

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item H-1
August 28, 2018
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

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

City Staff

**City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
Assistant City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia**

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item H-1 [4:08:53 p.m.]

A discussion on toxic algae blooms near Lake Okeechobee and the importance of raising awareness about water quality and environmental concerns that exist in our state. (Sponsored by Commissioner Lago).

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Item H-1 – Lake Okeechobee and raising....

City Attorney Ramos: Commissioner Lago it's all you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Item H-2 – H-1.

Commissioner Lago: H-1 – sorry, excuse me. We'll make it very brief. Did everybody get – we sent a memo out there in regards to this.

Commissioner Keon: Yes.

Vice Mayor Quesada: H-1?

Commissioner Lago: Yes, H-1. Since we are planning on going spear fishing on Sunday and we've got hundreds of manatee dying and we've got millions of pounds of fish as a result of different things that are going on. Some people say it has to do our septic tanks and others say it has to do with Red Tide and a litany of issues that are going on through South Florida that are affecting our wildlife. I wanted to put something – I wanted to proffer something that urged other municipalities and the state to really attack the issue, is it “Big Sugar”?, is it “El Nino”?, is it the “Red Tide”? What is it exactly? I personally am a believer that we need to bring the water south and make sure that water is cleaned before it enters our acturaries and right now we are having major, major issues with toxic green slime throughout the State of Florida.

Vice Mayor Quesada: So, I'm no expert on this, nowhere near it. What are you asking us to do?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: What are you asking us to do?

Commissioner Lago: It's just a simple resolution in support of asking...

City Attorney Ramos: I can have the Assistant City Attorney go through the resolution, so you can understand what it does.

Vice Mayor Quesada: So it's just encouraging...

Commissioner Lago: It says you can't take a shower for 3 weeks, because I need you to conserve water.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Good thing I'm already compliant.

[Laughter]

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: Vice Mayor the way it's written is, the City Commission of the City of Coral Gables urges the State of Florida and the Florida Legislature to support bipartisan efforts to address infrastructure issues and the release of water in and around Lake Okeechobee to minimize proliferation of potentially harmful algae blooms.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: All those in favor say aye.

All: Aye.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Opposed – likewise.

[End: 4:10:50 p.m.]