

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting**  
**Agenda Item – Mayor’s Comments**  
**February 12, 2019**  
**City Commission Chambers**  
**405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

**City Commission**

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

**City Staff**

**City Manager, Peter Iglesias**  
**City Attorney, Miriam Ramos**  
**City Clerk, Billy Urquia**

**Public Speaker(s)**

**Irene Secada**  
**Silvia Unzueta**

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Agenda Item [9:22:07 a.m.]  
Mayor’s Comments

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Mayor’s remarks. I’d like to call Irene Secada, here she is. She is Congresswoman Donna Shalala’s outreach representative and if you can introduce yourself and make yourself known for people of Coral Gables, that’d be nice.

Ms. Secada: I just wanted to introduce myself. I’m working with Congresswoman Donna Shalala and I plan to go to a lot of things within the district, especially Coral Gables and so, for anybody that has any issue that would like some assistance from Congresswoman Shalala’s office, I’m here for a few more minutes. I have to go to a staff meeting soon, but I’m happy to meet you and thank you very much for the opportunity to introduce myself.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. And, my assistant will have her numbers and her contact information. I’m sure that the City Manager will take it if anybody needs it. Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And out of the ordinary I'd like to call a long, long, long time resident Silvia Unzueta, who has asked to – she lives in Asturia, who has asked to speak for a minute – Silvia.

Ms. Unzueta: Good morning. Thank you Mr. Mayor. I'll be brief. I had a home invasion in the 80's, during the Cuban Boatlift and just 2-3 days ago, there was a very sad event on Asturia and I must tell you the presence of police was excellent and immediate. Two doors from my house; my house is at 1137 Asturia, I thought I would be safer there than I would right adjacent to Calle Ocho with the prostitution and the motels on the other side. These two ladies are about this size and they stole the car, I believe the car was not – has not been found, but immediately the police department was there with 7 cars. I went yesterday to try to speak to our Chief, which I love. He was very busy, but a member of his staff did talk to me. It is important that we educate the residents that lights are part of living better and safer. The darkness in the City that you all try with the previous many many administrations behind, have been constantly thinking it is classy and elitist and wonderful to live in darkness. It is not. These two poor little ladies are frightened to death and they stole the car, the car has not been found, but the presence of the police was excellent. And I ended up, because nobody wanted to speak, everybody was frightened, I ended up talking to Telemundo and to Channel something, whatever, I don't remember. There is a need to educate residents, there is nothing wrong with having lights. It is a safety, particularly because at 5-6 o'clock it's already dark. Thank you Mr. Mayor and members of the Commission.

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

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I'd like to bring to the City Manager's attention a possible problem or an opportunity to do something. Books and Books, Aragon and Salzedo, the Museum, the Coral Gables Cinema. The amount of people crossing that street and the exit of the parking lot, the number of people crossing the street is astonishing and we should consider having a crosswalk there or elimination or having something to slow traffic down, because between the people coming out of the parking lot, the people trying to get to popular restaurants in that corner, the museum shows, Books and Books and the shows it has, and the Coral Gables Cinema, is a possibility of an accident there. So I'd like to bring that to your attention.

City Manager Iglesias: There is a large parking garage.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes – precisely.

City Manager Iglesias: We'll take a look at that then.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

City Manager Iglesias: We'll have public works traffic take a look.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Also, Item C-1, a resolution designating the City of Seville, Spain as a "Sister City" of the City of Coral Gables. We approved in November the initiation of the process to have Seville designated as a "Sister City" and we did sign the "Sister City" agreements in a very large mayoral conference, I didn't go, but mayoral conference that took place in January, last month. We were represented there by Lourdes Cuzan, who is the head of our International Affairs Coordinating Council, and they gave us the symbol of their city, which is Giralda for our "Sister City" relationship, and it's a beautiful, beautiful token of our friendship and I look forward to that, and I would need a resolution approving the "Sister City" relationship.

City Attorney Ramos: Is there a motion?

Commissioner Mena: Make the motion.

Vice Mayor Lago: I'll second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you call the roll please.

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes

Commissioner Mena: Yes

Commissioner Quesada: Yes

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much.