

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item I-1
February 11, 2020
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Michael Mena
Commissioner Jorge Fors

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Police Chief, Ed Hudak

Public Speaker(s)

Gale Nelson, Big Brothers Big Sisters

Agenda Item I-1 [10:02:42 a.m.]

A Resolution authorizing an expenditure in the amount of \$20,000 from Federal Forfeited Asset Fund (F.A.F.) moneys for community-based programs; the funds are to be expended to support the 2019-2020 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Miami.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Let's go to item I-3, I mean I-1, sorry, Resolution authorizing an expenditure in the amount of \$20,000 for the Bigs in Blue Program, conducted by Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Chief Hudak: \$20,000, I was hoping you'd catch that – I don't have \$200,000. Last year, Commissioners, Mr. Mayor, we started partnering with Bigs in Blue, the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Miami. We started this partnership, I would say two years ago altogether. We are embarking on it again. The allocation before you today for approval from the F.A.F. accounts or from the LATF accounts. It is a new program that is now focusing on high school students, actually bringing them once a month to the police department. We are in the process of vetting our officers

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and volunteers, and with me is Mr. Gale Nelson, who is the Executive Director for Bigs in Blue and Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

Mr. Nelson: Mr. Mayor, members of the Commission, just want to thank you all for investing in our children. Big Brothers Big Sisters since 1958 has served this community in providing one-to-one mentoring relationships. A lot of folks look at mentoring, they say its nice, mentoring is not nice, its necessary; and so your investment, your support of Bigs in Blue and about a decade ago we started an intentional program for law enforcement, the Bill of Trust, the Bill that strengthens relationships with kids; and so, what we found is workplace mentoring. A lot of our children that are on the waiting list were high school students and so now we partner with Coral Gables High School, have those young people go to the Coral Gables Police Department once a month for workplace mentoring. They'll be vetted just like any other "Little," as we call them, and matched based on needs, abilities as well as interest; and we found that through Bigs in Blue we have young people that now want to become law enforcement personnel, first responders, but most importantly they have someone they can trust within their community. So, I just thank you all for your support, for any support of Bigs in Blue, Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Any questions?- any motion?

Commissioner Fors: Motion.

Vice Mayor Lago: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you call the roll please.

Commissioner Fors: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes

Commissioner Mena: Yes

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: As you can see it was very controversial and it passed unanimously without any discussion.

Mr. Nelson: Thank you sir.

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Chief Hudak: Can he bother you for a picture with the Commission so he can put this out on his website as well?

[Picture was taken with the Commission]

[End: 10:05:22 a.m.]