

CORAL GABLES
BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE
MEETING

427 Biltmore Way,
Coral Gables, Florida
Wednesday, 9:05 a.m.,
May 9, 2018.

ORIGINAL

PARTICIPANTS:

CELESTE WALKER,
Assistant Finance Director for Procurement

THOMAS NORMAN,
Blue Ribbon Committee Member

CATHY SWANSON-RIVENBARK,
City Manager

MARIA HIGGINS-FALLON,
Public Affairs Manager

STEPHANIE THROCKMORTON,
Assistant City Attorney

ERNESTO PINO,
Assistant Public Works Director

FRANK FERNANDEZ,
ACM, Public Safety Director

BROOK DANNEMILLER,
Interim Assistant Public Works Director, Field Services

1 MS. WALKER: The time is now 9:05. It's
2 Wednesday, May the 9th, 2018. This is the Blue Ribbon
3 Committee meeting. We're at 427 Biltmore Way in Suite
4 201.

5 I would call the meeting to order and do a
6 roll call. However, I will just state for the record the
7 person that is present for the committee is Mr. Tom
8 Norman.

9 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: My appointee, for the
10 record.

11 MS. WALKER: That's right, our city manager's
12 appointee, and we do have a guest in attendance. We have
13 our city manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark. We have Miss
14 Maria Higgins-Fallon, and we also have Ernesto Pino from
15 public works, so they will be here presenting and giving
16 information that was requested of the committee at our
17 prior meeting on April the 11th.

18 So I won't even go through the approval of
19 the minutes because I will wait till we have a quorum --

20 MR. NORMAN: Yes.

21 MS. WALKER: -- the next time we have a
22 meeting, so we'll just jump right into the actual
23 presentations, so we can be as casual as you would like,
24 Miss MR, and for you to start with the citywide
25 communication efforts.

1 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: And before she
2 begins, because this is taped, any of the members that
3 wish that they could review the tape before we move
4 forward on a future meeting, we'll make that tape
5 available to them.

6 MS. WALKER: Yes, ma'am, yes, ma'am.

7 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: So I had made a
8 presentation I believe it was at the March meeting where I
9 went through the whole package of information of what we
10 have done in the 2017 hurricane season. I believe your
11 committee wanted to ask more information about what we are
12 going to be doing for this hurricane season. We're like
13 just about a month away.

14 So I had prepared this, and I'll give you a
15 copy of it, and I updated the information of what we did
16 in 2017 and what we are planning to do, I'm sorry, in the
17 upcoming season of 2018.

18 So I had actually a video produced, just hot
19 off the press, that I reviewed yesterday. It's a
20 seven-minute video. We can leave it for you to watch at
21 your leisure. I don't know if you want to, but it is
22 Weathering the Storm. That is what we're going to be
23 starting to push out through our Coral Gables TV, through
24 our Facebook, through our Twitter, and it's a seven-minute
25 video of what the city does before, during, and after, and

1 what the city needs to do in order to be prepared. So
2 that is part of our campaign.

3 This year we are being very aggressive in
4 trying to educate the public. We have developed a Gables
5 Strong campaign which is information that we're pushing
6 out throughout the hurricane season from June through the
7 end of November, so.

8 MR. NORMAN: I'm sorry. Could I ask on the
9 video, where are you going to put that out?

10 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: It's going to be put in
11 Coral Gables TV, coralgables.com. We're going to post it
12 on Facebook and on Twitter, so all, you know, all our
13 social media, obviously Channel 77, so it's going to be
14 constantly on rotation. We have it ready, correct,
15 Alejandro? So if you'd like to see it, it's a
16 seven-minute video, you're more than happy to watch it now
17 or later, or.

18 MR. NORMAN: Yeah, a link.

19 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: Do you want to see it
20 now?

21 MR. NORMAN: That would be great, maybe at
22 the end.

23 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: Okay.

24 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: Okay. So this is,
25 this communication is a good piece to have Tom here,

1 because when I reached out to him on, "Would you be
2 thinking about how we can do better," some of it was, you
3 know, having just experienced Irma, some of the
4 communication pieces that he was attentive to.

5 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: Right.

6 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: So now you get your
7 own personal briefing.

8 MR. NORMAN: Yea, no, that's great.

9 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: Yes.

10 MR. NORMAN: It's great.

11 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: So in addition to that,
12 we have created, and this is also hot off the press, this
13 is actually going to be an insert that is going to be part
14 of the Living in the City Beautiful magazine, so this is a
15 fold-out insert. I've made additional copies so that
16 everybody has that.

17 MS. WALKER: If you could give everybody a
18 copy.

19 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: It is the official Coral
20 Gables hurricane -- I'm sorry?

21 MS. WALKER: No, if you could just give me
22 enough copies because I do send a packet out to the
23 committee members who are not present.

24 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: I will give you -- I
25 have plenty of them. I just put them out yesterday --

1 MS. WALKER: Thank you.

2 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: -- because they were
3 actually for the magazine, so this is going to be in the
4 city, Living in the City Beautiful magazine. This
5 magazine is right now at the printer. It's between the
6 printer and the mail house, and every household in the
7 City of Coral Gables is going to have this information in
8 their hand.

9 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: Whether you rent or
10 own, and it's addressed "Resident."

11 MR. NORMAN: Right.

12 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: So if there's a new
13 family there, it will be going to that mailbox.

14 MR. NORMAN: Right.

15 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: So this is how we are
16 preparing for this hurricane season. Obviously it's going
17 to be in everyone's home right before the hurricane, and
18 it talks a little bit about what we went through with
19 Hurricane Irma, and there is a lot of information how
20 everybody needs to know to be ready for hurricane season,
21 what you do before the storm, what you do during the
22 storm, what you do after the storm.

23 There is a lot of information for the
24 residents to know that they need to help us to help you.
25 They need to take certain ownership, and part of the

1 things that we're doing in Gables Strong is for the
2 residents to take ownership and they need to be prepared
3 to be on their own for the next 72 hours and for the
4 residents to be connected to us.

5 There is an entire list in the back of how to
6 find us, what they need to download to get the emergency
7 information, and there's even a little survey that we want
8 personally the vulnerable population because that was one
9 of the areas that you all talked about, how do we reach
10 the vulnerable population, whether they're elderly or
11 whether they're our residents with special needs. We want
12 them to tell us how they are getting connected to us so
13 that we could target those messages to those areas.

14 MR. NORMAN: Perfect.

15 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: But I also went them to
16 tell us if they want to have a wellness check from the
17 City of Coral Gables because that's the population that we
18 need to take care of based on our experiences from last
19 year. When the power goes out, you know, residents sort
20 of kind of know how to handle it and how they need to be
21 prepared for the 72 hours.

22 But the elderly that maybe are living alone,
23 that maybe they want to have special needs are the ones
24 that need special attention, so we are going the extra --
25 we're taking the extra care for them to let us know who

1 they are and for us to communicate with them better.

2 So I think those were some of the take-aways
3 from last year and that was some of the concerns that you
4 had.

5 MR. NORMAN: This to me is key, trying to
6 find out how the residents get their information.

7 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: Correct.

8 MR. NORMAN: So what happens when, if we send
9 this out and you're getting very little response to this?
10 How can we go solicit that information other ways?

11 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: So the next step that
12 we're going to do and we're already in the process is the
13 adult activity center has a direct bridge to the elderly
14 population. I'm trying to get that information, what kind
15 of data base they have, whether it's mail, whether it's
16 electronic. There's different kinds of -- when the
17 elderly get information, there's a young elderly who are
18 still techie savvy.

19 MR. NORMAN: Right.

20 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: So that we can still
21 reach them through any news or through Facebook, but then
22 there are the old school elderly that want to get that
23 information through the mail.

24 So I need to find out, first of all -- this
25 hasn't come out yet -- how much do I get on this, and if

1 that doesn't work, I still have another couple weeks
2 before the real intense hurricane season begins --

3 MR. NORMAN: Right.

4 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: -- to find out where is
5 it that I need to reach out to them.

6 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: And one thing that
7 I'm very excited about is, so everything that was going
8 on, on Facebook, on Twitter, on E news, if you're like my
9 mom and she doesn't do computer --

10 MR. NORMAN: Right.

11 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: -- is what she
12 tells --

13 MR. NORMAN: Yeah.

14 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: -- you know, that
15 they can have that pre-recorded message of they can call
16 us to get it.

17 MR. NORMAN: Right.

18 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: So we're getting that
19 information out, great number, (305) 800-NEWS, and it's
20 only for the Coral Gables update. Our 24-hour call line
21 will still be happening pre-storm, during storm, post
22 storm, run by city employees, takes the pressure off of
23 the 911 operators.

24 But the other piece of this is we do not have
25 -- Dade County cannot give us a mailing list for all

1 residents over 65 or 80 or whatever that period is, but
2 you know what we can do, we can get voter registration by
3 age, and so another directed mailing that we could do
4 for --

5 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: Right.

6 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: -- the seniors.

7 Maybe, even though not everybody is registered to vote, we
8 can at least get by age, by address --

9 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: Right.

10 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: -- that list.

11 MS. THROCKMORTON: We just have to search
12 that out.

13 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: No. You have to sit
14 at the table. No, no, no, no. Come sit at the table. We
15 have plenty of seats.

16 MS. THROCKMORTON: One of the other things we
17 would -- and this is Stephanie Throckmorton, by the way.

18 THE COURT REPORTER: Stephanie? Thank you.

19 Ms. THROCKMORTON: One of the other things we
20 looked at last year was the official Dade County
21 vulnerable population registration list.

22 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: Which we have, we
23 have the registration.

24 Ms. THROCKMORTON: Yes, and there is a
25 deadline for that.

1 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: Yes.

2 MS. THROCKMORTON: So one of the things we
3 might want to push out is the deadline for registration,
4 yes.

5 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: It's actually one of the
6 things we highlight in here.

7 MS. THROCKMORTON: Okay, great.

8 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: If I can find it,
9 because that's important.

10 MS. THROCKMORTON: Yes. I know that's for
11 evacuation and stuff.

12 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: It's called the
13 Miami-Dade County emergency evacuation --

14 Ms. THROCKMORTON: Yes.

15 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: -- assistance program,
16 and they don't have -- and they have to get the deadline,
17 and they cannot call us like the day before when an
18 evacuation --

19 MS. THROCKMORTON: Yes.

20 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: This is registering
21 for a special needs shelter, right?

22 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: Yes.

23 MS. THROCKMORTON: Yes, or a special
24 evacuation.

25 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: Special evacuation.

1 Ms. THROCKMORTON: Yes.

2 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: And also the population
3 that needs to be transported, if they need to go to the
4 hospital because they need to have power.

5 MS. THROCKMORTON: Oxygen dependent --

6 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: Yes.

7 Ms. THROCKMORTON: -- or something like that.

8 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: Yes.

9 MS. THROCKMORTON: But to the extent that
10 there is hard deadline, maybe we can push that out because
11 I know it's much earlier than you think it is.

12 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: We usually refer them to
13 the website and to the 311 because it's county managed, so
14 sometimes they change that line, so we don't --

15 MS. THROCKMORTON: Yes.

16 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: We want to give them
17 ownership of that information.

18 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: So we can send to the
19 voters registration list. I mean, some people with
20 special needs are not by age, but by stage, by condition,
21 right?

22 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: Right.

23 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: But at least we can
24 send out a directed mailer page, letter, you know, ten
25 envelopes that would be -- what age should it be, so over

1 70, over 75?

2 MS. THROCKMORTON: The Miami-Dade County
3 evacuation assistance program has very specific
4 requirements.

5 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: Yes.

6 MS. THROCKMORTON: It's not just age.

7 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: Right.

8 MS. THROCKMORTON: It's oxygen dependent.

9 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: I won't be able to
10 have that.

11 MS. THROCKMORTON: Yeah.

12 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: So I'm trying to at
13 least supplement the outreach that we're already doing.
14 We will not have a list of everyone on oxygen.

15 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: No.

16 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: We have -- we get the
17 list from Fire, we get the list from Parks, but if we
18 wanted to say are we really getting the list from
19 everyone, we might want to -- you know, the best shot is
20 by age.

21 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: There's a couple of
22 things that we also added for this year. Obviously we
23 want to reach out to the population that doesn't have
24 power.

25 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: Uh-uh, uh-uh, uh-uh.

1 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: It could be a lot of us,
2 so when there is no electricity and when there's no
3 Facebook and computer, that we have this year a
4 partnership with WLRN, 91.3.

5 It's a media byte that we're doing from June
6 through September. Here is a draft, also hot off the
7 press, that I've been working to try to come up with
8 different -- hand it out -- different things for each
9 week, and it is going to include general information.

10 We're buying spots on WLRN, but they're also
11 having a partnership with us because they do a lot of
12 editorial announcements so that when we have an emergency
13 announcement, let's say that we get a Hurricane Four and a
14 Hurricane Five, then we have to come out with an intensive
15 campaign and then we want to reach out to people, "If you
16 don't have power, you still can reach to us with a
17 battery-operated radio, and you need to listen to the City
18 of Coral Gables at the announcement of the hour," whatever
19 that announcement is going to be.

20 So that's how we're going to communicate when
21 there's no power, and we're going to say, "Every day at 12
22 or at one or two, we're going to have a special
23 information for our Coral Gables residents, this is what
24 you need to do," whether it is run for the hills, or get
25 water, or whatever that message is, that's how we're going

1 to communicate.

2 MR. NORMAN: Any campaign to put feet on the
3 street to get information out?

4 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: Okay, so is this what
5 you talked about, about the boots on the ground?

6 MR. NORMAN: Yes.

7 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: So we talked about it at
8 the emergency management meeting that we had last week,
9 because I saw the tape that you had and then I heard the
10 idea of having boots on the ground.

11 So there's a couple things that we need to be
12 very clear so that we manage our expectations. We have
13 13,000 plus households. We have about 1,000 employees who
14 are more or less full time and part time, so we need to
15 concentrate in communicating the message the most
16 effective way that we can. There's a couple of ideas that
17 we discussed, but they're not concrete right now, on how
18 to use maybe certain advisory groups.

19 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: So we have an
20 emergency management committee. Each commissioner is
21 allowed to appoint either five or seven people to that
22 committee.

23 MR. NORMAN: Okay.

24 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: So that in itself is
25 a committee --

1 MR. NORMAN: It is --

2 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: -- that is not called
3 on to assist during the year. This would be a great
4 opportunity for them.

5 We also talked about the homeowners
6 associations. There are homeowners associations
7 particularly south of Sunset that have by e-mail, by
8 direct contact, that they can give the word when there are
9 specific messaging or specific directives that need to
10 follow.

11 So shifting that universe, working also with
12 the schools, churches and synagogues, houses of faith on
13 that.

14 But to think that the city employees -- we
15 have neighborhood safety aides. They could assist. We
16 have different groups that could assist, but to think that
17 we could put a placard on everybody's home separate from
18 working through the HOAs, separate from working on
19 community service hours with high schools, they all have
20 community service obligations, we can put like a volunteer
21 initiative forward. When people call us to say, "How can
22 I help?" --

23 MR. NORMAN: Right.

24 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: -- we can say,
25 "Deliver these in your neighborhood."

1 MR. NORMAN: Yes.

2 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: And we've done that
3 before when people call to say, "How can we help," you
4 know, like even the Eagle Scouts --

5 MR. NORMAN: Right.

6 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: -- or the Boy Scouts
7 have called, and we say, "Knock on your neighbors' doors,
8 work your neighborhood, make sure everybody is okay."

9 MR. NORMAN: Do we have a neighborhood watch
10 program?

11 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: We have crime watch.

12 MR. NORMAN: Okay.

13 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: It's developing. I
14 wouldn't say that every area has a --

15 MR. NORMAN: Representative, I mean.

16 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: -- has a formed
17 committee, but we do have a citywide crime watch and some
18 individual active crime watch committees.

19 MR. NORMAN: That might be another
20 opportunity to get the information out. Your know, I
21 would never expect city employees or anybody else to go
22 around and hang door tags on --

23 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: Right.

24 MR. NORMAN: -- on all of our residences, but
25 if you have some pre-established communication network,

1 you know, where it's a pyrammid-like thing where you're
2 starting out with a couple of core people, maybe these
3 groups that you mentioned and they disseminate the
4 information, I think it's great.

5 I think we just have to be prepared for at
6 least the initial recovery after a hurricane --

7 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: Right.

8 MR. NORMAN: -- if we don't have electronic
9 means of communication.

10 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: Right.

11 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: So that's houses of
12 faith, I remember with Andrew that they were helpful too
13 because it wasn't just their congregation. It was the
14 neighborhood around.

15 MR. NORMAN: Yes.

16 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: And they -- you know,
17 so that is an informal emergency network that could help
18 get the word out through the homeowners associations and
19 through -- I think it might be interesting for the
20 emergency management committee because I don't think we
21 ask them all year long to do anything, that we might
22 convene them and assign them.

23 MR. NORMAN: Right. That's a great idea.
24 Now, at one point the city used to put out these
25 refrigerator magnets and it had a list of all the

1 emergency contacts or department contacts. I don't know
2 if we still do that or not, but this, yeah, the
3 information you have here --

4 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: This is a refrigerator
5 magnet.

6 MR. NORMAN: -- if that were in a magnet,
7 that to me is really important, and I don't -- even in
8 Andrew, we set up an emergency hotline. We set up an FPL
9 emergency hotline just for Coral Gables residents.

10 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: So how Norman worked
11 EOC with us as FPL during Andrew, that's how -- and I need
12 to appoint him.

13 MR. NORMAN: Many, many years ago, yeah, but,
14 so having that information available at the time of a
15 hurricane, you know, they might get this and end up -- you
16 know, great information, maybe they send this back, but
17 this might get pitched by the time of a hurricane.

18 So if there's some way of making sure that
19 they have -- that there's a lead behind something they're
20 going to be willing to retain, I think that is going to be
21 beneficial too.

22 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: The other thing that we
23 added this year that is different from last year, we have
24 a new, as Cathy mentioned, the new (305) 800-NEWS, and
25 that is going to be a pre-recorded land line where we're

1 going to be putting out messages, so we will try and
2 manage the call volume that the additional 5401 phone
3 does.

4 So those are just new, additional, additional
5 initiatives that we're doing just because of what we
6 learned in 2017. Hopefully we won't get to use them in
7 2018, but we're ready to face whatever storm comes our
8 way.

9 MR. NORMAN: So when somebody calls that
10 hotline, they're getting somebody at Coral Gables?

11 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: The 5401?

12 MR. NORMAN: Yes, ma'am.

13 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: When it gets activated,
14 so that line will be activated and that has actually
15 people that answer.

16 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: That's our city
17 employees, 24 hour/7.

18 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: 24, yes.

19 MR. NORMAN: Right, and so they're getting
20 the latest updates daily or something?

21 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: Or they're getting
22 better, because the 800 is, the 800-NEW is that
23 prerecorded message.

24 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: Right.

25 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: She's pushing

1 something out on Twitter or Facebook or the social media
2 networks. She's having condensed similar messages in that
3 pre-recorded. On 5401, "Are they going to pick up my
4 trash today?"

5 MR. NORMAN: Right.

6 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: "Is it okay if I trim
7 my trees?"

8 MR. NORMAN: Yes.

9 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: "What should I do
10 with my dog?" They are -- it is white glove concierge
11 service --

12 MR. NORMAN: Right.

13 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: -- of people that are
14 asking, "Can I park in the city garage yet," and so we
15 have English, Spanish, city employees. They sleep over
16 during the storm.

17 MR. NORMAN: Right.

18 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: They -- we did it
19 last year, and it was an amazing level of service.

20 MR. NORMAN: Right.

21 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: And we had people
22 from out of town, "I'm worried about my mom, and I'm in
23 Chicago. Can somebody check on her post storm?"

24 And so the fire department would do good and
25 welfare. You know, they're in the neighborhood. They're

1 being visible. This is a post-storm scenario.

2 And so that in itself was really, really
3 helpful for people, particularly those that were afraid.

4 MR. NORMAN: Right, good. This is great.

5 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: Thank you, and that's
6 what we have done. I don't know if you have any more
7 questions.

8 MR. NORMAN: Could we see the video?

9 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: Yes.

10 Ms. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: So we only have one
11 member. We decided we'd go ahead, we'd have the
12 presentation, and the other members can watch the video to
13 catch up. I'm glad CGTV is working on how to get that.

14 (Thereupon, the video was played.)

15 MR. NORMAN: Very informational. What is
16 Code Red? What is that program? What are we talking
17 about?

18 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: Code Red is a system
19 that police and fire has where you would register your
20 phone, and if you want to get it, the city will push out
21 notifications on your phone, on your land line, your
22 phone, whatever number you want to register, so.

23 MR. FERNANDEZ: It's reverse 911, only to be
24 utilized for emergencies. It's not for hurricane
25 awareness.

1 MR. NORMAN: Right.

2 MR. FERNANDEZ: Only for emergencies.

3 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: Tornado in the area,
4 something like that.

5 MR. FERNANDEZ: Right.

6 MR. NORMAN: Okay.

7 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: Another piece that
8 Maria Rose had also envisioned was, June being hurricane
9 start, our Miami Herald ad being teamed with those numbers
10 and what to do. We have a -- once a week we buy a
11 Neighbors full page, and so June, and then wait, not do it
12 in July, and then do it again in August and do it again in
13 September.

14 MR. NORMAN: Thank you.

15 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: You're welcome.

16 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: I have to say this is
17 the first time I'm seeing that.

18 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: Yes.

19 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: It's excellent.

20 MS. THROCKMORTON: It's a great video.

21 MR. FERNANDEZ: Congratulations, good job.

22 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: It's hot off the press.

23 Everything that I'm sharing is hot of the press and you
24 are the first to see it.

25 MS. THROCKMORTON: It was an excellent video.

1 MR. NORMAN: A lot of information packed into
2 that one video.

3 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: We could have gone an
4 hour video, but we just pushed the more important things.

5 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: And the first meeting
6 in June, let's show that to the commission.

7 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: Sure.

8 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: Let's have a
9 presentation on communication for a hurricane or hurricane
10 readiness.

11 MR. FERNANDEZ: Uh-huh.

12 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: I think that's --

13 MR. NORMAN: Yes, to me personally, though,
14 just seeing the EOC and seeing all of the city staff
15 sitting there gives a resident a bit of confidence that
16 they are being taken care of.

17 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: Yes.

18 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: They did Facebook
19 live.

20 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: Yes.

21 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: And I thought that
22 was really interesting during storm, locked down.

23 MR. NORMAN: Right.

24 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: And they were pushing
25 out the Facebook live --

1 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: Yes.

2 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: -- so that you were
3 seeing that your city is working --

4 MR. NORMAN: Yes, that's great.

5 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: -- and responding,
6 so.

7 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: Yes. So our campaign is
8 here. It's Gables Strong, but to be strong in a
9 hurricane, first you have to be ready.

10 MR. NORMAN: Yes.

11 MS. HIGGINS-FALLON: That's sort of our
12 push-out to the residents, that they have to take
13 responsibility to be ready to be strong.

14 MR. NORMAN: Cool. Thank you.

15 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: Any other questions
16 regarding communications?

17 MR. NORMAN: I don't.

18 MS. WALKER: No? Okay.

19 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: So some of the
20 topics, Celeste, I would say some of the topics you may
21 wish to postpone for a future meeting.

22 MS. WALKER: Yes.

23 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: But communications
24 and some, I had gotten some good feedback from Tom before
25 joining the Blue Ribbon. It was appropriate to have this

1 briefing, and you were more than ready to do it.

2 MR. NORMAN: Yes.

3 MS. WALKER: Thank you.

4 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: You're welcome.

5 Anything else on this customized meeting that you would
6 like to get?

7 MR. NORMAN: Yes. You know, I hate to hold
8 everybody up here just for me, so it's probably better to
9 have at least a quorum to get maybe additional
10 information.

11 MS. WALKER: Okay.

12 MR. NORMAN: That's my thoughts.

13 MS. WALKER: Probably a good idea.

14 MR. NORMAN: I would love to, and I think,
15 again, I think other members would appreciate hearing this
16 too, but what, where we're at with FPL litigation, when
17 can we have a discussion?

18 MS. THROCKMORTON: Well, I can give you a
19 little update. We survived a motion to dismiss on one
20 claim which was our contract claim related to the
21 franchise agreement, and really importantly, and I think
22 this was mentioned at the commission meeting in the end of
23 March -- or in the end of April.

24 FPL admitted that they have responsibility
25 for clearing the vegetation around the lines. It's in the

1 judge's order dismissing the motion to dismiss, denying
2 the motion to dismiss, so we have a really great statement
3 from FPL on the record stating that they are in charge of,
4 in charge of that.

5 Next step is mediation. We have a
6 Court-ordered mediation scheduled by mid-June.

7 MR. NORMAN: Okay.

8 MS. THROCKMORTON: We'll be meeting with
9 them.

10 MR. NORMAN: So under their obligation to
11 clear the lines, are there -- are they prohibited at all
12 because of any ordinances in the City of Coral Gables, or
13 can they just go in and clear?

14 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: No.

15 MR. NORMAN: Their franchise agreement --

16 MS. THROCKMORTON: In fact, we have a
17 provision related to residents being required to allow
18 clearing of those lines.

19 MR. NORMAN: Yes, okay.

20 MS. THROCKMORTON: So, as far as the lawsuit
21 goes, that's our next step, was the mediation, and that
22 has to happen by mid-June, so should there be settlement
23 then, we'll be able to update you then, and if not we'll
24 let you know next time.

25 MR. NORMAN: Does any part of litigation have

1 to do with FPL's communication and interaction with the
2 city through the course of the storm?

3 MS. THROCKMORTON: Not explicitly in the
4 lawsuit. It has to do with our franchise agreement.

5 MR. NORMAN: Right.

6 MS. THROCKMORTON: But you know, that's
7 always something we always have ongoing discussions with
8 FPL about, especially if we're gearing up for storm
9 season.

10 MR. NORMAN: So tell me if this is a fair
11 question or if it's something that I can't get into, but
12 my understanding is there are a few other municipalities
13 within Dade County who had dedicated FPL crews available
14 for clearing lines out of downed trees, and my
15 understanding, the City of Coral Gables didn't have that.

16 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: Well, since we're
17 still in the dance of mediation --

18 MR. NORMAN: Right.

19 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: -- and it's probably
20 better that --

21 MS. THROCKMORTON: We hold off on those
22 conversations.

23 MR. NORMAN: Okay, got you, okay.

24 MS. THROCKMORTON: I will note there was also
25 a class action filed which survived a motion to not

1 certify the class, so they're allowed to continue with
2 that lawsuit as well.

3 MR. NORMAN: Okay.

4 MS. THROCKMORTON: So there's a separate
5 class action going on as well.

6 MR. NORMAN: Good. Thank you.

7 MS. WALKER: Any other business you would
8 like?

9 MR. NORMAN: No. I think that's -- I'm good.

10 MS. WALKER: Okay.

11 MR. NORMAN: I still would like to -- I think
12 it's time for us to start putting some recommendations on
13 paper, so if we could -- you know, I don't, I don't know
14 whether that's a separate working session or what, but I
15 do think it's time for us to start putting some things on
16 paper.

17 MS. WALKER: Yes. We discussed that the last
18 time, so, since we don't have a full committee this
19 time --

20 MR. NORMAN: Yes. I know it's hard to --

21 MS. WALKER: -- once I gather everyone up
22 together again, then you can make a decision on how you
23 would like for that process to move forward.

24 MR. NORMAN: Yes.

25 MS. WALKER: I had envisioned that you were

1 probably thinking more of this type of setting.

2 MR. NORMAN: Yes, getting the white boards --

3 MS. WALKER: Okay.

4 MR. NORMAN: -- and brain storming, honestly,
5 but I don't know, you know, what my colleagues' --

6 MS. WALKER: Okay.

7 MR. NORMAN: -- thoughts are on that,
8 obviously, and if we have a hard time getting the whole
9 band together, so to speak, then maybe we can circulate
10 those via e-mail if that's appropriate.

11 MS. WALKER: Okay. So we'll table that to
12 our next meeting so that the committee can make a decision
13 as a whole on how to proceed with sort of finalizing or
14 wrapping up your recommendations and start that full
15 process.

16 I want to thank everyone for their
17 attendance. I apologize for not having a full house
18 today. That, of course, was not our intentions, but in
19 light of the fact that we only do have one member, I thank
20 everyone for at least presenting the information that they
21 do have, and so we will table everything --

22 MR. NORMAN: Okay. I'm honored you guys all
23 sat here for me.

24 MS. WALKER: We're tabled -- yes, sir?

25 MR. DANNEMILLER: We are picking up the last

1 -- yesterday we took the last debris out of the canal.
2 There were two piles. They picked up one pile this
3 morning and as soon as they dump that, they will go back
4 to pick up the last pile, and that should end the debris
5 collection, last day of debris collection from the
6 hurricane.

7 MS. WALKER: Well, congratulations to you.

8 MR. NORMAN: Where were those two piles?

9 MS. WALKER: Just in time.

10 MR. DANNEMILLER: They just pulled them out
11 yesterday. They were trees that were submerged in the
12 canals that we had to bring in dive teams to lift and cut
13 off and then tow to the shore.

14 MR. NORMAN: So these are trees that fell
15 from private property into the canal, I presume?

16 MR. DANNEMILLER: The last ones that we did
17 yesterday were private trees and from the right of way.
18 There was one down by Solano Prado that we have no idea
19 where it came from.

20 MR. NORMAN: So do we have any kind of a
21 program to clear trees out of the public right of way? Do
22 we do anything with potentially dangerous trees that are
23 in the waterway or adjacent to the banks or anything like
24 that?

25 MR. DANNEMILLER: We're -- we have one

1 maintenance person -- well, we have our waterways
2 maintenance folks, and we're looking at taking a closer
3 look at that because we need to address those kind of
4 things. Usually it's reported to us by boaters --

5 MR. NORMAN: Right.

6 MR. DANNEMILLER: -- when there's obstruction
7 of the waterway.

8 MR. NORMAN: Yes.

9 MR. DANNEMILLER: It's the responsibility of
10 the private property owners to maintain it, but a lot of
11 times they don't, so we're looking at that.

12 MS. SWANSON-RIVENBARK: And as to the
13 physical waterway itself, we're in the process of creating
14 a maintenance, assigning a maintenance person -- wrong
15 title -- to the water and being able to proactively
16 address issues, not the private property, but the waterway
17 itself.

18 MR. NORMAN: That makes sense.

19 MS. WALKER: Thank you.

20 MR. NORMAN: Thank you.

21 MS. WALKER: Well, if no other comments, then
22 we will adjourn.

23 MR. NORMAN: Thank you.

24 MS. WALKER: It's 9:41.

25 (Thereupon, proceedings were concluded at 9:41 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF DADE)

I, DOREEN M. STRAUSS, do here by certify that
the foregoing pages, numbered from 1 to including 33,
represent a true and accurate transcription of the record
of the proceedings in the above-mentioned case.

WITNESS my hand in the City of Miami this 20th
day of May, 2018.

Doreen M. Strauss

Doreen M. Strauss, RMR