

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting**  
**Agenda Item D – Mayor’s Comments**  
**December 13, 2022**  
**City Commission Chambers**  
**405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

**City Commission**

**Mayor Vince Lago**

**Vice Mayor Michael Mena**

**Commissioner Rhonda Anderson**

**Commissioner Kirk Menendez**

**City Staff**

**City Attorney, Miriam Ramos**

**City Manager, Peter Iglesias**

**City Clerk, Billy Urquia**

**Public Speaker(s)**

---

Agenda Item D-1 [9:30 a.m.]

Mayor’s Comments

Mayor Lago: Mayor’s Comments. A few things I’d like to mention today, and I ask you to please bear with me. First off, I’d like to recognize Christina Jimenez, who was my CEO at Coral Gables Hospital, who I had the privilege of serving on that board for the last few years, and she passed away two weeks ago. She was an incredible woman and I’d like to have a moment of silence to recognize her life and her dedication to this community.

[Moment of Silence]

Mayor Lago: Thank you very much. Moving onto another item. I’d like to recognize my colleagues on the Commission, who came up with an idea to celebrate the World Cup. It happens every four years; the Manager ran with it, along with Fred, Mark Trowbridge, our team. We are putting together a beautiful event this Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at the Coral Gables Youth Center, starting at 9:30 a.m. to 12. We are going to have some food trucks that we are going to invite and it’s a family-fun event. I ask everybody here to please put it on your social media. I’m asking Mr. Manager for our team here in the city to put it on social media. Maybe send out a special e-mail to  
*City Commission Meeting*  
*December 13, 2022*

all the residents. This is about family-fun. Come out, enjoy the World Cup. Its going to be at the Youth Center. We are going to have a big screen. The Commissioners are paying for it and its an opportunity to just go out there and enjoy the finals of the World Cup, be amongst family and friends and celebrate. The fact that in a few years, we'll be having this here in the United States, so it's a big deal. Again, anything we can build around soccer; my two daughters play soccer, they love it, and they are looking forward to Sunday. I think they are looking forward to today's games, today also. I also want to recognize the Commission, Kirk Menendez, Commissioner Anderson, the Vice Mayor. We listened the other day in regard to Burger Bob's. We attended the Burger Bob's symposium to talk about the interiors. One of the items that kept coming up was expediting the process. So, we are moving forward. As we are also doing the golf shop next door with a contractor that has already been procured through the process. Mr. Manager, would you be so kind to proceed and consider a bid waiver so we can hire the same contractor to do the entire project to save us money on general conditions and save us time, so we can push forward on Burger Bob's and get it online as quickly as possible.

City Manager Iglesias: Yes Mayor, happy to do so.

Mayor Lago: Thank you Commissioner Menendez. I appreciate your efforts on that, okay. I think that's all I have.

Vice Mayor Mena: May I say something very briefly?

Mayor Lago: Of course. This is everyone's time.

Vice Mayor Mena: I don't know if you are planning on saying it later. Since its on the topic of Mayor's Comments, I wanted to congratulate you on your Mayor's Ball that you had this last weekend.

Mayor Lago: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Mena: It was first class event all the way. It really shined an incredible light on the city in a really positive way. I think we had people from all over South Florida, elected officials, people in various industries and everybody was, I think blown away by the caliber of the event that it was. And you know, I think more importantly, you did it and you raised a lot of money for incredible causes.

Mayor Lago: Six figures.

Vice Mayor Mena: Yes – La Lega Contra Cancer and also the Coral Gables Community Foundation. So again, kudos to you. The city hasn't had one of these before. It was your idea. You not only made it happen, but you made it happen in a way that really made a statement, and I think that in years to come, that's going to be a must-attend event, it already was this weekend. It was a

*City Commission Meeting  
December 13, 2022*

packed house and I think that its now something that everybody is going to be putting on their calendar in years going forward. So, congratulations to you, because really, I had people coming up to me at the event and saying, it's a great idea, congratulations. I said, I had absolutely nothing to do with it, all credit to the Mayor and the Mayor's office and his staff and everybody that put it together, because to say they did a good job is a vast understatement. It was the nicest gala or event of that nature that I have ever been to in my life, times two. It was over the top nice and I really give you a lot of credit for that.

Mayor Lago: Thank you.

Commissioner Anderson: It was also a great opportunity to showcase the Lowes.

Vice Mayor Mena: Yes.

Commissioner Anderson: They did an excellent job.

Mayor Lago: You know its interesting, because we could have sold 1,400 tickets, we just kept getting calls. We'd sold out three weeks before. The venue was incredible; Lowes is incredible; the sponsors were very generous. I want to thank my Commissioners for being there, the Commissioners from the county. We had incredible county support; Mark Trowbridge and his team were there; the Coral Gables Community Foundation; the businesses really came out; a lot of residents came out in support. We showcased what the city is doing. We really helped out two charities and we'll do it again next year. We'll do it again next year and I'm already getting calls for tickets and for table sales for next year. So, it's all about showcasing the city and I want to thank my team, Chelsea, Gabby, Manny Alfonso, Pepe Dans from Wild Productions, those guys hit it out of the park. They hit it out of the park, and I can't thank them enough. It was a true winter wonderland. So, thank you for that Vice Mayor. I think that's pretty much – oh, I have one request. I already made the request to the Manager. We used to put up a nice little dreidel on Miracle Mile, it was a nice little lit dreidel and I think there was a cross also that was there. I would like to put that up again this year. I think its something that's very nice, very tasteful. It celebrates our diversity, it celebrates the reason for the season, in my opinion. So, I asked the Manager to do that, he said, obviously he would. I just want to be very clear and transparent that I would like to continue that tradition. I also want to commend our staff for doing an incredible job on picking up the ball in regard to the lighting. They are doing the best they can, they are really pushing forward on lighting. The new Christmas Tree looks incredible. We had thousands of people at the Christmas Tree Lighting, more than I've ever seen. People are excited, they are excited to share and find out and talk a little bit about what Coral Gables is doing and we welcome everyone to join us. So, thank you for that.