

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item 2-4
July 13, 2021
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Michael Mena

Commissioner Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias (Absent)

Assistant City Manager, Ed Santamaria

City Attorney, Miriam Ramos

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Assistant City Attorney, Naomi Levi-Garcia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item 2-4[Start 4:53 p.m.]

A Resolution of the School Community Relations Committee urging the City Commission to support the expansion of School Board Regions within Miami-Dade County.

Mayor Lago: Let's take 2-4.

City Attorney Ramos: 2-4 is a Resolution of the School Community Relations Committee urging the City Commission to support the expansion of School Board Regions within Miami-Dade County.

Mayor Lago: So, just very briefly. I took a visit this week with our School Board Member, MariTere Rojas, and we went to review the issues firsthand in regard to WAWA and the crosswalks and the issues that we are having there. So, some of the members of Miami-Dade County Public Schools were there, and they would like to have the two existing crosswalks that are there remain and add the additional one at the end in front of the ____ park side. I know that's up for debate and its out of our hands, which is what I really want to mention to everyone. This is something that I talked to the ACM about. There is a little bit of confusion in regard to the

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approvals, those are Miami-Dade County, and I would love three crosswalks, the more the merrier at the end of the day, and that's what I told the School Board member and I told the members of Miami-Dade County Public Schools. You want to do three crosswalks, I'm all in. It would be perfect. You can never have enough opportunities to cross the street for our children, and I would advocate on behalf of that.

Ms. Levi-Garcia: Yes. On that topic, I believe, through the Assistant City Manager, we have had outreach to the county to assess the feasibility of retaining that extra crosswalk. It has been a topic of discussion at the SCRC on multiple occasions and our goal is to keep them as informed as possible.

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: As you recall, Mr. Mayor, we are going to be advocating for the safest conditions for the school, in anticipation of any operations by WAWA, if and when they come to pass, as there is pending litigation on the project. And so, we have been coordinating a meeting with the county to discuss with them what can be done, and I believe Chief Hudak is also involved so we can figure all this out.

Mayor Lago: It's pretty simple.

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: Naomi, do you want to speak about it too?

Ms. Levi-Garcia: On the resolution from the SCRC, I believe a member was going to be present virtually to speak on the item. The idea is that there are currently three regions within MDCPS, Southern Region, Central Region, and Northern Region, a regional Superintendent can be responsible for up to 100 schools, sometimes more. They have to travel dozens and dozens of miles a day, and so the idea is expanding the number of regions would be beneficial for the school community at-large, but I'd hate to step on their toes if there is anyone present to speak on the item.

Mayor Lago: If not, I will entertain a motion to accept the resolution.

Commissioner Menendez: Motion.

Commissioner Fors: Second.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk.

Commissioner Fors: Yes

Vice Mayor Mena: Yes

Commissioner Menendez: Yes

Commissioner Anderson: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Lago: Naomi, as always thank you for your hard work.

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Ms. Levi-Garcia: Thank you very much.