

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item F-5
January 12, 2021
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 Jorge Fors

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Assistant City Attorney, Gus Ceballos
Assistant Director Public Works, Al Zamora

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item F-5 [Start: 9:37 a.m.]

An Ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 54, “Solid Waste” to include Article IV “Recycling Program for Commercial Establishments and Multi-Family Residential Establishments,” and Article V “Disposal of Cardboard.”

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: F-5.

City Attorney Ramos: F-5 is an Ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 54, “Solid Waste” to include Article IV “Recycling Program for Commercial Establishments and Multi-Family Residential Establishments,” and Article V “Disposal of Cardboard.” Mr. Zamora is here to present this item.

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Chapter 54, “Solid Waste” to include Article IV “Recycling Program for Commercial Establishments

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Assistant City Attorney Ceballos: Good morning Commissioners, Mayor, Vice Mayor, this is Assistant City Attorney Gus Ceballos. I'm going to just go ahead and start it off for Al before he can join us. So, before you is an item that's already stated, to create a recycling program for all of the commercial establishments in the city and multi-family residential. Currently this would bring us in line with the Miami-Dade County regulations for recycling programs. I'll leave the specifics of the exact requirements to Al, but it will require all these commercial establishments to create or join a program that makes sure that certain materials, a minimum of three that are listed are being recycled. It does give us a bit of leeway and a bit of option with certain establishments can't meet those requirements. They can be reviewed by the City Manager and as previously discussed, it does create a new section, disposal of cardboard. It requires that any person that's disposing of cardboard or paper cartons. It has to be broken down or crushed before it is placed to either recycling or waste disposal. I will go ahead and turn it over to Al. If you have any questions or any specifics that he can address.

Assistant Director Al Zamora: Good morning. I'm sorry, I was muted by the host. Again, this is a code that runs with the county code in concurrence. The one thing I am going to ask just to make it a little bit easier is, I'm asking our vendor to provide a customer list of all their accounts that currently do not have a recycling contract in place. That will give us the ability to visit these commercial establishments and multi-family residents to be able to help them with putting something in place where they will be in compliance with the code. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you Al. Mayor, if I may. As the sponsor of this legislation, you know this is something that we've been working on for some time now. I've had the opportunity to sit down with many businesses in our community, and they are becoming more and more aware of the importance of recycling and finding ways to reuse, especially during Covid, but this also has a double meaning, this piece of legislation. We also have the concerns about beautification, and I've walked through many of our alleys in the City of Coral Gables, and as Amazon and other forms of mail continue to grow in regards to deliveries, the amount of cardboard is just stacking up and stacking up. After meeting with our vendor, Waste Management, we were having conversations on what can we do to get a lot of our commercial areas to recycle, because they are asking for it. I talked to a lot of the restaurants that say, listen, we are not being offered the ability to recycle, or we don't have a bin, we need to get some cooperation from our vendor and we need to get cooperation from the city. Let's bring everyone together on this issue. We did a little research and we found that the county already had pretty extensive legislation in place already, in regard to recycling, along with their requirements for the cardboard. And the cardboard is a big issue, because its not only not aesthetically pleasing when they stack up the cardboard and they don't break it down and they don't put it into the bins, it goes everywhere in the alleys. And once it gets wet, as our team will tell you, Mr. Zamora, our City Manager, and ACM, its not really useable and

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it becomes a big problem and aesthetically its not in line with what we believe here in the City of Coral Gables. So, this is not about the residential areas. This is about commercial and about getting compliance from the commercial areas so we can keep our alleys empty, so we can keep them tidy, so we can push the garbage which should be in, the recycling matter should be in the bins so that we can again, continue to move forward in alley recycling, but also ensuring that we continue to beautify our city, we keep our alleys clean, so that cars, our garbage trucks, deliveries, people can traverse these alleys without having a lot of these cardboard boxes stacked up on the corners or basically dragged throughout these alleyways. So, it's a pretty simple ordinance on First Reading. I would appreciate your support on this, because I think it falls in line with what we are trying to do here in the city and I think that from a lot of the commercial, from the Chamber, from the B.I.D., and from a lot of the entities that I've discussed, they completely, I think that this is something that could again, potentially only benefit the city. Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Are there any comments? Do I hear a motion?

Vice Mayor Lago: So moved.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Second?

Commissioner Keon: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright. If there are no other comments, will you call the roll please.

Commissioner Fors: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes

Commissioner Mena: Yes

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you for the support, I appreciate it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.