

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-9
March 29, 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 Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Attorney, Miriam Ramos

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Police Chief, Ed Hudak

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-9 [Start: 10:50 a.m.]

Update regarding Neighborhood Safety Aides, specifically the implementation of Code Enforcement support for early dumping and cardboard dumping issues. (Sponsored by Commissioner Anderson).

Mayor Lago: We want to go to G-9. Chief – Commissioner Anderson this is your item.

Commissioner Anderson: G-9 – okay. The reason I put that on is Neighborhood Safety Aides are the eyes and ears that we have out there, they can help Code Enforcement out by alerting them to things, such as the cardboard and pits, and so forth. I brought it up because I noticed that certain areas weren't being covered at all, and I wanted to make sure that we are following through on the necessary training that needed for these types of issues, early dumping at least, let's start with that and the cardboard. That type of information can be forwarded on. I'm sure that the same thing can be true for parking violations, constantly blocking sidewalks and preventing an inaccessible area. So how are we doing on that Chief?

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Chief Hudak: Yes ma'am. According to the NSA's and the Sargent who's in the field right now, a majority of our residents are in compliance with the appropriate issues in the trash piles to this per say. The issue that they have explained, the residents that have explained to our NSA's that we have relationships with is that people are dumping stuff on top of their piles, which then segways into the same issue that we are dealing with administration of the dreaded dog poop blue bags that people are putting on top of other trash piles, and we are getting calls on those as well. So, as a staff working with Code Enforcement, we are trying to kind of, how are we going to – I can't have the officers stop and document in a police report the blue bags on top of trash piles, that's not the residents. We absolutely get that. We've had disputes with people who have walked their dogs in other neighborhoods, and we've seen them take the blue bags and dump it on somebody else's trash pile. So, the NSA's, our position on the NSA's is, I don't want to give them enforcement abilities because they are definitely our eyes and ears. We are working with Code Enforcement people to respond, but in a previous conversation as well. There is a handful of people that Code Enforcement can do, and we are out there 24/7. We've taken on a lion share of illegal Air B&B. If the NSA's sees something, they are forwarding that up through our detectives, as well as with Code Enforcement personnel. To the previous conversation on the item under Mayor's Comments is, having a police officer go to the middle of a wedding shoot at CCP is difficult. It puts the officers in a position, so we are working on how we would address some of those issues. Some of my colleague cities have had huge amounts of success in like, a Park Ranger program, where they are somewhat deputized with law enforcement abilities and ordinance abilities to take care of those issues, whether it be dog leashing, dog freeze, parking issues as well, and we've seen big success on that. So that's something that the police department is looking at to propose to the Manager to see if in fact, this is something in between a Code Enforcement a Police Officer, we would have somebody that would have enforcement issues on these specifics, where they can not just in the parks, but we can expand that to different areas of the city, whether they are code violations but also, they can direct traffic. They can assist us somewhat to what our NSA's do at times.

Commissioner Anderson: So, I'm just going to give you some hot spots where they need to focus on. You've got duplexes and apartment buildings and coin operator washing machines had been out there a good solid week. So probably not been noted by the NSA in the area. So those are some areas where we are having problems, because you have that confluence of Waste Management versus its in a residential pit, so Code Enforcement could get that information, they can then follow through, and the City Manager could follow through with Waste Management and deal with the issue. So, we need a little help out there in some of these areas. Those are some of the hottest spots that I've seen where you have the renters adding an undue load to our city trash piles.

Chief Hudak: Well, the NTL's, which is different from the NSA's, those are the officers that are assigned. Right now, I've got two vacant positions citywide; and again, because we have really direction from the Commission years ago about how many officers have to be on the street at any certain time, we haven't been able to kind of put some of those resources where I could have them do something that is exactly what you're talking about – looking for manager's reports, sending things over, other than the NSA's that we have. So, we will shift them around, maybe take some from the south, the NSA's, not the officers, because I can't move the officers by direction, so to speak, and then have them kind of do sweeps. At night we do a lot of what we call zone blitzes for

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crime. There are certain things we can probably do during the day to look at those, and then partnership almost with either Code Enforcement, Parking, somethings we've done in the past in the downtown district. We can address some of the dog poop, but also the cardboard, and seeing some of those bigger areas.

Commissioner Anderson: Okay. Alright. Thank you for coming in.

Mayor Lago: Thank you.