procurement, that doesn't do anything for the budget.

Mayor Lago: Okay.

City Manager Iglesias: Waiving procurement allows you to move faster, but you still have to fund it.

Mayor Lago: Okay.

Commissioner Menendez: But faster's good.

Mayor Lago: All right. So, will anybody make a motion?

Vice Mayor Anderson: I already did.

Commissioner Menendez: Yeah, I'll second.

City Attorney Suárez: So, just to be clear though, as drafted, it is just putting this in the budget. It's not telling the Manager to start it today or to go out and buy the equipment today.

Commissioner Menendez: Right.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Correct.

City Attorney Suárez: Understood.

Mayor Lago: That is correct. And plus, I wouldn't want to move, especially since somebody told me they can get it for one-fourth the price.

City Attorney Suárez: Understood.

Mayor Lago: I'd like to find out.

Commissioner Fernandez: Yes.

Commissioner Menendez: Yes.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes.

Commissioner Castro: Yes.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

(Vote: 5-0)