

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item F-6
September 10, 2024
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 Manager, Amos Rojas, Jr.

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Assistant City Manager, Joe Gomez

Assistant Finance Director, Paula Rodriguez

Public Speaker(s)

Maria Cruz

Agenda Item F-6 [2:42 p.m.]

Discussion regarding City Hall recertification and repairs.

(Sponsored by Commissioner Fernandez)

(Co-sponsored by Vice Mayor Anderson)

Mayor Lago: Moving on to F-8.

Commissioner Fernandez: I would like to call things in order. Let's do -- go back to F-6 if we can.

City Commission Meeting

September 10, 2024

Agenda Item F-6 - Discussion regarding City Hall recertification and repairs.

Mayor Lago: Can I just finish F-8 and then we'll go back?

Commissioner Fernandez: Why do we continue deferring that item and skipping it? Robert's Rules requires that we go in order in the agenda unless a Commission...

Mayor Lago: Madam -- Madam City Attorney. Madam City Attorney, I've been going through the agenda to try to find things as quickly as possible to move around the agenda so we can get things done. Am I allowed as the chair of the meeting to jump from item to item to item?

City Attorney Suárez: So, our code doesn't specify exactly, Mayor, that it needs to be in a certain order, but you are presiding over the meetings and the practice has been that sometimes items are not taken necessarily in the exact order. So, as the chair, you can, I think, call different items.

Mayor Lago: Thank you very much.

Commissioner Castro: Would that be following Robert's Rules?

City Attorney Suárez: So, it's our code, remember? Our code has rules of procedure. I don't know if this has ever come up before, this exact question, so I can confirm whether our code addresses this exact issue that we have to go in the exact order. I can do that. However, it's not about Robert's Rules because Robert's Rules, like, is a gap filler in our code.

Commissioner Fernandez: And there's a gap here.

City Attorney Suárez: I need to review it, because, again, I've never had this question come up that we have to go in these act order because it's never been the practice of this board -- of this Commission.

Mayor Lago: We'll get to it right now. No big deal. All right, moving to F-8.

Commissioner Fernandez: All right. I'll make a motion to call up F-6.

Commissioner Castro: I'll second that.

Commissioner Fernandez: Yes.

Commissioner Menendez: Yes.

Unidentified Speaker: Just say yes.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yeah, I mean, for the -- it's not been the practice of the board. I think we've wasted more time going back over this. Go ahead, yes.

Commissioner Castro: Yes.

Mayor Lago: Yes.
(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Lago: All right, F-6.

Commissioner Fernandez: I would like to call up our assistant city manager. I had the opportunity of meeting Doug Wood last week. I was here for office hours and I saw staff outside of my office came outside to say hello and he happened to be there. Very nice gentleman, very humble man, takes his business very seriously. And he looked me in the eye and he's like, thank you for taking these concerns seriously. So, I just want to know where we are, what has happened since the last meeting. I know that there are questions regarding photos that had been taken in the past, locating where the issues are, figuring out which ones had been addressed. So...

Mayor Lago: Can I just put something on the record just to be clear because I don't want to catch anybody off guard. I had a long extensive conversation with multiple structural engineers, one of them being Doug Wood yesterday in regards to this issue. We covered the project in a serious, extensive manner. I have a background in engineering and construction management, and we had a very long conversation in regards to this. I don't want to catch anybody off guard. So, Commissioner Fernandez is not the only one that met with him. We had a long conversation yesterday to discuss the issue. So, go ahead, sir. Thank you very much.

Assistant City Manager Gomez: Thank you, Mayor Lago, Vice Mayor Anderson, and honorable Commissioners, Joe Gomez, Assistant City Manager. The report that was issued by Doug Wood for the recertification, the items that needed to be addressed, that was on August 26. I think I spoke about that at the last Commission meeting. There were 16 specific items that were noted in that letter. I'm pleased to report that 13 of those 16 items we're going to begin repairs as of tomorrow and those repairs will be completed by October 2nd. The remaining three items are primarily due to the radial beam, the shoring that's required to do the repairs in the radial beam, as well as the columns outside of the Commission chambers. Those we've already issued the purchase order to the shoring contract. He has two weeks to come up with a shoring design which is going to essentially jack up the radial beam while that is completed. That process will take about three to four months to complete those repairs. Doug Wood is already working on the plans for the repairs of the radial beam. So, that shoring will remain in about three to four months and that will essentially complete the 16 items that were raised by Doug Wood and his concerns. I just would also like to update the Commission that for the assessment portion of it, which is the RFQ that was put out, that was -- the proposals were received last Friday. We have five respondents to that proposal. It's still under the cone of silence, but that will be the next step which will lead us to the

assessment, the full assessment of what's needed to be done to rehabilitate the entire building and then provide a plan moving forward.

Commissioner Fernandez: Now, the 16 items on the list, is that the list that we had in 2022 and then again in 2023?

Assistant City Manager Gomez: Yes, sir. That's correct.

Commissioner Fernandez: So, how many of them had actually been done prior to now? Some of the work was done, but there were items, there were multiple items in each of those. For example, if you go through the list, there are several photos of items that needed to be done. So, the work that remains for those 13 items, that will start tomorrow and it's expected to be completed by October 2nd.

Commissioner Fernandez: Okay. So, that would comply with Mr. Wood's assessment that we can continue to work here, operate here?

Assistant City Manager Gomez: Absolutely.

Commissioner Fernandez: Okay.

Assistant City Manager Gomez: The building is structurally safe to continue to occupy and remain in place.

Commissioner Fernandez: Now, as far as the shoring, that will take four months. So, we're talking...

Assistant City Manager Gomez: About four months.

Commissioner Fernandez: Probably January, February until it's complete.

Assistant City Manager Gomez: After that, the work -- that will complete the repairs of the radial beam. And that's the primary reason for the shoring, which is two columns to support, is for that because it's a curved beam, which is very untypical and needs that kind of shoring.

Commissioner Fernandez: So, it's a technical question. Applying pressure on the beams as they are right now, are we causing more harm to the beams?

Assistant City Manager Gomez: This building...

Commissioner Fernandez: Hold on, hold on. The Mayor thinks it's funny.

Mayor Lago: Yeah, because I think -- I mean, when we're talking about technical questions, this is something that you don't ask this gentleman. You know, he's not -- he's not -- he's not the engineer on record. And I think it's -- it also puts him in a tough position. And I'm sorry. I apologize for that. For on his behalf, I apologize.

Commissioner Fernandez: No, I apologize for you because you think everything is funny when people ask serious questions.

Mayor Lago: I'm not -- it's not a serious question.

Commissioner Fernandez: It is a serious question.

Mayor Lago: May I? May I?

Commissioner Fernandez: No, because I have the floor. You're interrupting.

Mayor Lago: I'm not. You asked me a question. You asked me if I was...

Commissioner Fernandez: Going back to my question...

Assistant City Manager Gomez: The loads that this building is carrying right now, this building was designed for way more loading. As you know, we at one time had the entire Building Department in this building here with people coming in every day to this building. So, the fact that we've removed all that load because they're now at the 427 building down the street, this building -- I mean, in terms of the everyday people that are in this building, it's not structurally affecting the loads on this building.

Commissioner Fernandez: Right, but the loading that you're talking about is not on this side where the beams are. It's on that side of the building.

Assistant City Manager Gomez: Well, it's a...

Commissioner Fernandez: It's in a different -- because the issues are over here. There's nothing above us. So, the load that's being placed on those beams for the most part that's additional load is when there are meetings in this room.

Assistant City Manager Gomez: Commissioner, I -- again, with all due respect, and I'm trying to be as respectful as I can, this building was designed to sustain a lot more loads than what you see here.

Commissioner Fernandez: Okay.

Assistant City Manager Gomez: So, I think it's -- the reason for the shoring, the reason for the shoring is because there are spalling cracks on that radial beam. And for the safety of the workers as well as when the repairs, when they start chipping away the concrete, we want to be able to support because it's a very unique structure. But other than that, there really is no other issue.

Commissioner Fernandez: Got it. So, we're good to continue to operate here?

Assistant City Manager Gomez: Yes, sir.

Commissioner Fernandez: Now as far as the noise level once the shoring begins?

Assistant City Manager Gomez: The shoring is really -- it'll be probably a couple of day operation. They're going to have to, for example, in the City Manager's office, between the DCM's office and the chief of staff's office, that wall's going to probably have to be moved or knocked down to be able to put one of the shoring tables to put the shoring. You're going to have to move ceiling panels, so they're going to have to relocate temporarily. At CIP next door, same issue, there's going to be an area where that second shoring takes place. After that, it's really a lot of the work is exterior work and all that, so I don't expect the noise level to be significant, but if it becomes an issue, well, obviously, we'll take that into advisement and take appropriate measures.

Commissioner Fernandez: Right. And the actual work will take the full four months or is that part of the design part of that?

Assistant City Manager Gomez: It's expected. Remember, this is slow work because, again, it's an old building and as you chip away concrete and you look at spalls and all that, it's sometimes it's slow-moving work. It's very manual work.

Commissioner Fernandez: Now, as far as the assessment, what is the timeframe expected once we issue that?

Assistant City Manager Gomez: We're currently -- we just received the proposals. Once we review the proposals and make a recommendation to the Commission on who to move forward with, then we'll develop the assessment schedule. I suspect that the assessment is going to take anywhere from three to four months to do a complete full assessment of the building. What's required -- a lot of the information is already there. It's historical because we've been working on the building, so that information will be made available to the team that wins, who receives the contract. And then after that, they'll come up with a plan of how to phase the work.

Commissioner Fernandez: Got it.

City Manager Rojas: If I may, Commissioner, my intention is when they start doing the work in our office on the first floor, is to relocate either to the CMR or to the Fink building, just so we

don't have employees breathing the dust and all that, that they're kicking up. Obviously, we'll confer with anyone else that's on the first floor, or even the second floor, if they would like to relocate, we'll find office space for them. We do have a drawing. I'm not sure if the timing will be correct, but we do have a drawing of the cottage behind, if it's completed in time that if the Commission wanted, they could have office space there to be close by. The only other question is going to be is, Commission meetings and hearings, whatever the will of the Commission is to hold those either here or at the CMR while the construction's being done.

Mayor Lago: Do you want to say something or can I respond? May I?

Vice Mayor Anderson: You want to respond first and then I'll do the tail end here.

Mayor Lago: First of all, I want to congratulate you because as a professional, you know, it took a lot of guts to do what you just did right now. And I commend you for that because you stood strong, you led, and you didn't allow yourself to be led into making a statement that was incorrect. And that takes a lot -- that takes a lot of respect. I, you know, have a newfound respect for you, and I'm willing to say it on the dais because that took a lot of guts to do that. Now, the third floor of the building has not changed. The third floor of the building has been empty. All the furniture has been removed. All the file cabinets are removed. You may have about three or four or five individuals working there that are part of Christina's staff, but they're in and out of the office, running all over the community, addressing issues. So, we're pretty -- we're pretty -- the load has been taken off of the third floor. The second floor, maybe, during the day, has six or seven people in it, working here, between the Commission, the staff, people cleaning. You have Christina's office, she's there, she has one person working there. Let's just say ten. The first floor has -- is completely empty in regards to the Finance and Development Services and all that. So, this was prepared for this moment. If you look at -- if you look at the building next door on 427, the Manager may not be aware of it, but that building was prepared to have -- we could have meetings there, or we could have meetings at the Public Safety Building. I don't care. Whatever you guys want to do, it's fine with me. If there's an issue of noise, I don't have a problem moving from here. As I stated in the last Commission meeting, we don't need to evacuate this building. I spoke to Douglas Wood, who is a very respected individual in this community, and had a conversation with him. I go look, Mr. Wood, these are the issues that we're facing. He explained to me about the spalling and the stone column, and there was an area where they couldn't find, you know, if it had some sort of reinforcement, if it didn't have reinforcement. He goes, this is very simple. Like the other structural engineers that I spoke to, you probably don't even need to have shoring. But shoring is something that, again, is an added precaution. Look at the -- look at the -- look at the building. Look at the courthouse. The courthouse is a massive structure made of stone. Has shoring in the basement. And it's not had shoring in the basement for years until they fix it. Do we want to be in that position? Obviously not. But they've been budgeting. They've been dealing with issues that they're going out to vote, to get support from the community in regards to doing a bond referendum, you know, all these kind of things. So, this building was never, never going to fall down, okay? Does it need to be remodeled? 110 percent, 110 percent it needs to be

remodeled. And that money was in the budget, in the 2023 budget. It was \$15 million, it's there, okay? Now, when you look at -- when you look at -- when you look at the issue, when you look at the issue, the issue at hand, the issue at hand is that, you know, we talked about Champlain Towers and we talked about catastrophes and all these things. I got probably four or five phone calls from elderly residents telling me, you know, Vince, this is a historic building. How could we allow this to fall? How could we allow this to fall? You know, we haven't done our due diligence in this. And I said, we are, we're working on it. We're budgeting for it, we're working on it. We're going to get it done. But this building is not falling. We don't need to evacuate the building, we're nowhere near what happened in Champlain Towers, this is not going to happen here. At the end of the day, the previous manager, who is a structural engineer, would not work in the building on the first floor if the building is going to collapse on him, okay? So, I want to commend you again for your strength in your comments and not allowing yourself to be led into making a statement that is political when it shouldn't be political. Madam Assistant Director, Madam Director, please come. Okay. We had -- we've been budgeting for this project in the long term for the renovation of City Hall, correct?

Assistant Finance Director Rodriguez: Yes, it is part of our priority projects funding plan.

Mayor Lago: And we all knew about that, we were briefed on that, correct?

Assistant Finance Director Rodriguez: So, yes, we've been talking about...

Mayor Lago: Okay, you can take -- you can speak freely. We need you to speak freely.

Assistant Finance Director Rodriguez: Yes, we've been talking about the renovation of City Hall for many years and the budget currently calls for adding a million dollars to the project in our priority projects plan which we'll see again on Thursday where the plan was to do \$6 million in fiscal year '26 because we're putting a million this year, \$4 million for Phillips Park and then another \$6 million for '27.

Mayor Lago: Maybe the Commission takes it to a bond.

Assistant Finance Director Rodriguez: Right.

Mayor Lago: So, a completely different scenario.

Assistant Finance Director Rodriguez: However you want to do it.

Mayor Lago: Did you not -- did we not have money allocated in 2023, 2022 in regards to City Hall and then that money was reshuffled, correct?

Assistant Finance Director Rodriguez: Yes. So, there was funding originally allocated for City Hall because the plan then changed to start 427 to move people.

Mayor Lago: Can we stop there? Can I stop you there? I want to be clear. To move -- remember I mentioned before we moved everybody out of the top floor. To take pressure off the building, you just can't move people and start putting them in other areas. We built the building, we moved everybody from the third floor into the 427 building. So, then we had Finance. Every -- Finance was on the first floor. What did we do? We waited to finish the parking garage, right?

Assistant Finance Director Rodriguez: Yes.

Mayor Lago: And we moved everybody adjacent to the Public Safety Building. We moved our entire Finance Department into the public -- into the -- into the new parking garage which just opened a few months ago, correct?

Assistant Finance Director Rodriguez: We're in the Public Safety Building, but yes.

Mayor Lago: Yes, I'm sorry, Public Safety, I apologize.

Assistant Finance Director Rodriguez: You moved HR.

Mayor Lago: Yes, we moved HR.

Assistant Finance Director Rodriguez: Semantics, yes.

Mayor Lago: No, but I want to be appropriate because I know it's going to be (INAUDIBLE).

Assistant Finance Director Rodriguez: So, accurately, we moved HR out of the Public Safety Building into the garage and then into the garage offices and Finance was able to now move into the Public Safety Building.

Mayor Lago: Finance from City Hall which is on the first floor.

Assistant Finance Director Rodriguez: In the first floor.

Mayor Lago: So, now the entire first floor outside of the Clerk and the City Manager's Office is now empty, correct?

Assistant Finance Director Rodriguez: Yes.

Mayor Lago: Would you say that 75 percent of the first floor is empty?

Assistant Finance Director Rodriguez: I guess, yes.

Mayor Lago: Okay, would you say 95 percent of the third floor is empty minus the City Attorney's Office?

Assistant Finance Director Rodriguez: Just the Deputy City Attorney's Office, yes.

Mayor Lago: Right? How many people?

Unidentified Speaker: There's four.

Mayor Lago: There's four people. So, we did this in steps and now we're moving forward to the next one, which is attacking this in one form or another. I'm all in favor. I don't have an issue with getting the shoring done. By the way, the shoring plans are going to take months. Let's be honest with ourselves. You know this takes time. It's going to take time. You've got to do an assessment of the building. Even though we did a walkthrough assessment, it's not really a final assessment. It's going to come back. They're going to do multiple assessments here. They're going to see everything. They want to probably come at night, probably do some night examination where they don't bother the employees and then they're going to come back, they're going to present the shoring plans, that's going to go through permitting. Is it --? They're not plans. Are they plans or are they, what do you call it, submittals?

Assistant City Manager Gomez: It's a shoring submittal.

Mayor Lago: I just want to make sure we speak correctly because then they say, oh, Vince said it was a plan but it wasn't really, it was a submittal. So, the submittals are sent into the City, they're reviewed, and then we come in and we actually install the shoring. Okay, I've done shoring in a lot of projects. A lot of projects. It's not that complicated. This building right now, after having conversations, doesn't need shoring. But we're going to take the extra precautions to make sure it's appropriate. And that's the right thing to do. This is an important building. We don't want anything to happen to it. But we also don't want to scare people, okay? And there were steps here that we took. We finished 427, we moved people there. We finished, you know -- we moved people out of the Public Safety Building, we moved them to the new facility, the new garage, and then we moved our Finance Department, which is in City Hall, to the Public Safety Building. And that's what we've been doing. Was that -- Madam Director, was that not a plan that we had in place to do, yes or no?

Assistant Finance Director Rodriguez: Yes, as it was explained to me, yes.

Mayor Lago: Okay, so that plan was in place to get that done. And now we go to the next step, which is finally getting the work done because we've depressurized the system. We've taken all the load off the system. We've taken the people out of here. So, I'm 110 percent behind my

colleagues in doing what they need to do to get this done. I just don't want to politicize and say that City Hall's falling down and the Champlain Towers and all that kind of stuff because it's not good for the community. It sends a bad message. I got calls from reporters who were asking if the building was falling. And I said, did you read Douglas Woods' actual engineering report? I recommend you read it. Do a public records request on that. So, I think collectively we can find a solution moving forward, and I think that we can do a lot of good here, it's going to take a lot of work. I don't think Tallahassee is going to help us. It's going to take budgeting. It's going to take us finding money. It's going to take next year saying once we're done with Phillips Park and the budgeting for Phillips Park and we're done with that money, it's going to take taking potentially a big portion of the money that we allocated for that project. After we're done with that line item, swinging it over here and we may have to push other things to the side. Major things that we all want to do. So, I don't see the money being there in the magnitude that we need to assess everything and City Hall. So -- and by the way, I have zero pet projects in the budget, zero. I will be asking for one thing for my colleagues to consider, and it has to do with the Youth Center, some baseball field stuff, which is not even \$100,000. So, I want to work on finding a solution for City Hall to fund it. Let's move on. Let's fund this project. And not fund it so the shoring's there for 10 years, because (INAUDIBLE). That would be embarrassing. And by the way, and tell me if I'm -- please, tell me if I'm being dramatic. Can that shoring be there for 10 years because of how hard it's going to be to finance this project and find the money?

Assistant City Manager Gomez: Shoring can be in place for a long time.

Mayor Lago: And you know what happens? People become comfortable and they leave it there and they leave it there and they leave it there. And you walk by, you're like, why has that been there for 10 years? So, I think we need -- there's a lot of work to do on this front. I mean, collectively we can do it, but we can attack grants, federal grants, find things where we can find money, but it's going to be a heavy, heavy lift. A heavy lift.

Commissioner Fernandez: We're in agreement on that. And I think we have a Commission that is entirely committed to getting this done. So, I think...

Vice Mayor Anderson: If you want to read...

Commissioner Fernandez: I don't want to -- I'm not even going to start countering anything that was said. Let's move forward on the positive. And I'm happy to hear that we're in -- there's a plan in place to get the 13 of the 16 items, the other three...

Assistant City Manager Gomez: Are related to the -- that will take about three to four months to complete.

Commissioner Fernandez: Okay, so in essence, by the time the assessment is done, those 16 items should have been taken care of and we'll at least start -- be in the middle of the shoring process as well.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, I co-sponsored this for a couple reasons. One, when I got the initial report, I brought it to the Historic Preservation Board to make sure that they're aware of what needs to be done for this building and that we focus on not only getting it done but having the appropriate funding in place. Hence, why I brought the prior resolution to try to get this focus for our Commission on -- with our city. I'm also going to ask that, you know, when we have the architects, that that information be shared with the Historic Preservation Board and our Historic Preservation Department weigh in on, you know, the choices that are to be made because it's not always the cheapest individual that you want to choose. You want to choose the one that's appropriate for doing the type of work that needs to be done here because we want it done right and we want it done right the first time. I'm not concerned about the shoring poles. I think my comments on the parking garages loaded with cars actively being used with shoring poles on them, you know, vehicles that weigh 3,000 pounds apiece and you know we're not putting that kind of load on these things and they're nowhere as, I should say, robust as this building by comparison. I know that Douglas Wood will have this building shored properly and it will be just in perfect condition there.

Commissioner Fernandez: I do have a question following up on something the Mayor mentioned. Mr. Clerk, we had talked about the use of a Commission meeting in the community meeting room at 427. You said that wasn't an ideal location?

City Clerk Urquia: Not 427. I can tell you the CMR has been set up for over a year to be able to hold City Commission meetings.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, if I may just finish.

Commissioner Fernandez: Oh, I didn't know you were finished -- you weren't finished.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I wasn't finished. I just...

Commissioner Fernandez: You stopped talking.

Vice Mayor Anderson: When I went to look at my -- you know, I breathe too. So, Champlain Towers, I mean, I know the reference was made to it, okay. You have -- when you don't follow engineering drawings for something in the way it's designed, you're going to have a problem with the building. When you don't follow the engineering drawings, as they didn't on Champlain Towers, and then you don't maintain on top of it, you have a double problem. I think we're well informed here. I question whether or not the owners of the units in Champlain Towers were as

well informed of the peril that was facing them, or they may have made a different choice. And I hope that we continue to move forward here and not kick this can down the road any further.

Mayor Lago: All right. Since I don't (INAUDIBLE) control the meeting, can I go to F-8 now?

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor, I have members of the public requesting to speak on this last item.

Mayor Lago: Of course.

City Clerk Urquia: Ms. Maria Cruz.

Maria Cruz: Maria Cruz, 1447 -- Mrs. Maria Cruz, 1447 Miller Rd. I'm a little confused. When Ms. Suarez was asked how many people were in her office, she said four. We have four attorneys.

City Attorney Suárez: My office is split between two floors of City Hall. I'm downstairs on the second floor. I'm on the sixth floor -- second floor, and then we have the Deputy City Attorney upstairs with two other attorneys.

Ms. Cruz: And the secretaries?

City Attorney Suárez: One assistant is upstairs and there's one assistant (INAUDIBLE).

Ms. Cruz: Okay, because when you said -- they asked (INAUDIBLE).

(MULTIPLE PARTIES SPEAKING IN UNISON)

City Attorney Suárez: (INAUDIBLE).

Ms. Cruz: I'm counting people and I'm saying, wait a second, so there is some people from the Attorney's Office in the third floor.

City Attorney Suárez: A total of four.

Ms. Cruz: Okay, four on the third floor and four on this floor?

City Attorney Suárez: No.

Ms. Cruz: How many on this floor?

City Attorney Suárez: Currently two.

Ms. Cruz: Two, which is one secretary and you?

City Attorney Suárez: A paralegal and me, currently, yes. We have a vacancy.

Ms. Cruz: Okay, para -- I'm sorry. Okay, I'm glad that this conversation was had because you know what? I know that we're not engineers, architects in construction business, but we care about this place. And when things are not addressed and when people are not told, we have issues. And I know that some people know more than others, some people more experts than others, but I listen. I listen carefully, and I care to know, okay? And let me tell you, I know that everybody who knows about Champlain Towers, and I know some people, new people there, I can name people that I knew there, and I'm going to tell you, if this conversation had not been had publicly, okay, because that's what happened there. They were told there was no urgency, they could wait, and look what happened. And we cannot wait, and I don't care who says what, we need to know what's going on, okay? Regardless of the expertise. You know what? I still can learn. I know I'm old, but I'm not stupid. I'm not retarded. I'm sorry, I know those are not proper terms, but the way some of you talk, it sounds as if the people are not able to understand, so we don't have to tell them. Well, you do have to tell them, because at the end of the game, we're the ones that vote, we're the ones that pay for the stuff, and I'm sorry, but we need to know. Okay, so thank you for bringing it up, thank you for sticking to (INAUDIBLE), and I find it very interesting that we thank people for telling the truth and sticking to their guns, but then we try to explain in case we didn't understand. Okay, it's time for people to sit here to understand that those of us that are on the other side also have brains. God gave us brains, and we can think and we can understand what the employees, what our directors and assistant directors are doing, that we do not need anybody to translate, water it down so we can understand. And let's begin by telling the truth because I'm going to tell you some things were said here today that were not true and I'll show you next time.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk Urquia: That's it, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lago: All right.