

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item I-2
September 13, 2016
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Jim Cason
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Vince Lago
Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Commissioner Jeannett Slesnick

City Staff

City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
City Attorney, Craig E. Leen
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Police Chief, Ed Hudak

Public Speaker(s)

Manny Guarch, Attorney

Agenda Item I-2 [10:33:29 a.m.]

Justice Advocate Report

Mayor Cason: I-2.

City Attorney Leen: Item I-2 is the Justice Advocate Report. I'd like to ask Manny Guarch, our Special Counsel Police Legal Advisors to come and speak about this, if you could Mr. Guarch.

Mr. Guarch: Commissioners, Madam City Manager, Mr. City Attorney, I believe we have a PowerPoint presentation for this.

Mayor Cason: Does this program continue to be unique in Florida?

Mr. Guarch: Yes. Coral Gables it's not quite the same, but the idea is somewhat similar to City of Miami does for...it's more geared toward that, not what we do. So you are familiar with the Justice Advocate Program, it's now approximately two years old. Something you want to know

very quickly, I know this is brief, is that as it gets older, something I don't think we envisioned happening has happened, which is ASA's who are C's or B's when the program started are now becoming A's and Division Chiefs.

City Attorney Leen: Please explain what that means.

Mr. Guarch: OK. So the younger ASA's are now moving into positions of seniority and supervisory rolls, and because they were made aware of the program when they were a younger ASA's on a car burglary case they are more aware of the program now in their supervisory rolls and deal with their supervised ASA's.

City Attorney Leen: An ASA is an Assistant State Attorney, so they work for Katherine Fernandez Rundle the State Attorney.

Mayor Cason: And there are lots of them, right?

Mr. Guarch: Yes. If you looked at it as a firm it's one of the bigger firms in the State of Florida.

Mayor Cason: OK.

Mr. Guarch: So, very briefly, there are just a few to give you an update on some of these. This is the shooting from October on Halloween. He is set for trial 10/4; there is a motion to set bond, we attended that hearing, the motion was denied by the Judge. Wilcher, Wooten Brown – approximately two years ago there...

Mayor Cason: Let me ask you on this first one. I noticed what would come up on some of these lighter ones where two years ago we first went and they never go to trial, they keep kicking them like year after year after year after year, when it says October 4th is this unlikely to take place.

Mr. Guarch: This case particularly is unlikely to take place. They are ordering a mental health evaluation, so he's going to be assessed, so it's particularly unlikely that this goes to trial in October. That often is the nature of the beast, defense attorneys will attempt to delay cases in order to make it so that victims either lose interest, relocate. There was one case, Antonio Damian Rodriguez, where the victim specifically relocated in that case, and it had to be dismissed.

Mayor Cason: And is the delaying tactic in hopes of getting plea bargain at the end other than the hope it just goes away?

Mr. Guarch: It's both. It's both. Hopefully a victim doesn't show up, or hopefully the case gets switched around so often that the plea comes down, that's part of what we try to do is to make sure that that doesn't happen, that the case doesn't fall through the cracks, communicating with the various ASA's who are assigned, because of the period of, for example, this case alone even though it's a more high profile case, and happened in October, there has already been two different ASA's assigned to the case. Wilcher Wooten and Brown is from two years ago, there's

been at least five ASA's assigned to this case. This is no longer up-to-date. Yesterday a trial was set for one of the defendants. He failed to appear for trial, and now has a bench warrant or a warrant for his arrest, alias capias. So now all three of these individuals they have arrest warrants. This case, also new, to your question set for trial October 11th, I don't think there is really any chance that it actually goes to trial on October 11th, I believe the arrest was made about a month ago. These two defendants, these are set for trial and these look like they may plea. They are co-defendants in burglary cases; we've been in contact with the State Attorney Office. Juan Carlos Redero, was an accident that occurred, you might remember where a bicyclist was struck and killed. His case is set for trial November 14th. This may actually go, the State Attorney's Office indicated they have what they need to proceed to trial, the defendant has already switched counsel and moved for multiple continuances, so at this point there is a fair chance this actually goes to trial in November, if it doesn't, just the way the system works is pretty much no one tries any cases in December, so most likely it will be moved to January. This is a recent success; this defendant Jeffrey Paulino Rodriguez received five years in State prison, to be followed by ten years' probation. So he will be monitored for a significant period of time.

Mayor Cason: And this one he pleaded?

Mr. Gaurch: Yes. You'll notice the last name of these offenders...

Commissioner Lago: Can you go back to the previous slide? Just a quick question, I wasn't aware when this happened at Havana Harry's. When did that occur?

Mr. Gaurch: This would be a 2014 case; the number after the "F" – "F" designates that it's a felony case, 14 is the year, so it would be 15, 16. There was a stabbing in the parking lot of Havana Harry's. It was a chef who got... This offender, you'll notice the last name is the same as the one of the three that we discussed earlier, they are actually related, he was sentenced to one year State prison and restitution as the victim...

Mayor Cason: And the restitution goes to the victim?

Mr. Gaurch: Yes.

Mayor Cason: OK.

Mr. Gaurch: It's intended to. It's a criminal restitution order. The likelihood that the individual actually pays the restitution in reality is not great, but it stays with the defendant, and that's it.

Mayor Cason: Tell me, I think on your first slide can you read the important note concerning community involvement, which is what I think, is the key here.

Mr. Gaurch: Absolutely. For example, community involvement is key to any prosecution, whether it's for a simple theft at a CVS, or it's a burglary of a vehicle or it's a burglary of a residence. If the victims don't participate, if they don't show up for the pre-file conference that happens within 72 hours to 4 days after the arrest, the State Attorney's Office will reset it one

more time, and they'll say, OK, we know you didn't come in to give us a sworn statement, can you give us another chance to get a sworn statement from you. If they don't get a sworn statement from the victim of a crime laying out the elements of the offence, for example, on a burglary that the person wasn't allowed to be in the car, didn't have permission to take that pair of sunglasses, the State Attorney's Office cannot in good faith go forward with that case.

Mayor Cason: So how many cases do we lose for lack of citizen participation? We have our Police, we've done everything possible with resources, catching people, how often do we lose them because of lack of citizen participation?

Mr. Gaurch: The majority of cases that are lost are because of that, and that's on those smaller cases. Now there are occasions where there might be a legal issue that we lose on, but that's fairly infrequent.

Mayor Cason: Craig can you outline for the public again, how we made it even easier to do affidavits, so even if you don't go to the court there are some other things that we've done. Again, because I think it's so important for the citizens, a lot of times they'll say I've been robbed, but they don't do anything about it, and what they do is they come back and rob again, because that citizen failed to do their part. There are three parts where I can see it. We the Commission set the policy, and provide the resources and the oversight, the Police set up the strategy and go catch the guys hopefully, and then the citizens need to participate in their own protection – eyes on the street, cameras and all of that stuff.

City Attorney Leen: Yes Mr. Mayor, so first, this presentation will be placed on the web, so you can take a look at it on the City's website, we'll also add something related to the Victim's Assistance Program, which this Commission has been strongly supportive of, so has City Manager's office, the Police Department. We have a designated person who runs the program. As you may remember, the Commission expanded the program, so we are able to go and help individual victims who are residents who are here in Coral Gables, we are able to provide an array of assistance to them to make sure that they are able to get downtown, and if necessary, to be able to go to their house to talk to them. Another thing that we just did was, Miriam Ramos, the Deputy City Attorney, she is now the City Prosecutor, so typically the State Attorney's Office will prosecute matters, and that's what's been done in the past. What this program does is, and it's done in conjunction with them, they've supported it, the State Attorney's Office, but it makes it clear that Coral Gables is going to follow these cases and we have someone designated, an attorney, who can provide them whatever information they need, that's in addition to public safety, police department, who are following these cases as well. Coral Gables is different than a lot of cities, we really follow these cases. There has been such a strong commitment made by the City Commission to, every one of these cases is important, every victim is important, and we are trying to use every different type of tool that we can to reduce crime.

Mayor Cason: And we have our serial burglary or robbery ordinance that we passed as well.

City Attorney Leen: Yes. Sorry sir.

Mayor Cason: If you could again reiterate what that is.

City Attorney Leen: Yes. We have an ordinance that – we’ve adopted several ordinances; the City Commission has adopted several ordinances supported by, again, the City Manager’s office and the City Attorney’s office, these crimes that occur in Coral Gables such as car burglaries or people breaking into cars essentially. We have a special ordinance that says that if you have multiple car burglaries or really even one you get a certain mandatory minimum, if it’s more than one you get a higher mandatory minimum, and there is the ability to have a stay away order from residential areas of Coral Gables. The City has also adopted a number of nuisance abatement and crime abatement ordinances: the squatters ordinance, these abandoned property ordinances, and forfeiture ordinance, and I think there were about 15, I think they were when the Director of Public Safety spoke, I remember I think there were about 15 or 16 ordinances that this Commission has adopted that are – many of which are unique and are really forward looking ordinances based on your Home Rule Power, under the Home Rule Powers Act, to address crime. Do you have anything to add?

Mr. Guarch: I would just add that you mentioned the squatter’s ordinance, which I know I’ve been involved with assisting the Police Department, it’s been used to great effect. I know at least, I think over the past year, it’s been used at least 6 or 7 times, and generally resulting in immediate resolution of the problem.

City Attorney Leen: What’s important is if individuals know that – if squatters are being told they can’t be here, and they can’t just delay a case and try to stay in a residence that they’ve broken into for two or three months. They know they have five days, if it’s an emergency they have zero days maybe, but if it’s not an emergency they have five days, they need to get out. If we can get the property owner to give a trespass warning, they’ll be out immediately. So once people know, that they talk, and people don’t come here to do that.

Mayor Cason: Chief could you, again back to my question about how important it is for citizens to participate. I’m very disappointed, because we keep hearing every time we bring this every year about how few people really take the time to go, and protect the neighbors and others from future crimes; because these are gangs, these are professional people, they are not Coral Gables residents, the people that come in and take advantage of our 189 entrances, and could you give some thought to or some comments on this?

Chief Hudak: Again, I believe everything that this body has done, and the tools that it’s given your Police Department to do are working. Subsequent to the last two weeks, up in the north end of the City what has been the focus point was predominantly low in occurrences, and we watch that. Every week we have a crime statistics meeting, something that we’ve done before, and we were looking at that, and we marveled remarkably about how everybody was engaged. Since this body has given us the tools, we were getting more calls, we were arresting people. We are going to have these spikes, we have had these spikes. I think – and the City Attorney touched on it; the two individuals that were responsible for the spike up in the north end were taken into custody, not because of a tip that we had, but because of the work of the detectives, the officers on the street. What the officers did that night when they were patrolling in that area maybe was not right

on top of it, just south of it, and that's something that we do review all the time. To get to your question, what the Police Department has done is, we've done probably more forensic collection of evidence on those cars, whether there was no sign of forced entry or not. Some people are going to say, I locked my car, I don't know how they got in. I'm not going to point the finger. As I've said publicly, if you want to leave your cars unlocked, I can ask you not to do it, but then don't leave anything in it. What it comes down to in the successful prosecution is, you have to have the victim's participation no matter what it is statutorily. We have our evidence, we collect our evidence, we put this together, we present it. We find a couple of different reasons for non-participation. The system itself in the criminal justice system they have to show up, they have to go down. If it's a \$50 pair of sunglasses that we recovered, it doesn't make economic sense for that person to off work and go down, we understand that. So we are working through this program to try and send an affidavit where we can move forward. But to actually go to trial on that, and this program helps us do that, that we know we have to have this person here. Then we engage the victim advocate, this is how we go forward. Now, I will tell you that over the week now that we've had an individual or two individuals that we took into custody, we are going to employ for the first time the ordinance on multiple vehicle burglaries against the individual that we believe was behind it. So I'm going to apply that ordinance once we are through the criminal justice system, and the problem that we find, I believe, is because although it is a very intense crime for us here in Coral Gables and it's one of an opportunity crime, but it's a numbers issue, when you put that into the State Attorney's pool of what crimes there are, its "apples to oranges" and this is an easy move for our caseload from a detective here that may have 12 or 15 cases to an Assistant State Attorney who has 300 cases.

Mayor Cason: Let me ask you, how often do you find break into a car where there is nothing in sight and the door is locked?

Chief Hudak: If there is something – what we've seen on the force...smash and grab opportunities, and like we've always said in all of our crime tips that we've put out, don't leave anything in your vehicles when you are leaving. The drop offs, we've seen a few of those, and what we've done by putting up signs in some commercial areas, the U.S.- 1 corridor, we've been working that religiously, I would say for the last few months, and what we've been finding is, some people coming in from out of town, we engage the owner of the business, we put our own signs up, we have regular details there going on, on a regular basis. Sometimes it's a crime of opportunity; they could be followed in from the airport, we've seen that there is a lot of property inside the vehicles. It still takes seconds to do this; and comparatively speaking as we do in our public safety briefings, both with the Director as well as our PSI meetings with everybody else, when you look at the map around us it's very consistent with, we've been a little bit higher than West Miami, South Miami received the numbers that happened there just on population and density. When you look at some of the other areas you realize what a buffer shield the officers on patrol are doing. And again, there was a conversation with a victim as late as yesterday – part of the Victim Advocate Program was, we got the board up company out there as soon as the crime scene personnel were done. We made sure that we were able to secure that window from somebody who had entered into their home.

Mayor Cason: We pay for it, the City?

Chief Hudak: I'm not sure if we did or we didn't, but I know we actually ordered it.

Mayor Cason: I think didn't we pass...

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Absolutely – waive any permits associated with any replacement like that, so we can check on was it actually – absolutely.

Chief Hudak: I know we ordered the board up person, because I was personally at the house, but I haven't seen the invoice, but I will tell you if I got the invoice I would probably sign it off. As far as the permit replacement of the window that's something that we do have in place through our Victim Advocate to make sure they are made whole.

Mayor Cason: So could you explain the amount of time within which the attorneys, the prosecutors need to have this declaration, is it four days, and then you have a second chance?

Mr. Guarch: They'll normally set PSC with the officers and the victims within a week after the incident occurred, then within another two weeks we'll get a second chance. They won't normally do more than two tries.

Mayor Cason: Alright. On these cases, for example, where you caught the two people, they were caught and can you explain a little bit about that group?

Chief Hudak: The information that we gather, and understand, our detectives made very good contacts and communication with the City of Miami Police Department and the Gang Unit. Again, what we do now when we respond to these situations is, the officers have really gotten very good at looking at some of those security cameras around and what they are finding. With the burglary, the attempted burglary the other night on Robia, we were able to get the video of the individual walking up and pushing the doorbell, so the technology is we are finally kind of keeping up and using that and putting it out as quickly as possible. The information that we gathered through both the Gang Unit with the City of Miami who recognized the individual, who knew where to find out, found the female that was in the video and subsequently the gentleman, and I use the term loosely in this case, with the tattoos and the head covering, so we kind of focused on what that Gang Unit is, that's a whole different type of investigation, and then we are able to follow up. The detectives, they're the ones at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning on the follow ups on these things, they are getting the confession, they are gathering the information, they are putting it forward, other agencies are coming forward. As we said last night, the individual that we took into custody during his violent committing a crime...is probably responsible for doing this before. The car that he was in, I was informed was taken in a carjacking type situation, and that's three or four blocks off our perimeter. I can't be prouder of the response time, and again, I think it goes to – you may not see us all the time, because I can't put a cop on every corner, but when we are there within seconds, and before the husband yells to the wife who is outside, the cop is running in the backdoor behind him forcing him to dive out the window right into the arms of another officer with a Taser. I'm pretty happy that none of the citizens were hurt, the officers were done, and we processed that and were able to move forward on more violent crime type

people. So, as I told the victims yesterday, short of a mote the Police Department does a pretty good job of being out there, even though they may not see us all the time, we are there.

Mayor Cason: And did they indicate those victims that they are prepared to go, and do their part now in terms of making sure that this needs to stick.

Chief Hudak: In these types of crimes and the violent crimes, once again, we have a very low number of violent crimes; they are very, very willing to go forward. The issue that we are talking about Mayor, I think of getting done is somebody who loses a handful of change. A felony that it may be to enter into a car and it is a felony, it's a low grade felony, I think this is where the ordinance and as we move forward with the City Attorney's office and the Justice Advocate Program, we are going to charge the individual, and again, it was my decision to charge the male individual on the spree that happened in the north end with the ordinance once we go through the process. When we look at their sheets then we can show this is an individual who was preying specifically around here. The good news is the intelligence we get from our Gang Unit colleagues, so to speak, the bad guys know not to come into our City.

Mayor Cason: I think that's the important thing when they know that, because of the Victim Advocacy Program, and the good work that you all do that they are going to get caught and even if they don't get it through the State; we are going to go after them with our ordinances. They may go somewhere else, because otherwise it's going to lead to more and more of this, and then they are going to be some of them that may find their garage door opener, and turn into a burglary or they may find a gun. So I just think it's so important that the citizens understand the importance of participating in the successful conclusion of this.

Chief Hudak: And I can't stress enough the Commission's coming up with the Justice Advocate Program and I'll tell you why it makes me sleep easier at night. Mr. Guarch and Judge Reyes come to my staff meetings, weekly staff meetings representation. We talked about the Halloween shooting and the individual is going to get psychiatric evaluation. Those are loop holes that we always want to be on top of that I don't necessarily have the resources to do from the police side, the detective may be the last to follow up, but when I've got a representative representing the victims in the Police Department to make sure that someone doesn't get off on a psychological technicality or something like that, at least we are informed of it; and I do believe it yields results, because even from my contact with the State Attorney herself, they understand that we are watching our cases and we have a vested interest as a City into and its moving forward. So the message that we've been sending since September 2015 has been, we are watching everything from the beginning. I may not be able to have everybody everywhere, but when we do catch them and we are successful, it doesn't stop at just the arrest. I think if it did we would continue to be doing this. Now they know that our justice pursuits are much more than the arrest, and I think the officers are finding that out.

City Attorney Leen: Mr. Mayor, I would just add, one ordinance I didn't mention, but was recently enacted was the – Coral Gables does not tolerate crime in our City, so if you do commit a crime and somehow you get through the system, and you don't get punished, we can fine you \$15,000, because we view a misdemeanor as a serious crime. When I hear that sometimes, the

whole reason for the Justice Advocate Program, it goes back a couple of years, and why we met with the State Attorney, and I'm very happy that they support this is – all crime is bad, all crime is bad, and yes, there are crimes that are more severe, and you know that we are very blessed that they don't happen very often in Coral Gables, but even property crime and quality of life crime affects people and how they feel in their homes, and it's important to us and I know that the Commission has made it very clear that we are working to end crime. So the idea of this program is that we are following every crime and one thing that the City Prosecutor will now do, because we have this designated person, she'll work with Public Safety, she'll work with the police, and our police legal advisors and my goal is to have a list of all of the cases that the Assistant State Attorneys are prosecuting that involve Coral Gables, and she can monitor them, she can call them, or we can use our Justice Advocates and keep track of them; and I know that our Police Department does that already, but we also now have a lawyer who's been a former prosecutor, Mr. Guarch and Ms. Ramos are both former prosecutors, so we have these tools, we are very lucky.

Mayor Cason: Well let us know going forward if there are any other tools you can think of that will help bring all these elements together, so that we can continue to reduce crime.

Chief Hudak: And again, I will report back through the Director, the Manager's office on the first time that we are going to use the ordinance on the multiple vehicle; and again, in conversations with the Deputy City Attorney in our staff meetings, yesterday I already instructed my staff that we are going to move forward, and where we charge the individual with the ordinance violation, so we'll be able to report back, and see if there is need for tweaking as far as the ordinances we are going to move forward on, and we are going to continue to fly out, and again, the Director actually mentioned this the other day, I felt this from the beginning, whether somebody has been in your car or in your home and yesterday it was in their home while they were there, the feeling of violation is something that everybody has to overcome. I believe your Police Department through both the Victim Advocate is very sensitive to that, we understand how people get upset with that and we have to get through that, get past that to continue to do our job, the prosecutor can give them some sense of normalcy and security again; and I think the tools that you all have given us is something that is starting to pay dividends on our spikes.

Mayor Cason: Well congratulations to your officers for those three cases that was terrific.

Commissioner Slesnick: Chief, congratulations on the great work the last couple of days. I wanted to ask too, I notice more and more homeowners moving into the Gables are using camera systems and so forth, is there a way to get the word out that if there are problems in the neighborhood that maybe they might share some of their videos, if something happened on the 400 Block of Sevilla that the 500 Block may have videos or something of that.

Chief Hudak: What we do now and again, we could put that out through our Crime Watch Program, through our neighborhood team leaders, what we have done which is something I used to never do when I was an officer was, we'll do an area canvas, so the officer that responds...

Commissioner Slesnick: I'm sorry, you do what?

Chief Hudak: Area canvas – so I may take a report from one house, and then the officers have really gotten very good at it, and I think it's probably, because they are millennials and they know what to look for, is they are looking for every other house with cameras. As late as yesterday afternoon, I got three separate e-mails about people who had video that sent it to us to send it onto the investigation. One of them was an individual that was known to us that wasn't involved; and again, here's the issue, and then we are processing all that information, and I think the detectives probably left about 1-2 o'clock in the morning last night just to process one individual who told us that there were two other people, which then takes the manhunt bigger with the dogs and everything else like that, but part of that area response is looking at the videos.

Commissioner Slesnick: One other thing that some of the neighbors happen to reply to me about was that with so many people having tattoos these days it's a lot easier to identify the criminals, so that's something, especially in warm weather the way they wear short sleeves, it's really a lot easier to make sure you have the right people.

Chief Hudak: Some of the officers are so astute and I don't know if you've seen the video, but between the University of Miami camera system, the doorbell camera system where the person was ringing the doorbell and didn't think somebody was inside; in slow motion, I believe it was Chief Miller was pointing this out at staff the other day, they actually looked at the unique batting glove that the individual was doing. To answer your question on tattoos, our connections with the Gang Strike Force, as well as our regional domestic terrorism group, they catalog some of those tattoos, so there are many, many different ways that we can identify people.

Commissioner Lago: Mayor if I may, just one quick question. Why don't we maybe take the opportunity right now to run some PSA's (Public Service Announcement) explaining to the residents how they can be helpful in regards to either the cameras or just being more vigilant?

Chief Hudak: We have a series of PSA's that we started, I think we will actually do some more.

Commissioner Lago: I haven't seen any of those PSA's in some time though.

Chief Hudak: You're right. We have to get back on the...Channel 77, and my conversations with the Manager and the Director, I think it was last week, we also talked about kind of broadening our outreach through Facebook and Twitter, and I've met with Maria Rosa Higgins Fallon this week as far as, we've had multiple sites that were done prior to my arrival, we've now condensed those, we are working within our system of the City of Coral Gables to get that outreach.

Commissioner Lago: And besides not only Channel 77, but we can also use Twitter, use our Instagram account, our Facebook account. I think it's a good opportunity not only to harp on what we are looking for, and the assistance that we are looking for, but also to make sure that people understand that we are having some of the lowest crime rates in the City's history this year and the last year. So let's be proactive in that aspect, use the technological resources that we

have at our disposal, aside from also saying look, look how much lower crime is on a year-by-year basis.

Mayor Cason: And one of the things that I've been discussing with you all is the possibility going forward of incorporating private cameras in certain strategic areas where we are not putting our geo fence, because we don't have the power and everything else, and the permits are slowing things down, but you have a person that is willing to use their camera on a particular corner done the right way, that could really add a lot more videos on strategic streets.

Chief Hudak: And at the direction of the CCTV Committee that we have entered in or we've attempted, I should say, to enter into some of those agreements with individuals as we get the infrastructure network up for that to do that ideally, and I would love to have that information pulled together a lot quicker. I think to Commissioner Slesnick's point, now that as we get these videos, and because the technology now is just processing it, last night I received an e-mail the detectives told me probably, I think it was around midnight that the individual that they were looking at was Glo-Fak who was somebody that was identified in another area through the MTL's in the meetings and not resulting, and not involved in the other robbery attempts. So, I believe we are going to get there on the technology side as we continue to move forward with that. To Commissioner Lago's point, I believe, and we've had this conversation, our social media outreach for not just this, but recruiting as well is something that we want to do, we put that out, will be able to have much more of a direct access to the individuals and not have to worry about e-mails, if you told me e-mails was going to become slower, but if we can push a button out and touch 35-40,000 people, the fact that half a million people actually watched the Police Department "Running Man Challenge" still baffles me. Those are the kinds of social network things that we are catching up with, and I believe to stay competitive on all of these issues and be able to catch them that's where we need to go. You met Sergeant Salzedo today whose back in the public information side, we are looking at partnerships with the City Manager's authorization to look at some University of Miami people, and other college people that can speak that language of tweets and retweets; and I had a 45 minute meeting with MR (Maria Rosa) and she came back from a recent conference where she is a heck of a lot more educated than I am, so we are moving forward and changing passwords, so I believe you are going to see a much more proactive approach from your Police Department as far as having that kind of information getting out that quickly.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Mr. Mayor if I can, on the shout out on the cameras. We absolutely would welcome if somebody has a fourth camera that could be pointed to the public street, not into their backyard, not into their houses, and so Chief who should somebody contact if they have a camera that they would be willing to put out onto the public road, the public right-of-way?- how would you want that met?

Chief Hudak: Well, I think the direct contact for the chairperson of the Closed Circuit TV Committee would be Assistant Chief Miller, who was designated to spearhead that. Honestly, the other person would be Manny Guarch, who is handling the legal side of the Memorandum of Understanding that we would need, or I believe there is an outside e-mail of CCTV committee, is that the e-mail address?

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: How about let's keep with the Assistant Chief, so that we can really, so that the public will know and his e-mail address is?

Chief Hudak: Would be mmiller@coralgables.com .

Mayor Cason: Thank you very much. I think that would be really great for people that have cameras please volunteer, help us reduce crime even more. Thank you.

Commissioner Keon: May I ask one question. Chief, there was a lengthy article in the Sunday paper with regard to the staffing that there was not adequate staffing or something.

Chief Hudak: I wouldn't say adequate staffing. I think from the beginning – on the patrol issues this question was posed to me last night by the victim as well. As directed by you all, from the moment that I was put here, our staffing on patrol was never compromised, and we supplement that with overtime. Since we've had the issues and not because of anything other than, we looked at these spikes, we saw these spikes, as a matter of fact there were e-mail conversations between myself, the Director, when we started to see these things coming up before the Sunday night we increased the staffing. I had a conversation with Major Pedroso this weekend on Friday afternoon, I want to increase it by two more people for more situational coverage, and it pays off. Natalie Martin, who I think she was by herself for two weeks, this is her first day by herself; the first day by herself she is out in the Task Force, and she picks off somebody who just doesn't look right, working around the same area, her sunglasses in her pocket where we found a burglary before the person woke up. That's the kind of stuff that I like to see. Now again, the cost that is bared out is the savings from the staffing issues, so patrol always stays the same. The other vacancies that we have in the department are spread out, and moved around to augment that, but we have a policy in place of how many people we will keep on patrol and nothing will move if we get into that situation. Again, we have five people that are overseas representing us and that's not an excuse, but again, I would tell anybody the policies that you all gave us through the Manager is that we have salary savings. As we continue to move forward to look for the very best that's never compromised. When we need to increase we increase, that's the strategic, I'm sorry, that's the strategies that we employ. We meet every week with the Director on a staff meeting, as well as when we meet with PSI's, and Major Molina is the one who's shop gives us not the exact specifics, because we don't wait for the verified stats, we look at the incidents that's happening, and we look at our resources and Fire is in there every week with us as well to see how it goes on, and then we deploy our resources. So are we short-staffed as an agency?- Yes, only because there is vacancies and certain things are not getting done, but as far as the patrol, what we do every day, OK, with the use of overtime we have not been short-staffed on those times.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you.

Commissioner Lago: And Chief, I'm just going to speak a little bit in reference to what Commissioner Keon just mentioned and I requested from the City Manager to give me a

breakdown in regards to how many vacancies we have, and how is the trajectory going in reference to that. So, I think we'll be talking about that later during my discussion period, but I don't know if you want to get into that.

Chief Hudak: Well, I would have to get the exact numbers from HR. Again, we have a meeting on that tomorrow; I believe it is where we'll get the actual breakdown of vacancies. We had four individuals that kind of weren't on our radar that were moving on that are in the D.R.O.P. that decided to move ahead. Another individual after Baton Rouge decided that he wanted to go into a reserve status, and wanted to go back to teaching. Again, I can't minimize what affect some of the things that happen to officers that effect on their family, and the bigger concern that I had after that when I came in on that Sunday after Baton Rouge was I saw on the faces of the officers, the senior officers, the concern, the younger officers that this is real. The fact that this Commission approved us buying rifle plates is something that I would have never thought that we as a profession, not Coral Gables have to deal with it. So those are vacancies that happen, again unplanned, we have a breakdown of what we anticipate going, whether there are other officers that are going to leave ahead of time, I don't know, whether they go onto other agencies or got out of it. Some of these officers went to other agencies. We here talk about it all the time, but until that memo comes across my desk, some officers have retired, and moved to the University of Miami, we've had several do that. It's a moving part Commissioner, and I can get you the answer again this afternoon through the Manager's office about what HR has open and pending on those dollars, and I need to keep – I just want to know what the money pool is, so I can move those resources. For several weeks after that we were doubled up, so our coverage was not having everybody in the zone. I stand by my decision to do that, because at that time the officers need to be together and we moved that around. We wouldn't let them cancel their backups on traffic stops, not because they were stopping a non-threatening person, because I wasn't sure what was going to come by in an ambush situation, that's the reality of what we have to do, and then we are constantly watching what happens during that time. So there was a little uptick on incidents, but we were back to our full contingent when the other night happened.

Commissioner Slesnick: How is recruitment coming with your open houses and so forth?

Chief Hudak: We are having much more open houses...

Commissioner Slesnick: But I mean how is the recruitment coming?- are you getting people going into the pool?

Chief Hudak: I think we have – listen, I could use a lot more, and I don't know of the exact numbers because HR kind of handles the recruitment and Chief Miller, I don't know if he has it, if he has the numbers of who attended last.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: We can do a whole presentation, because I know you also have some campus expos, career fairs planned, you are going out to whoever will talk to us, and I know that you all are working hard for that, so if you want a presentation on that I'm sure we can.

Mayor Cason: Why don't you make a thorough presentation, because this is a topic that comes up every several months and we'll like to know how well it's working? I know you are doing a lot of open houses, a lot of advertising.

Chief Hudak: We'll put something together and give you the numbers of attendees, because I know we chart that in our recruitment.

Commissioner Slesnick: I just know recruitment is very difficult throughout the County for police officers now, but I'm always stressing, I want enforcement of our traffic speed limits, and if we can get more officers on board it would be terrific.

Chief Hudak: And we work with Jessica Keller, the Manager's office to look at that multi-mobile transportation plan and how it's going to go. Tonight as a matter of fact, I'm meeting with a bike group at church to talk, I hadn't really had an open conversation about how to co-exist with myself, Miami-Dade Police, I think it's the Everglades Bike community, so it's going to be very much an open forum, so if I'm not at work on Wednesday, I can understand I may get run over.

Mayor Cason: Thank you Chief.

[End: 11:16:46 a.m.]