

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item F-4
November 9, 2022
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Michael Mena

Commissioner Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Jorge Fors

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Attorney, Miriam Ramos

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Community Recreation Director, Fred Couceyro

Public Speaker(s)

Richard Torro

Agenda Item F-4 [11:00 a.m.]

An Ordinance of the City Commission creating Section 42-41 "Smoking in Parks" prohibiting smoking in all parks operated by the City, providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, codification, and providing for an effective date. (Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

Mayor Lago: Moving onto item F-4, time certain 10:30.

City Attorney Ramos: Yes Mayor. F-4 is an Ordinance of the City Commission creating Section 42-41 "Smoking in Parks" prohibiting smoking in all parks operated by the City, providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, codification, and providing for an effective date. This is a public hearing item. Ms. Throckmorton.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: Good morning, Mayor, Commissioners. The item before you today is an ordinance on first reading. I believe we have a member of the public on Zoom who wanted to speak a little bit about this item, but just to give you a brief overview. Last year the State

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Legislature amended one of their preemptions and in a rare reversal gave municipalities a bit more flexibility to manage local affairs and the city would like to take that flexibility and ban the smoking and vaping in parks, in accordance with state law which does not prohibit the banning of unfiltered cigars. We have the Director of Community Recreation here and I believe we have a gentleman on Zoom, who wishes to speak.

Community Recreation Director Couceyro: Its actually in person.

Assistant City Attorney Throckmorton: Oh, in person, oh, perfect.

Community Recreation Director Couceyro: I've been in discussions with our Senior Advisory Board, Richard, you can come on up, and he kind of has helped lead this effort and I had a meeting with him, and he brought a member of the Department of Health, and we talked about the importance of this process, and he's really been kind of my guiding light on this one. And it goes back to when, if you recall, when there was the Bill that was coming to the State Legislature, their board sent a recommendation that we supported that, so its great that now we're at this point and I just wanted Richard to have a few words since he was kind of the guy who brought it to me and got me started on this.

Mayor Lago: Richard, thank you for being here. You've come to my office and discussed this issue, and I appreciate your continued engagement with the city. Just really quickly, its interesting, Mark Trowbridge was here, I don't know if you were here before, but Mark was here from the Chamber and he brought up Pitman Park and how when we are doing our quarterly cleanup, that's an area where there is a lot of cigarette butts in that little park. So, this just kind of dovetails perfectly into the whole conversation.

Richard: Mr. Mayor, Commissioners, I just wanted to briefly speak in support of this. I think it makes good health policy, good public policy in general. I should say, by way of introduction, my name is Richard Torro, I live at 1019 Castile, and I'm Chair of the Tobacco Free Work Group, which is part of the consortium of health in Miami-Dade, which comprises of over 400 community-based organizations under the auspices of the Health Department, all of which have interest in promoting health for the citizens of Miami-Dade County. So, I think this is one small step in that general direction, and since the State Legislature has given us the opportunity, we certainly should take advantage of it.

Mayor Lago: Absolutely. Thank you. Thank you for your leadership on this issue. Can I have a motion.

Vice Mayor Mena: Yes, I'll move it.

Commissioner Menendez: I'll second.

Vice Mayor Mena: Yes

Commissioner Menendez: Yes

Commissioner Anderson: Yes

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Commissioner Fors: Yes
Mayor Lago: Yes
(Vote: 5-0)