

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item C
March 11, 2025
Police and Fire Headquarters
2151 Salzedo Street, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago
Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Commissioner Melissa Castro
Commissioner Ariel Fernandez
Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez
City Manager, Alberto Parjus
City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Juan Cuba
Alana Greer
Theo Carensalus
Jackson Rip Holmes
Samuel Carlos Martinez
Maite Halley
Philip Cardella
Noel Cleland
Jenneva Clauss
Alex Adams
Maria Cruz
Sheryl Gold

Agenda Item C [10:58 a.m.]

Public Comment

Mayor Lago: We are going to move onto Public Comment now. We have some public comments.

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City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor, first speaker today is Juan Cuba.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Cuba, good morning. Thank you, sir.

Mr. Cuba: Good morning, Mayor and Commission, my name is Juan Cuba, I am a Coral Gables resident, long time advocate and I am deeply concerned about the 287g agreement that the Police Department has entered into with ICE. As you heard the Police Chief say, this was a voluntary agreement that they entered into. This is not a requirement under state or federal law. He also mentioned the 700,000 civil detainees that ICE has uploaded into the NCIC system, which is also very concerning, this was just a couple of weeks ago. And I just want to also say, I have deep respect for the police department, the Police Chief, and I understand the political position that the state and national government has put on local police departments. These 700,000 detainees, first off, these are administrative detainees, these are not judicial warrants, they are riddled with mistakes and errors. Like we have instances of US citizens being issued these detainer requests, even though only, as the Chief said, a handful of officers are going to be deputized by ICE. If you stop someone for speeding past the stop sign and you get an NCIC hit for a detainer, you will be holding them, you'll be investigating – even if you're not deputized by ICE, are you going to let them go. Are you going to call the person in your police force that is investigating those, that is allowed to investigate those detainees and hold them and turn them over to ICE. What's going to happen when 300,000 Venezuelans lose their TPS status on April 6th? They are going to make a difficult decision whether to stay here in this country without status or go back to an oppressive regime that can possibly face political persecution. That's just TPS for Venezuelans, Haitians and Nicaraguans are next. Humanitarian parole has been revoked for many Cubans as well. This is going to impact many people in the community. You have several Consulates in Coral Gables. People come here even though they don't live here, they come here, they work here, they come to – Regardless of whether you say there's not, there is a climate of fear already in the nation and in the state because of the political climate that's been created around undocumented individuals, and this is just going to add to that. You mentioned that there was a provision that people shouldn't be afraid to call 911 if you're a victim. They don't know that. There is going to be a level of distrust. Our police officers should focus on keeping our community safe, not being part of Trump's deportation system. Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Thank you, sir.

City Clerk Urquia: Alana Greer.

Ms. Greer: Thank you and good morning. My name is Alana Greer, I'm a lifelong resident of Coral Gables, a third generation Gables resident. I want to thank the Chief for taking the time this morning to talk to us about his position, but it doesn't shake my deep concern and really pain as a resident to see Coral Gables be the first in Miami-Dade County, one of the first in the country to sign on to this extreme measure with the federal government. Our local officers should not be

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empowered, deputized as ICE agents, that's exactly what this agreement does. It gives them the power and asks them to enforce civil immigration law. It's not the regular course of business. In my day job I'm an attorney. One of my clients – just to give you an idea of what this looks like. One of my clients was a grandmother on Mother's Day, with her young grandchild she went to Walmart to get party supplies, someone else rearended her and they called the police about the accident. She was an asylum applicant, not receiving notice of a hearing, she was taken into Miami-Dade jails and because she had this civil immigration paperwork, which now our police are going to be asked to look at and bring people in for. She was taken away from her family, put into ICE custody, put into local custody and then ICE custody for months until we were finally able to help get her attorneys to deal with her asylum application. This is a huge cost to the city and immeasurable cost to her and her family. Nothing in state, federal, or local law requires Coral Gables police to enter into this agreement and nothing in any of those sources nor the Constitution nor the contract itself requires the police department to stay in this agreement. This is a choice. It's one with huge legal and financial consequences that this city will have to bear. The Chief mentioned chapter 908 and the best-efforts Clause. Federal courts here in Florida have previously found that provision unenforceable and unconstitutional and I think if it was attempted to be used it will be found that way again. Years from now our kids and our grandkids are going to ask, what we did in this moment in history, and I hope that you all do the right thing, the Gables Police does the right thing and we are asking you to be on the right side of history, see if you can answer that question with the values and integrity that we should have as a city. Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Thank you for being here with us.

City Clerk Urquia: Next speaker is Theo Carensalus.

Mayor Lago: Good morning, sir.

My name is Theo Carensalus. I'm a retired librarian. Now I do volunteer work, disabled advocacy. I'm a district activist leader with the National Multiple Sclerosis Foundation. One of them said I'm the face of MS for South Florida. It's not a very pretty face. I also serve as a board member of the Schizophrenia Sycosis Action Alliance and last month I was selected Vice Chair of the Miami-Dade County Commission on Disability Issues. I'm here today to thank Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson for championing the rights of the disabled. Last year she brought to my attention, or I brought to her attention the disabled parking space issue Ponce de Leon and she took immediate action to resolve it and I'm deeply thankful to her for that. Recently, she informed me of a potential accessibility issue with the Underline and I attended a meeting last week with Commissioner Regalado and some other officials and yesterday I sent an email to all of you expressing my concerns and detail, and again, I thank Mayor Vince Lago and Vice Mayor Anderson for responding and the others who responded. I just want to thank all of you for your commitment toward making Coral Gables more accessible for everybody. Thank you.

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Mayor Lago: Thank you.

Commissioner Menendez: Thank you.

Commissioner Castro: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Thank you.

City Clerk Urquia: Jackson Holmes.

Mayor Lago: Good morning, sir.

Mr. Holmes: Greetings. Thank you all very much. You have my video and photos ready to go.

City Clerk Urquia: Yes sir.

Mr. Holmes: Okay. I'll give a preamble and then we'll get going. Juan Cuba just mentioned the Venezuelans who are in danger of being shipped back to Venezuela by Donald Trump. I think that's abnormal for Donald Trump. He's been the fighter against communism in Venezuela against Maduro. The fact that right now Maria Codina Machado may be assassinated by Maduro and Donald Trump is doing nothing. I think he's got senile dementia. It could land on the Cubans next. Why is he deporting Cuban TPS. If Donald Trump in his mental state, which I'll show you in a second, is making a deal with the communist dictator of Cuba, sorry, of Venezuela, is Cuba next? Will Donald Trump say to Miguel Diaz Canal, you can stay in power just take these deportees off my hands, take the Cubans back, we don't want any Latinos. Can you roll the first video.

[Video Presentation]

Mr. Holmes: Can you go to the second slide please. The one with Mary Trump. See if you can find the one with Mary Trump. If you all don't know this, especially you all at home. Mary Trump is the niece of Donald Trump, they have the common – her grandfather is his father, Fred Trump. Now Fred Trump had Alzheimer's for the last ten years of his life and what she said, so for ten years he didn't even recognize her or the other members of the family. Alzheimer's runs in Donald Trumps bloodline. Mary Trump says he has Alzheimer's already and that's why he's doing these crazy things about trying to make Canada become the 51st state, why he's sending Venezuelans back to be killed by Maduro, why he may send Cubans, why he may make a deal with Miguel Diaz de Canal to say, yes, you're recognized, just take those Cubans back. He's got senile dementia. Thank you.

Mayor Lago: I appreciate you. Thank you.

City Clerk Urquia: Samuel Carlos Martinez.

Mayor Lago: Good morning, sir.
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Mr. Martinez: Good morning, Mayor, Vice Mayor, Commissioners. My name is Samuel Martinez. I'm a retired FBI agent with an accounting degree. I'm here not to make a statement, but to ask some questions concerning the task force. How does aligning with ICE fit Coral Gables statement of purpose. How does the current budget allocation impact the department's ability to address local crime effectively and what challenges arise from diverting resources to assist federal agencies like ICE, if ICE is not funding Coral Gables. What Commission strategies are in place to secure additional funding if local law enforcement is expected to take on federal immigration enforcement responsibilities and is justified and fair to Coral Gables taxpayers. Could the police department outline the potential tradeoffs between dedicating resources to federal immigration task versus investing in community focused police initiatives. Given the nationwide challenges with police recruitment and retention, how would involving local officers in ICE cases affect staffing levels and response times to local emergencies. What steps are taken to address the strain on officers who may need to prioritize federal mandates over local policing duties. How does the department plan to balance its responsibilities with a limited workforce significantly when community expectations are increasing. If Coral Gables Police has requested additional officers, what are the implications of relocating the workforce, vehicles, and technology to support ICE operations and how might this affect routine law enforcement activities. Are there specific matrixes or assessments used to determine whether involvement in federal immigration enforcement justifies the redirection of departmental resources. How does the department view the role of immigrant workers in supporting local businesses and the economy, particularly in sectors that are heavily reliant on their labor. Could enforcement of immigration policies lead to unintended consequences, such as labor shortages or disruption to local industries affecting Coral Gables businesses. How does the department navigate its role in preserving public safety without adversely affecting the local economic environment. Has the department evaluated the potential impact on community trust and cooperation if it becomes more involved in immigration enforcement. What measures are in place to ensure that immigrant communities feel safe reporting crimes and engaging with law enforcement. What crimes reports have been documented by police departments specific to immigrants.

Mayor Lago: Two things, if you'd be so kind, will you make that part of the public record.

Mr. Martinez: Yes.

Mayor Lago: And also, our Police Chief will be outside, he can have a conversation with you or our Manager, through the Manager's office can have a conversation with you. Moving forward, we've always done this as part of the record, it's not because you're here, because you didn't do it, state your name and also please put your address for the record, that's the protocol here in the City of Coral Gables, along with other municipalities. Thank you for being here.

Mr. Martinez: I'd also like to thank Peter Hernandez for being Officer of the Month.

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Mayor Lago: Thank you, sir. Appreciate you. Would you make that part of the record.

Mr. Martinez: Yes.

Mayor Lago: Would you like to do that after you speak with our Police Chief, because I don't know if you have more than one copy of that.

Mr. Martinez: I just have one copy.

Mayor Lago: Okay. So, hold on to it and after you're finished having your meeting, you can make it part of the record.

Mr. Martinez: Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Thank you, sir.

City Clerk Urquia: Maria Herrera.

Mayor Lago: We'll come back to her.

City Clerk Urquia: Raul Hernandez.

Mayor Lago: Come back to Mr. Hernandez.

City Clerk Urquia: Maite Halley.

Mayor Lago: Good morning.

Ms. Halley: Good morning, Maite Halley, 1245 Malaga Avenue. I've never done that, I'm sorry about that. I come to you today in gratitude. I want to thank the current Commission for the work they've done to respond to the community. It was a conversation about pickleball that started two and-a-half years ago when some of you weren't even sitting on the Commission at the time, and it started with our Vice Mayor, Rhonda Anderson, bringing it to me and making a phone call to me and saying, hey, have you looked at this area, because she knew we were looking for pickleball courts. That's how it all got started. Over the two and-a-half years, we've had numerous conversations about different localities. I am so pleased with the place that we've gotten for our pickleball courts that are going to be there until we get our permanent eight courts, and this is at the Biltmore Hotel and here's a shot I took, actually my husband took on Saturday afternoon. I mean what more fabulous facility than that. So, I have to thank our Mayor, I have to thank our Commissioners. These are the kinds of things that we can do when everybody is united, and we are so grateful. These six courts are going to take some pressure off and while we look at the design that's looking at putting a full 8-courts somewhere, most likely at the Biltmore, because that's where you directed us to look. While we look at that, we'll be able to play on these six courts and we are just beyond excited. So, I want to thank City Manager Parjus, who was at one of our

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meetings. Before last year Commissioner Menendez, Commissioner Fernandez is not here, Commissioner Castro, again Vice Mayor Anderson, thank you, thank you so much for keeping this alive and Mayor Lago, thank you for your leadership in this, and just really pushing for it. I want you to come play, you need to play pickleball with us. I think everybody else here who can has, so I want you guys to do that. The other thing I want to say is that your staff has been terrific and I asked Fred, I know he has a lot of work to do today, because he has a lot of items coming before you, but I asked him to come here because Fred, as Director of Parks and Recreation, Carolina, in her tenure as the Assistant in that area and I've congratulated her already, but I want to put it on the record, and people like Susan Lainfiesta, Sarah Espino, Carlos Pichado at the Youth Center, they have all been terrific. So, I wanted to call them out by name and tell you, you guys have got terrific staff working for us. So, we'll see you out on the courts. Thank you.

Mayor Lago: So, first off, thank you for being here. I appreciate it. All the credit goes to Fred and his wonderful team who have done an amazing job. It's a balancing act, so thank you to them also for your advocacy and I also have some interesting news. I've been working on with Meg Daley and it's not ironed out yet, but I was speaking to the Manager and I mentioned to them at yesterday's agenda review meeting. So, one of the things we're working on is, there are going to be four courts, four pickleball courts at the Underline and one of the things that I asked was that residents have first right of refusal, and we are trying to work out a way to see how it can be possibly done using existing technology and some of the legislation that's in place. If that happens, it's not assured. I don't want to make people scared, but in regard to the Underline, they have a lot on their plate, but if that happens its another four courts that again, maybe early mornings, maybe afternoons, maybe something designated, all depends on the county contract, whether we can be first come first served, as a resident there. And I've already played pickleball, it's great. I enjoyed it. It's a beautiful time. You've just got to invite me, and I'll be there. I'll be your partner, your doubles partner.

Ms. Halley: We'll do it.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, I just wanted to, through the Mayor, add that we are still going to have the Youth Center courts.

Ms. Halley: Yes, we are.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Its good for some of us novices.

Ms. Halley: Well, my hope is that those courts and I don't know what Fred and his staff is looking for, but my hope is that that will be the place where we do our kids programs. We need to do kids programs in pickleball and that's my hope, but its all going to come together, right, and I'm very confident of that, because of the way we've worked together. And again, I thank you and that's all I came to say. Thank you. Thank you.

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Vice Mayor Anderson: Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Thank you.

City Clerk Urquia: Philip Cardella.

Mayor Lago: Good morning, sir.

Mr. Cardella: My name is Philip Cardella and I live at 3230 S.W. 94th Court, which you know is not in Coral Gables, but I do go to Church at Coral Gables Congregational over here and the first thing I wanted to say is, I wanted to thank you for blocking off part of Heraldo Street, that is where my wife and I go on date nights all the time, that's where I take people from out of town to show them how amazing Miami-Dade County is. I think the City Beautiful really is beautiful, and it is amazing. So, thank you for doing that. I am a historian by training, and I wanted to point out with the 287g provision the history of it, because I have a couple of questions for the Chief, who obviously knows more than I will ever know about the program, but I can't wonder why now, and I wonder why he says that they will not be deputized. If you look at ICE's website on the first sentence, I'm just going to read it from the ice.gov website on the 287g program, the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 added section 287g to the Immigration and Nationality Act, INA, authorizing U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to delegate to state and local enforcement officers the authority to perform specified immigration officer functions under the agency's direction and oversight. So, how are they not being deputized given that sentence and given that the program was started in 1996, what's the urgency now. Why didn't he need it before now. Now there's been some changes in the program over the years, the most recent major one was in 2017. I need not remind you, as I'm getting older, I am kind of surprised that 2017 is that far in the past, but that was quite some time ago. Why do we need the program here? – and again, this does impact me because I go to church here, my kid performs in a program on Saturdays, both here at my church and another church down the road here in Coral Gables. This is my community too and honestly, I got priced out that's why we don't live here, we would otherwise. Why now? Why am I going to be driving down the street and knowing that the police department here could be influenced by ICE when they didn't need the 287g program for years, and as somebody has pointed out, I think almost half of 287g signees from Sheriff's departments and enforcement agencies, law enforcement agencies around the country are in Florida. Why here? Why now? What is it about Coral Gables that we need this program, because I don't see it and I don't see it for our county either and I will be happy to talk to that Commission too about that. So, thank you for your time and thank you again for Heraldo Street, it's really awesome.

Mayor Lago: Thank you, sir.

City Clerk Urquia: Noel Cleland.

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Mayor Lago: Good morning, sir.

Mr. Cleland: Good morning. My name is Noel Cleland, 5990 S.W. 50th Street and I'm glad to be here and I thank the Chief for offering his comments about this program, but it did raise a couple of questions for me that I wanted to bring up to you. One is, he was pointing out the fact that the training for certain officers to have experts in identifying people that are not supposed to be here. I take question to that because if you are not supposed to be here, that sure sounds like profiling to me, because how else would you know they are not supposed to be here other than by looking at them, but its not profiling, right. Second of all, he also said, this isn't going to affect staffing, but yet, there is also a need to be able to get reimbursed for the fact that this is going to require additional resources, hopefully done from overtime, but it does require additional resources as pointed out for the need for overtime. And then another thing that concerns me is the idea that this is a voluntary agreement, but yet he also stated that he felt the need to sign it. He has to sign it, otherwise there is going to be repercussions if we don't. That goes beyond the description of voluntary to me. If somebody is forcing me to do something, it doesn't sound so voluntary. So, I also question the need why we have to have something like this in place. Immigration sounds like its being used as a weapon. I think we're all concerned about people being here that aren't supposed to be here, but when we hear about people being arrested because they've been here for nine years waiting for their immigration status to be changed and then arrested and thrown out of the country for that. It sounds to me like we are abusing that, and we are turning our fear of immigration into something to be used as a political tool and that concerns me. So, I appreciate your comments on this.

Mayor Lago: Thank you, sir.

City Clerk Urquia: Jenneva Clauss.

Mayor Lago: Good morning. Thank you for being here.

Ms. Clauss: Good morning. My name is Jenneva Clauss, and I live at 727 Almeria Avenue. I'm here today to offer some more questions that I'm wondering about. The main one being what benefit will this bring to the residents of Coral Gables and also visitors of Coral Gables. I hear the Commission and thank the Police Chief for his comments. I do know firsthand that the police department of Coral Gables has engaged in profiling, because I've been in the car when my partner has been pulled over and the first question out of the officer's mouth was, what are you doing in this neighborhood. My partner was black and that was the first question out of the officer's mouth. So, I do know that profiling exists firsthand. As far as this agreement, as a previous commenter mentioned, the original legislation came into place in 1996, that's also the year I was born, so I made a visual representation of how old this legislation is. So, I repeat the question of why now, why is this something that we're taking on. It was also mentioned that the Police Chief said that this wouldn't change what they've already been doing, so why do we need to do it. The training

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that exists, if it won't change any of the functions of the police department, why is the training needed, why are we using resources to pursue that, if it actually won't change any of the functions. I hear the Police Chief say that it won't actually – the plan isn't to deputize agents, and they will only be a few agents on the force. Will the public be notified if that policy changes and the intentions change. This didn't come before the Commission. I understand that that is standard policy from what the Police Chief said, so how can the public be sure and trust that the intentions and use of this program won't be changed over time. I believe that this erodes trust with the police in the community, not only for residents that live here, but also people that come into our community to work here, and also visitors of the community. So, I want to ask again how will this actually benefit the community of Coral Gables, the City of Coral Gables, and make people feel like this is a safe place to be. Thank you so much.

Mayor Lago: Thank you very much. Just if I may.

City Clerk Urquia: Alex Adams.

Mayor Lago: Just one second. Mr. Clerk, will you address Mr. Holmes' request after. Thank you. You want to see it now. Just one second. Just one second please. Mr. Adams, come up please.

Mr. Adams: Thank you. I didn't realize I was coming on a controversial day. I'm here actually to bring some citizens concerns to your attention and I brought with me today, what you guys might know. I want to play you a little luller-bye here, calm the noise down a little bit, but unfortunately this is not what we are hearing around our neighborhoods, what I call the fast and furious. There are a lot of people now – I had to call the police this weekend, coming into our neighborhoods doing donuts in intersections with the loud mufflers, trying to speed up and down streets and I find that they also congregate a lot of times near Philips Park because you have the school and the parking lot there next-door, especially, I've found that around Wednesdays and Sundays when we play soccer and all, around 8:15, they tend to come around. I don't know why that time, but it was even a Saturday afternoon, we had people on sidewalks and people are out there almost getting into a fight with these people, because they are doing donuts in intersections in the area. There's been a lot of attempts by the city to put improved pedestrian areas there, having the improved sidewalks, but it seems like the improved conditions of the street have made there the favorite place because it's new pavement for them to kind of do these activities and its causing major disruption to the neighborhoods. I think personally, it's a noise ordinance issue, it's a speeding issue, it's a disruptive issue, its unlawful activities issue, so I don't know if there could be some sort of, we are talking about task force here today, you know something in the neighborhoods on this item. The other thing that I want to bring to your attention is, I don't know if the city hires them or what, but we have tow trucks that run around the city all the time, every day and every hour they come by (sound) as if something they have to be muscular and so we get just roving the neighborhoods with these loud tow trucks even. So, I don't know if those are our contracts or what,

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but you know just like going up and down a boulevard is disruptive, this has become something that has been very disruptive in the neighborhoods. So, I'd like to see what you guys can help us out with that. Thank you very much.

Mayor Lago: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Through the Mayor. I'd like to ask the City Manager, we have some areas that we are going to be asking our County Commissioners to consider, I'm just going to call it youth areas for a more intense opportunity to provide traffic calming. Obviously, we have an enforcement issue, but I'd like this area around Philips Park, we have a lot of children in the area to add that to the list of areas that we need to request relief in from the county and giving us more opportunity for traffic calming in the area.

Mr. Adams: Can I make one more. I'll be very quick.

Mayor Lago: Yes sir.

Mr. Adams: Being that I saw that it is Earth Day coming on in April, one thing to look at and to check into, I did see that the Ambassadors go up and down Miracle Mile, they are not recycling. So, they have one trash can, and they literally take the recycling and the trash into one can. So, I'm not a fan of contracts. I've seen a degradation of public spaces, but we need accountability on these folks. The other one, I would say is that US-1 medians look horrible now. We used to be the poster child of great looking stuff, and you know, it's just became terrible. So, accountability.

Mayor Lago: Thank you. Mr. Manager, will you look into and advise back to the Commission in regard to the teams that we have on Miracle Mile cleaning up and making sure that they are recycling. It's important. And also, a little bit of better understanding what's happening with the medians on US-1 with the county and what is our scope and what is the county scope.

City Manager Parjus: Sure, will Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Thank you. Thank you for bringing that up to our attention.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor would you like me to put up Mr. Holmes' photo or move onto the next speaker.

Mayor Lago: Let's do it at the end. We'll do it at the end. Let's have everyone and then we'll come back.

City Clerk Urquia: Mrs. Maria Cruz.

Mrs. Cruz: Mrs. Maria Cruz, 1447 Miller Road. This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. I didn't know what I was going to talk about today and then I was so impressed

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with the proclamation, I guess that's what its called on the Women's History Month. I was so impressed that one of the speakers mentioned Roxcy Bolton. Roxcy Bolton, one of our people, one of our women, one person that lived in this city that made this city better and yet, everybody recognizes her. Other cities in this county, Dade County, Florida, are all over the place. If you go to Tallahassee, her name is there. If you go to the Women's Park, her name is there, and yet, the City of Coral Gables has not, has not done the same. It is a shame that Roxcy Bolton who used her house for meetings, who devoted her life to this city, not only to women, to women, children, to the city has not had a park or any facility in this city named after her, because I guess the people that had been in charge did not like her. Well, her mission was not to be liked. Her mission was to do what was right and I suggest that maybe one of the Commissioners could make an attempt to get her name on one of our future parks. We have lots of parks in the future, but you know what, we name parks, we buy land to build parks, and we do not remember a woman that really made this city better, regardless of what some politicians think that really went out on a limb, because her life was not easy. People did not always like what she had to say, but she said it, whether you liked it or not, and I think it's time to recognize Roxcy Bolton.

Commissioner Menendez: Mrs. Cruz, I just let you know, I asked the Clerk to put on the next Commission meeting to name a park and explore that possibility for Roxcy Bolton.

Mrs. Cruz: And I thank you. A lot of people will thank you.

Mayor Lago: You know what's even better, because again this is the last Commission meeting of this Commission until there is a new Commission that turns over, correct. We could do it now. We can name a park, one of the downtown parks that is coming before us so that we have additional ones available. I always thought that there was something that was named after Roxcy Bolton, that was my oversight. She is a champion, not only for women's rights, but also for the City of Coral Gables. So, I will welcome if somebody make a motion.

Mrs. Cruz: May I suggest that it would be nice if its near her home.

Mayor Lago: If I may just finish.

Mrs. Cruz: Well, other people interrupted, and you don't tell them to stop, but I guess I have to.

Commissioner Menendez: I'll make a motion.

Mayor Lago: I want to hear what the City Attorney.

City Attorney Suarez: I would suggest that we wait until after public comment.

Mayor Lago: I'm sorry.

City Attorney Suarez: My recommendation is to make any motions after the public comment.

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Mayor Lago: But I wanted to get information, if I was missing, I wanted to be 100 percent certain that that was correct. I don't recollect that there's a park or anything named after Roxcy, and I think it will be more than appropriate. So, if you would like, after we do our public comment, we can name it and I have no issues if it's adjacent to her home. I just don't know if there's a park available to name after her that's adjacent to her home, that's the only issue. So, we'll address it.

Commissioner Fernandez: If I may in a second. I have asked for this process to be started twice already. I had asked during a Commission meeting when we named six parks, I had asked that we include Roxcy Bolton. I had asked under City Manager Iglesias for the process to get started on our parks committee. I'm guessing that hasn't happened, which is a little frustrating. I think this is something that should have taken place many years ago. There were discussions when Lisbon Park was created to potentially name it after Roxcy Bolton because she did fight for that park to be created. So, it's definitely something that I would support, and I would second that motion even though it's something that should have already been started.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, through the Mayor. I agree that we should name a park, which one is appropriate, I do think we should take some – give the opportunity for the Parks and Recreation Board to hear some viewpoints. One of the aspects is you want it somewhere where somebody can see it, you know close to her home, maybe a wonderful place near the Women's Club might be another area closer to the Central Business District to get the name recognition, could be a good option as well, but I'd really like to entertain some more public comment on that issue and get the recommendation from our Parks and Recreation Board.

Commissioner Menendez: And through the Mayor. I think obviously Fred should help identify which park is available and I agree with the Vice Mayor that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has always been part of the process in terms of naming parks and to get input, but I think it's pretty clear that there's overwhelming support here to name a park long overdue for Roxcy Bolton. I think we can initiate the motion to direct the Manager's office and his staff to work with the Parks and Rec Advisory Board to identify a park that is appropriate and to name it after Roxcy Bolton and bring it back to the Commission.

Mayor Lago: So, we'll do it after public comment is completed. Mr. Clerk, can we move on to the next one.

City Clerk Urquia: Next speaker Mr. Mayor is going to be on Zoom and it's Ms. Sheryl Gold.

Mayor Lago: Ms. Gold, good morning.

Ms. Gold: Good morning, Mayor and Commissioners. I'm Sheryl Gold, I live at 721 Biltmore Way. Before I read my prepared comment this morning, I wanted to one, add my voice to the concerns about the police agreement with ICE. So, I won't go talk anymore about that because I

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think that several residents have already expressed their serious concerns and I join them. The second thing I want to say before I read my prepared comment is the following: I originally planned to give public comment on Zoom this morning and then show up at Commission Chambers at noon for a time certain for another item. Obviously, I'm not getting to the Commission Chambers, so I will join you by Zoom again, but that brings me to this point and that is the following, other cities have specific time certain for public comments, such as Miami Beach; they have two, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. We have no time certain as we do for developers all the time. I think it would show respect for the residents. I've been on since 9 o'clock this morning not knowing what time the public comment would start. So, I'm already here two hours and 41 minutes just to give this three-minute public comment and then of course I have to wait to see when the next public comment will be available. So, I would like you to consider a time certain for public comment, so people don't have to spend half a day to do a three-minute contribution. So, thank you. Now, I'll give you my prepared comment for this morning. Thank you for proclaiming April 25th as Arbor Day in Coral Gables. As an urban forest advocate for 35 years, I'm here to say there has never been a more important time to preserve, protect and enhance the city's tree canopy. We are grateful to the city's master planner, Frank Button, who recognized the critical role of green infrastructure in his designs for the city streets, parkways, gardens and recreational facilities. He incorporated the use of native plants alongside tropical and imported species to create a robust tree canopy and generous green spaces. 100 years before the climate crisis has necessitated the planting of one trillion trees worldwide to combat its harmful effects. Unfortunately, in recent years the City of Coral Gables has rested on its laurels and failed to modernize its management of the urban forest. The city has enabled developers to decimate the mature tree canopy on entire city blocks and continue to over plant one species, live oaks, which is risky under normal conditions. Think pound disease, citrus canker, pine beetle infestation, no less important research indicates oaks are likely not thrive or survive in South Florida as temperatures continue to rise. The city must not continue to rely on its inheritance on the Tree City USA designation nor the 45 percent canopy coverage. It's long overdue to update the management of the urban forest by using science and data to inform decisions. Also, it is imperative that the city reviews and strengthens landscape ordinances and zoning codes, to stop the devastating mature tree destruction. The city must plant with a plan and not just arbitrarily fill spaces. The jury is still out on the recent hiring of a company to provide tree services that is not known for this expertise. As the city prepares to observe Arbor Day next month, the city should commit to improving green space management starting right now. The last tree inventory was done eight years ago, and without one there can be no reliable urban forest master plan. The contract should be awarded to one of the top three firms that specialize in tree inventories rather than to a generalist who cannot provide the consulting services needed to develop a master plan that will serve the city well into the future. Finally, it may be time to consider renaming the Landscaping Beautification Advisory Board to Greenspace Advisory Board in recognition that environmental considerations and resiliency are high priority. Thank you and I'll see you in a little while.

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Mayor Lago: Thank you.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor, I'll go ahead and put up Mr. Holmes' photo.

Mayor Lago: Thank you. Was that the last.

City Clerk Urquia: Yes sir.

Mayor Lago: Thank you.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Holmes, just to be clear, I received the same email from you three times, not three different photos.

Mr. Holmes: I couldn't hear you.

City Clerk Urquia: I said I received the same email from you three times, not three different photos.

Mr. Holmes: Okay. So, this photo, especially for people at home is Mary Trump. If you see this YouTube here, I don't know if its listed – yes. Freeze frame, get a snapshot of that YouTube, look it up. She tells about Fred Trump, her grandfather, Donald Trump's father, and the ten years he was unable. He had full blown Alzheimer's, couldn't recognize anybody in the family. The point I was making before, check out the YouTube, its quite startling. You don't have any other photos?

City Clerk Urquia: No sir.

Mr. Holmes: Okay. Then I don't know if you all are aware of this, but of all people, Wall Street is up in arms about this idea of these tariffs. The Stock Market has lost a tremendous amount of money and yet for some reason Donald Trump is stuck on this idea that we're going to convert Canada into the 51st state by imposing tariffs on. Now that's indicative – it's going to wreck our economy. The Wall Street Journal said this is the dumbest tariff that's ever been imposed in history. Why is Donald Trump stuck on this. It's tanking our economy. What I predict for people is Wall Street is going to force the 25th Amendment consideration to Congress and Donald Trump will become our first ever President removed under the 25th Amendment, because he is tanking the economy with these crazy tariffs to force Canada to become the 51st state. Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Thank you, sir. So going back to the Roxcy Bolton issue in regard to the park. Would you like to take a vote, take a motion on that.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I think we have a pending motion together with the friendly amendment that I made.

Mayor Lago: Okay. Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk Urquia: I have a motion by Commissioner Menendez. I don't have a second.

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Commissioner Fernandez: I seconded it.

City Clerk Urquia: Thank you.

Commissioner Fernandez: Yes

Commissioner Menendez: Yes

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes

Commissioner Castro: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Lago: Thank you.