

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting**  
**Agenda Item C**  
**June 8, 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**  
**Commissioner Kirk Menendez**

**City Staff**

**City Manager, Peter Iglesias**  
**Assistant City Manager, Ed Santamaria**  
**City Attorney, Miriam Ramos**  
**City Clerk, Billy Urquia**

**Public Speaker(s)**

**Sue Kawalerski**  
**Maria Cruz**  
**Estelle Lockhart**

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Agenda Item C [9:30 a.m.]  
Public Comments

Mayor Lago: Now we move onto Public Comments, Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk Urquia: I don't have anyone here in the Chambers requesting to speak under Public Comments, but we do have three people on Zoom, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Perfect.

City Clerk Urquia: The first speaker is Ms. Sue Kawalerski.  
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Mayor Lago: Ms. Kawalerski, good morning, the floor is yours.

Ms. Kawalerski: Good morning Mayor and Commissioners. First of all, my name is Sue Kawalerski, I live at 6830 Grecian Street. This morning, I'm representing the Coral Gables Neighbors Association. And for the record, I want to say that we have over 5,000 unique e-mails from residents who opted into this organization, so we are a very large organization; and the CGNA and the supporters are attempting to make sure that the power stays in the hands of the residents and not the developers, city staff, or special interest. This morning, I want to address two issues that are on the agenda today; one is the sale of 350 Greco. The CGNA is opposed to moving forward with the sale. The reason is that too many appearances of improper or misleading actions have taken part by the city staff and Commissioner Mena. The CGNA is requesting the process start at the beginning with a call for bids, because we are seeking transparency and truth, and this does not seem to be transparent transaction by any means. So, we are asking to halt the sale of Greco until the process starts from the beginning, a clean slate and in the full Sunshine of the residents. On item number two, the CGNA is highly endorsing yes votes from all the Commissioners and the Mayor to evening meetings with a 6 p.m. start, not a 5 p.m. start. We want to make sure that the residents have an opportunity to attend Commission meetings and comments; 6 p.m. sounds reasonable and evening meetings are a must. As most of you know, most of the municipalities in Miami-Dade County already have evening meetings so that residents can participate. I am specifically asking for Commissioner Menendez for his yes vote on this item, along with item co-sponsors Commissioners Anderson and Mayor Lago. This is an example of its either all talk and no action, or an example of working for the benefit of the residents. That's why your yes vote for Commission meetings held at night is important. We are watching. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Mayor Lago: Thank you. As always, it's a pleasure to have you here.

City Clerk Urquia: The next speaker is Ms. Maria Cruz.

Ms. Cruz: Good morning. Can you hear me?

City Clerk Urquia: Yes ma'am.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

Ms. Cruz: My name is Maria Cruz, in case you do not know me, and I believe I live in 1447 Miller Road in the City of Coral Gables, but I'm here to let you know that I think I  
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was misinformed that for many years I've been paying Coral Gables taxes, but that I do not live in Coral Gables. I received a mailing that most of us did from the Sanitation Department advising us that there will be possibly some changes about the recyclables. I followed the directions. I clicked on the code. I got a map. And much to my disbelief, I realized that I'm not a Coral Gables resident. That I live on southwest 56 Street. I don't know, unless it has been fixed since I saw it. [Inaudible] is to my north, Solata is to my south, Alhambra is to my west, and San Amaro is to my right; and guess what, Miller Road does not appear on the map. So, having said that, I would like to know if somebody can explain to me how it happened, or I guess, if somebody can tell me how I can get my money back for anything that I've paid over 46 years thinking that I lived in Coral Gables. And of course, if anybody wants to take my comments off the videos of the minutes, that'd be fine, because the money will be quite nice. That's comment number one. Comment number two, and this is for the benefit of some people. The previous Mayor used to call me the "Ray of Sunshine," that was a nice nickname for somebody who gave him so much trouble. Well, it has come to my attention from several people that higher ups in the City of Coral Gables now have decided that I'm crazy, that nobody should be talking to me because I'm crazy, that nobody should be listening to me because I'm crazy. So, from now on, if I still live in Coral Gables, please call me crazy Maria. And I'm making my comments short because I'll be speaking later if I'm allowed. Have a wonderful day.

Mayor Lago: Thank you. Would anybody on staff like to address Maria's comments in regard to the issue of sanitation and I think that they made an error, obviously, in regard to her address. Thank you, Mr. ACM.

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: Good morning Mr. Mayor, members of the Commission, Ed Santamaria, Assistant City Manager Operations and Infrastructure. I will look into Maria's concern, but the only thing I can guess is that 56 Street is designated in the Miami-Dade County website. I do not know whether its Miller Road or 56 Street, which shows up when you do a query on that. So, I will look into it with Information Technology who I'm sure helped in assembling the website and we'll figure it out and we'll provide an answer to Ms. Cruz.

Mayor Lago: As always, thank you Mr. ACM, I appreciate it. Ms. Cruz, we'll get you an answer in regard to that issue. Mr. Clerk next item.

City Clerk Urquia: Last speaker, Mr. Mayor is, Ms. Estelle Lockhart.

Mayor Lago: Ms. Lockhart the floor is yours.

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Ms. Lockhart: Good morning, my name is Estelle Lockhart; I live at 1515 Capri Street in Coral Gables. I just want to thank the Commission and specifically to Mayor Lago for his what's going to be voted on today, in terms of the civility code. I just want to thank him for setting the tone for a new season on the Commission; and even just this morning, Mayor Lago, I think I've heard you say at least 6 or 7 times, you know, thank you for being here, and encouraging people to be involved in the process, and I just thank you for setting a new tone for the City of Coral Gables. Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Thank you. I appreciate it. I will be addressing the concern – I had a meeting with Ms. Lockhart yesterday and the PTSA group, for both Ponce Middle School and Carver and I'll be mentioning crosswalks in a moment in regard to my comments. Do we have any further public comments?

City Clerk Urquia: No, Mr. Mayor.