

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item H-1
May 19, 2026
Public Safety Building, CMR
2151 Salzedo Street, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago
Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Commissioner Melissa Castro
Commissioner Ariel Fernandez
Commissioner Richard D. Lara

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez
City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Community Recreation Director, Fred Couceyro

Public Speaker(s)

Amanda Corcan, Representing Fritz & Franz
Maria Cruz

Agenda Item H-1

A Resolution of the City Commission authorizing Satchmo Blues Bar and Grill, Inc. d/b/a Fritz & Franz Bierhaus to utilize the public space and maintain a temporary Soccer Watch Party set-up at the plaza located at 60 Merrick Way from July 3, 2026 through July 19, 2026, in connection with the 2026 World Cup and to allow for set-up for sales and crowd control during the entire World Cup event from June 19, 2026 through July 19, 2026.

Mayor Lago: Item H-1, we're going to take a five-minute break to go to the bathroom and then we will take it on right now.

[Note for the record: The Commission took a brief break and then resumed the meeting]

Mayor Lago: All right, let's get started. Okay. How long is our presentation, Mr. Director?

City Commission Meeting

[Date]

1

May 19, 2026

*Agenda Item H-1 – Resolution authorizing Satchmo Blues Bar and Grill Inc. d/b/a Fritz & Franz Bierhaus
To utilize the public space and maintain a temporary soccer watch party set-up at the plaza*

Community Recreation Director: My presentation won't be that long, but we do have the applicant who the representative is going to come up and talk. So, I can get through my presentation pretty quick.

Mayor Lago: All right, well, let's get started.

Community Recreation Director: Okay, all right. Thank you. We are here again. This is an update from our last meeting, discussing an event application for Fritz and Franz Beer House for the World Cup. We were given direction to look at working on a plan that was more specific for the event. We did that, but I would like to call up representative from Fritz and Franz Bierhaus, and she can add some of the things for the event.

Amanda Corcan: Good afternoon. Amanda Corcan, office at 1395 Brickell Avenue, suite 800 on behalf of Fritz and Franz Bierhaus. I understand that the item came before this Commission before, so you've heard the general request, but Mr. Neuweg was not able to attend today. He did work with the city to come up with a more detailed plan, which is included in the packet. As this Commission has already heard today, we all know that the World Cup is a great opportunity for the City of Coral Gables. It's an activation event. The hotels are booked, it drives traffic, there's a sense of community pride, one game, one passion, spirit of unity that the World Cup soccer brings. And we all know that Fritz and Franz Bierhaus have hosted the World Cup watch parties for several World Cups, I think for 24 years. So here we are four years, it's an every four-year event and we're requesting a special event approval to host the watch parties to include the plaza. And there's a specific list of dates that are in the package that I passed out, it's on page three. Mr. Neuweg has been more specific and reduced the request so that he has included the round of 32 and the round of 16, quarterfinal, semifinal and final, which we all know that people are going to be very interested in. But he has additionally requested five games that are USA and Germany. He said that typically those are the most well attended games, and he has specifically requested, he already has the times for those games and the dates on the schedule because those games have been already announced or at the group stage. So, he is requesting the USA and Germany games that are specifically listed on page three and the round of 32, round of 16, quarterfinal. And this is for the plaza use. And so, one thing I would like for the Commission to think about this request is that the World Cup watch parties are naturally, you know, you're going to have a crowd, but this is a plan to manage that crowd effectively, to manage it safely. This is not a soccer hooligan event, but people do come together to watch the World Cup games. He has provided conditions for the public viewing events on the plaza. There is, in full disclosure, there's one evening game that is known. It's the second day of the World Cup, Friday, June 12th, 9 p.m. There's USA versus Paraguay. It's the first USA game. It will definitely be popular. So, he is requesting these conditions. He has already agreed to hire the off-duty police officers to extra security at the doors and has a plaza plan that is included in the packet. The rest of the games, there's no public viewing on the plaza, but he

City Commission Meeting

[Date]

2

May 19, 2026

Agenda Item H-1 – Resolution authorizing Satchmo Blues Bar and Grill Inc. d/b/a Fritz & Franz Bierhaus
To utilize the public space and maintain a temporary soccer watch party set-up at the plaza

is requesting for the barricades, instead of being right up against the columns, that they'll be six feet past the columns to allow people to walk past the tables and things like that. I'm here to answer any questions about the request. I know it was extensively discussed at the last Commission meeting, and would you like to make a comment?

Community Recreation Director: Yeah, I would like to note the resolution that was presented in the item was part of a discussion that we had with Mr. Neuweg and working on a plan B. The Germany and U.S. games that were mentioned today were not part of that, so it's not part of the resolution as written because this was a change at the last minute. I can show our presentation. It'll cover a lot of the things that she said, and it has some illustrations to help you, and we'll get through it really quickly. If I can pull it up, please. So, as we discussed, this is a follow-up from our May 5th meeting, and the applicant did meet with city staff, police, and fire as well to discuss the plan. This is the proposal that he discussed with us, was to have watch party events on the plaza from July 3rd through July 19th for a total of 11 days. As we discussed, the U.S. and Germany games changes that a bit. And what the applicant did say is they would remove the tables and chairs when the plaza's not activated. They would increase their trash pickup. They would clean the area after every activation. They would limit the tents to six, which started with 11, and they would end the viewing on the plaza by 10 p.m., with the exception of when you have round of 32, round of 16 overtime games when they kick in. And what he's also requesting is on days the plaza's not activated is what she was discussing about the barricade setup, and I'll show you an illustration of that. Here's the event schedule starting July 3rd, all the different times in the games. The late games must stop at 10 o'clock. Here's the next one, all the way through to the final on the 19th. This is a full plaza installation. As you can see, he reduced the tents. What he's asking for is that yellow area to have the barricades moved in around the overhang area to provide a six-foot buffer when the plaza's not activated for his games. And there is also a request for a beer bar under the overhang, and this is more or less illustrated how it would be under the overhang so he could sell it within his area. So that's the summary. We'll answer any questions.

Mayor Lago: So, I'm going to be very brief. I think we still have time. I requested a meeting with the gentleman. I was never afforded the privilege to meet with him, and my staff is here. We requested that meeting. We were never reached out to. We attempted to have a meeting. It never happened. I'm not ready to vote on this today. If I vote on this today, my vote is a no. There's still time. We still have one more meeting before. I think that there's a lot of issues that have not met my satisfaction that I think have to be still addressed. So, I'm not ready to vote. I have a prepared speech that's basically going in the direction of a no vote, and I'd rather save that for the next Commission so I'm willing to defer and address it. I need to meet with staff, and I need to meet with this gentleman also, because just like we have three or four emails that I received and my colleagues are 100 percent behind it, that's perfectly fine. I've also talked to a lot of residents who have called me who want to see certain measures taken. And again, we've dealt with this on many

other occasions for other events, not just this event, and we make sure that we address these issues. So, I was hoping he would be here today. He's asking for a significant amount of time that we never, this is something we never grant to, I can't remember being here for 13 years that we've given this many days, Chief, if I'm correct. If I'm wrong, I mean, please correct me if I'm wrong. I don't have a problem with that, if that's the case.

Police Chief Hudak: Something for this amount of time, I mean, the last time we had a discussion, I'll defer to the City Attorney. I thought there were caveats. The last time this renewal came up with a city lease about how many days in a year that it would be allowed and it would impact everybody else, so. I don't remember doing anything for the entire tournament when World Cup, and again, as we heard today, this is the largest tournament in the World Cup history with that many teams in that many countries. So, the dates, there are 30 days that we are going to be taxed to the max within the police department based on other issues that we're committed to already.

Mayor Lago: So, I am 100 percent behind them doing an event, but again, I think that a request to meet with the Mayor is a simple one. Also, I've heard several things that have come down the pipe where this has been compared to Carnival on the Mile, this is nowhere near Carnival on the Mile. Carnival on the Mile is a two-day event. I've also heard issues about, I got an email in regard to fees, overcharging of fees. It's not an overcharging of fees; those are the fees. Those are the fees as per, and correct me if I'm wrong, Chief, our current agreement that we have with Miami-Dade County and that moment, that moment where there's a lot of use and we have obligations all over Miami-Dade County. I mean, correct me if I'm wrong, because we get these emails and all of a sudden, they spiral and say we're overcharging them to overcharge them. We're not overcharging, those are the rates.

Police Chief Hudak: That is not, and I know it was said earlier today in public comment, the high impact weekend, which has been negotiated with the union, as the Manager and I have a conversation, this is not specifically to this event or that change is different. Anybody that has those, these events during this time are going to be charged that. It is because we don't have it. I can tell you right now, Mr. Mayor, Commissioners, the Manager knows this. Every police officer has to work on the 4th of July because our biggest event is at, and it takes every one of our resources. Any other kind of event out that, I can't staff. I can't do it. And that, so just alone in looking at that date, it's the 4th of July, which is a major event, is we are not able to help with the other requests that we've already gotten through our legal MOUs with Miami, Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office and the Miami Beach Police Department.

Mayor Lago: So, there was a gentleman who came up before, I think he lives in Brickell, that said that my tone and my nature were negative and that I was being punitive to something of that effect. First and foremost, the information that was provided by the gentleman was incorrect. These are

the rates that are given. They're not special rates that are given as a result of Fritz and Franz. These are the rates that are given by the police and the manager, and this is across the board, correct?

Police Chief Hudak: Correct. If I have to cancel days off, which I am scheduling to do now for the entire tournament, just to have a field force ready to go, it becomes a high impact weekend. We have done it before when we had Moda and Carnival on the Mile, where we had to implement a different pay rate because it was agreed to do Moda, which was another 40-person detail, as well as everything else that we had on Carnival on the Mile, just to staff it. The rates negotiated with the union, or not even negotiated with the union, the off-duty rates right now are at \$68, except for holidays, and that's just to get those staffed.

Mayor Lago: So, I want to be clear, just to the gentleman who was in the back, because he made some comments that weren't directed towards me, this is not about no to Fritz and Franz. This is not about no to the World Cup. I'm 100 percent in favor. This is about yes to safety. This is about yes to our standards, and this is about yes to the way things are done here. I have voted in favor of this probably before, but I've also been in touch with many residents and also business owners, business owners who also have businesses in the area that say, let's do things the right way. Let's have an event. Let's do it proper, but let's not have a free-for-all. So at the end of the day, I understand you may have a difference of opinion on me, but I think we can find common ground, but at the end of the day, it's going to take time, and it's not going to be just a blanket permit that's going to be here you go for six weeks, do as you please. No, we're going to work together. We're going to collaborate. This is a plaza that belongs to everyone in the community. It doesn't belong just to Fritz and Franz. So, I'm not ready to vote on this today. If my colleagues want to vote on this, I'm a no vote. If not, I'd be more than willing, like I said at the last Commission meeting, I would like to meet, thank you, Chief. I would like to meet with this gentleman, have a sit-down conversation. I was not afforded that privilege. One of my colleagues in the past has asked for those types of meetings. In the past, we've deferred items or said, let's have a meeting with that individual to make sure that everybody's on board. I think it's a reasonable offer. There's more than enough time between now and our next Commission meeting to ensure that there's no issues with the event and that we can coordinate and staff can have the time that they need to make sure that they are prepared for an event of this magnitude. Remember, this is not just a World Cup in a foreign country. This is the World Cup in our backyard. So, it is stretching our resources. It is stretching EMS. It is stretching police because our police and our EMS have to work in Miami-Dade County. That's something that we didn't discuss before. And it's something very simple to overlook because you want to highlight that we're singling out Fritz and Franz. We're not. It just happens to be that Fritz and Franz is the place in the City of Coral Gables that requires these resources. And other municipalities, Miami-Dade County in particular, requires these resources as per an MOU that we have with Miami-Dade County. Am I correct, Chief? Thank you.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Through the Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Yes, Madam Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Anderson: My biggest concern here is, again, feasibility, which we've been talking about. And because I think there needs to be that opportunity for the Police Department Chief to have that conversation with the applicant, as well as with City Manager and each one of us. I'm going to move to defer this.

Commissioner Lara: Second.

Amanda Corcan: With all due respect, when is the next Commission meeting?

City Clerk Urquia: June 2nd.

Amanda Corcan: Okay.

Mayor Lago: We have time.

Amanda Corcan: Yeah, I think that the first request is for June 12th.

Mayor Lago: That's fine. Well, I made a simple request. Just sit down with your team and come to a consensus on it.

Commissioner Castro: Through the Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Castro: So, I want to put something so that people understand how businesses work. When something gets approved, you just don't hire vendors, screens, tables from one day to another. That's not how real life works here, guys. Okay. So, we're trying to delay this. But it says permission to set up Plaza 11 and 12. What do you think? This guy has everything in his kitchen that he's going to set up. He has contracts. Come on, let's be a little realistic here. Okay. The Mayor last time during the Commission meeting told the applicant, you asked for a plan. Right in front of me, I have a plan. Before the plan was even over, you had already made it. You have a speech with a no vote without giving him even a chance. This is outrageous. Why? I'm not done. I'm not done. There's more days that are being requested because this is a special event and we should be prideful that it's here in the City of Coral Gables. Okay. This is the World Cup, and this is FIFA. We just approved this ball sculpture right in Giralda around the corner of this place. We should be honored. We have the FIFA. It's in our city. There's no reason why we want to sabotage this event that's been going on for 32 years or 30 years. There's no reason. And I really, really hope that my colleagues in both ends are not going to support what the Mayor is saying and are not going to just, because he just wants to have a meeting. You could have had a meeting before. You could

City Commission Meeting

reach out to him before. He gave you what you asked for. It's very apparent you have something against him personally. I don't know why. So, he hired legal counsel to represent him. You can ask all the questions to her. They've met with the administration. What more do you want? You want this not to happen? Is that what you're pushing for? And now you're saying, yes, I want this to happen. I want to support it. Then support it.

Amanda Corcan: If I may.

Mayor Lago: If I may, please. You asked some questions to me, and I don't want to go back and forth. We're not going to debate here on the Commission floor. This is simple, okay. You made comments that I oppose. I do not oppose the event, but we're going to do it the right way. There has not been in 32 years, a World Cup in Miami that is putting this much pressure on our police and our EMS. Stop beating around the bush and saying that I'm opposed. No, I am in favor of doing things the right way. We're not going to jump the gun here and compromise our staff and put an immense amount of pressure on our staff. I apologize if this gentleman thinks that this makes him unhappy, but my responsibility is not to Fritz and Franz. My responsibility is to the residents. My responsibility is to the City of Coral Gables. And no, the ridiculousness. She did not read my speech. My speech is about concerns in regard to the city. It's not a no vote. I said, I'm a no vote if I do not get a meeting with this gentleman. I want to understand. I want his commitment to address certain things that I feel have not been addressed before. So, at the end of the day, I'm not going to get into a debate with you. My responsibility and my allegiance is to the City of Coral Gables and to the residents who have called me and have contacted me to tell me that they have concerns. You can ask any director here. They've told you there's been issues with it before. You can ask the police. There's been issues with it before. I'm not going to debate with you on this fact. So, it's not about what the Mayor wants. It's I'm a no vote. If you can convince my colleagues to be a yes vote, then go ahead and do it. But at the end of the day, just like you feel that you need to vote on no on certain things and you go ahead and vote on no on certain things, that's your prerogative. My prerogative here is I want to be very thoughtful and methodical of police and fire to not overextend. Remember, when you overextend police and fire, there could be ramifications into the neighborhoods because our police and fire are going to be working Miami-Dade County during these games. They have no other choice. They have an MOU, but we're going to be working in Miami-Dade County. So, there's going to be, like you said, we cannot overextend our public safety. Well, then let's be very careful because what if we do have an emergency in a neighborhood or what if we do have an issue in regard to a crime, God forbid? Well, and these individuals are working as per the MOU with Miami-Dade County. I want to be very careful and very particular that we have a controlled environment and that the police and the fire department do not have to have an over-excess of people in our downtown as a result of a party that may be huge or may be out of control. So, you can have your opinion. I'm entitled to mine. I'm a no vote until I sit down with this gentleman and I get certain commitments with the Fire Chief, with the Police Chief, with

City Commission Meeting

[Date]

7

May 19, 2026

Agenda Item H-1 – Resolution authorizing Satchmo Blues Bar and Grill Inc. d/b/a Fritz & Franz Bierhaus
To utilize the public space and maintain a temporary soccer watch party set-up at the plaza

the Manager and the DCM and ACM. This is what is called leading. I'm not approving someone because I like him or I don't like him. That's not my effect or my intent. Very simple. It's to do what's right for the city.

Amanda Corcan: So- May I speak?

Mayor Lago: Yes.

Amanda Corcan: Okay. I would respectfully request consideration of approval subject to conditions because I hear what you're saying about police and fire and this is the World Cup and obviously he's a responsible business owner and wants to be, you know, to have a safe event. That's part of this special event application, right. During the World Cup games, lots of people are going to come to Fritz and Franz, whether there's a special event permit or not. So, we want to have guidelines and a plan in place to make it safe for everybody, enjoyable for everybody, provide business traffic, and provide, you know, celebration for the community. So, I would respectfully request because he does have to order, you know, food and tents and other things to get set up in enough time. I would respectfully request that you consider an approval with conditions. We are more than happy to restrict the schedule if we cannot find the off-duty officers to staff the event. The condition and the approval could be subject to a minimum of two officers per event. And if we cannot get those officers because of the schedule, because of July 4th or something like that, then we will not be able to have it that day. But I think that that is a reasonable condition. Another, the EMS impact is already in the fee as well. We're more than willing to have the Fire Chief visit the facility if he has any concerns. We're more than willing to work directly with him. But this is a City Manager's item where I do believe on the agenda. On the agenda, this is a City Manager's item. So, I do believe that it's possible that the Commission can review and approve with whatever conditions that you feel makes this special event acceptable for the City of Coral Gables. But it would allow for the client to prepare and prepare the event to be safe and enjoyable for everybody. So, I would respectfully request that if the police and fire has a concern, we will put that restriction in the resolution.

Mayor Lago: First and foremost, I respect your opinion, but I disagree. It may be a City Manager's item, but at the end of the day, the buck stops with the Commission. You know, the Manager answers to the Commission and the residents, we answer to the residents. But when I'm getting calls and I'm getting concerns, and one of the comments they mentioned is that we have to, we're going to have police working off duty all over Miami-Dade County, you know, especially in this massive world event that's never happened. I want to be very careful and very thoughtful. By the way, there's potentially going to be other events in the City of Coral Gables that are going to stretch us even more thin. So, we have to be very, very careful. This is not the only World Cup potentially event that's going to happen here, it's going to require police.

City Commission Meeting

[Date]

8

May 19, 2026

*Agenda Item H-1 – Resolution authorizing Satchmo Blues Bar and Grill Inc. d/b/a Fritz & Franz Bierhaus
To utilize the public space and maintain a temporary soccer watch party set-up at the plaza*

Amanda Corcan: We will proffer the condition.

Mayor Lago: But I understand that, but I'm just telling you where I stand. And my stand is very simple. I'm not ready to vote on that issue. I'll defer. If my colleagues want to vote, they're more than welcome to, Commissioner Lara.

Commissioner Lara: Yes, thanks. So, a couple of things. Are you authorized to negotiate a deal right now on behalf of the applicant?

Amanda Corcan: Yes.

Commissioner Lara: Okay, so if we say that it has to be at the rates that have been negotiated with the union for all the police and the EMS, you're prepared to say yes?

Amanda Corcan: Yes.

Commissioner Lara: Okay, so if she is saying-

Amanda Corcan: I'm authorized.

Commissioner Lara: Okay, so let me ask the Chief a question. Chief, I haven't seen plan A or plan C or B, but this is referred to as plan C.

Police Chief Hudak: I haven't seen any of that.

Commissioner Lara: Okay, I don't know what the suggestion here is.

Community Recreation Director: Plan A was the first one that was at the last meeting. Then we did a plan B, and it's what I was prepared to present to you. It's in the resolution. There was a last second change yesterday, which resulted in the plan C, which is why we had the representative come and present.

Mayor Lago: So let me ask you a question. I'm sorry. I mean, Commissioner Fernandez will tell you, I've seen him go bonkers on the Commission floor when he gets something at the last minute. Literally, say, I can't vote for this. No way, under no circumstances. There's a change here, there's something we just got right now. It was a presentation, and you're asking me to vote on something right now that again requires police and fire. Listen, again, I want my colleagues to make a decision. I would like to defer. Yes, Commissioner.

Commissioner Lara: Thank you, just to finish. So Chief, again, so plan B, Fred, is what you proposed. Plan B was-

Community Recreation Director: It was what the applicant proposed after meeting with us and working with us, and that's what the resolution is based on, and that's what I presented, what I had today.

Commissioner Lara: So then plan C-

Community Recreation Director: This came yesterday.

Commissioner Lara: Okay, it would have been a better move, I think, for all concerned if the applicant himself were here, because it's the applicant, I would say, is the one asking for the relief, and the applicant wasn't precluded from coming to see any one of us prior to today's Commission meeting. I mean, you would agree to that, right.

Amanda Corcan: Yeah, unfortunately, I was hired yesterday, so I would have done things differently.

Commissioner Lara: Well, you know what they say, right?

Amanda Corcan: Yeah, I know.

Commissioner Lara: Yeah, like someone's delay doesn't become my emergency, right?

Amanda Corcan: I understand.

Commissioner Lara: So there, I still haven't asked the main question to the Chief. So Chief, in looking, I know, admittedly, it was just put before you, you're probably putting eyeball to it for the first time, but just can you give me at a high level whether plan C, as we were handed it today, presents any concerns for you from a safety perspective and, you know, and the like?

Police Chief Hudak: So, I mean, at first look, I mean, the first game on June 12th starts at 9 p.m., all right. So, I mean, if it goes completely right till 11, we're going to be outside what we normally allow with any kind of crowd. And I understand the chairs or whatever. Here's the concern from us. If in fact, when it's approved, then if there's, I think they charge to get inside, that's part of the hotel or part of the restaurant, we're responsible for it. So, if in fact, he does not put up the large screen or if Fritz and Franz does not put up a large screen and just shows it like every other restaurant in Coral Gables shows the game through the windows, that's still our responsibility as the police department. So, you may get three or four. If with these crowds and as we will know what's going on, it could be spontaneous. So, whether it's one big screen and the plaza is not blocked, where it's just his guests, but even if he puts it up and there's no block, the plaza is going to be full, we're still responsible even without the off-duties. So that has one, doesn't have anything to do with the other. These dates, if in fact, they're paying for people to be inside there or those people are paying to be inside there and it becomes a problem, then the on-duty personnel, which

City Commission Meeting

we are all working, will have to address that issue of whether, do we continue to do it or not. Most of the issues that we've had historically have been loudness and to the owner's thing, he can't control 1,000 or 2,000 people on a plaza that the city owns. Well, if that's the case, then if we don't have it, then we don't have the noise other than what's spontaneous. It's not his liability, so to speak, okay. If they go out into the street or if they spill over or people stop to watch, that's our responsibility, ours being the police department of having to manage that, which is why we have so many officers working all of these days on top of the 23 days of Fanfest where they're expecting about 30,000 people. That's just downtown.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner, I think we've really exhausted this conversation. I want to sit down with the Manager, the Chiefs, your client, the attorney, our City Attorney, and have a conversation, the director. Have we done that yet? Have we sat down, all of us in a room and said, let's sit down and see how we can make this an event that's productive and that doesn't put-

Police Chief Hudak: My major was involved, especially-

Mayor Lago: Have you been involved?

Police Chief Hudak: I have not sat down.

Mayor Lago: I think if we're going to do something of this magnitude where we have forces that are dedicated to the World Cup, I think the best thing is to have all the directors with the managers leading, with the manager leading in a room and have a conversation with your client. You were hired yesterday. I know you have every ability on behalf of your client, but I think that at the end of the day, I'm the one that's going to receive the phone call at 12 o'clock at night. I'm the one that's going to receive the phone call at one in the morning. I'm the one that's going to receive the phone call from the business next door that's upset. And by the way, we all have received those phone calls. So, I want to make sure that at the end of the day, let me give you an example. Give you an example. Right across the street here on Sunday, Mr. Manager, Chief, right here on Sunday. What happened here on Sunday? I don't want you to give names, but what happened?

Police Chief Hudak: Five cars got booted.

Mayor Lago: Is that legal?

Police Chief Hudak: If it wasn't taken off within 10 minutes, yes. That would have been illegal for them to boot it.

Mayor Lago: Who got the phone call on a Sunday?

Police Chief Hudak: Eventually?

City Commission Meeting

May 19, 2026

*Agenda Item H-1 – Resolution authorizing Satchmo Blues Bar and Grill Inc. d/b/a Fritz & Franz Bierhaus
To utilize the public space and maintain a temporary soccer watch party set-up at the plaza*

[Date]

11

Mayor Lago: Yeah.

Police Chief Hudak: That buck stopped with me. After you got it, the Manager got it, then I got it.

Mayor Lago: I got it first.

Police Chief Hudak: Then the Assistant Chief got it, and then the Major got it.

Mayor Lago: So, this was a person, a very prominent person in our community who understood the law, and their car was booted. This was on a Sunday. I'm giving you an example of when people don't know the law or what's happening, certain mistakes happen. And you had five cars were booted, and we had to come and address the issue, the Manager, myself, and the Chief. And I say that because I'd rather be over the top collaborative and resolve this issue and make sure that we cross every T and dot every I and make sure that it's successful instead of rushing to do something and then have an issue because at the end of the day, we have our forces committed as a result of MOU with the county. So, I think it's a very simple ask between now and the next Commission meeting to sit down all of us. He has more than enough time to collaborate with us, sit down and coordinate, and I think it'll be very successful. I think so. It's a simple ask.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Through the Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Mayor, just for the public to understand, plan B, first day of play was scheduled to be July 3rd. Okay, that's a substantial period away. Plan C, which I didn't know the Chief hadn't been spoken to about, first day of play is June 12th, and includes July 4th, which is all hands-on deck to deal with the July 4th festivities. So, the ultimate decision on that is up to the Chief, but I would say July 4th is out based upon what I know. So, you don't need to make a decision here now because what really needs to happen is you need to have a time to sit down with the Chief and do the appropriate planning to make sure that you have the coverage necessary and the number of personnel there that in their experience, because they're the ones that are experienced with law enforcement, are needed to cover an event like this. We want this event.

Mayor Lago: So, we have a motion, and we have a second, Mr. Clerk. Yes. For a deferral. Can we have a vote?

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor, I have a member of the public requesting to speak.

Mayor Lago: Okay.

City Clerk Urquia: Maria Cruz.

City Commission Meeting

[Date]

12

May 19, 2026

*Agenda Item H-1 – Resolution authorizing Satchmo Blues Bar and Grill Inc. d/b/a Fritz & Franz Bierhaus
To utilize the public space and maintain a temporary soccer watch party set-up at the plaza*

Mrs. Cruz: Mrs. Maria Cruz, 1447 Miller Road, 305-323-2154. Let me be very careful because even though somebody used a word that I used the other day, I guess I cannot use it, but it appears to me that every time we have special events, we do not require everybody to be involved. Somebody takes the special events committee, the director, there's always somebody from fire, from police, they meet, they decide, easy, easy. Some people pay ahead of the event, some people pay three months later and life goes on. This is a big event. You heard Mrs. Hudak here today. What is the issue? We need the owner to come and get on his knees and beg to be able to do what he's done 24 years. That's the whole argument here. There is someone here that has to get public, I don't know what the word to use. The owner has to humiliate himself before someone here in order for him to do what he's entitled to do for an event like this. He's already done the special event. The people have met, they've discussed, they came up with a plan. There's some modification today. You have an attorney here representing him that very clearly said she could decide, she could make decisions. But no, no, no, no, we have to postpone it again. People, once again, there is a lot of stuff going on those days. So they have to get the equipment that they need, the food, everything, and they're going to do it at the last minute because we, the people that sit here, want to make sure that that guy has to, in order to get what he needs to get, he's going to do it at the last minute, pay extra to get it delivered because you're making it unreasonable for him. I don't know what this world city expects, but I can't think of anywhere else where it is a, what should have been a very, very beautiful event is going to become such a tragic disaster, not because of the owner's doing, but because what the city, a city who has buildings occupied without having the, whatever, the occupancy certificate, but now we're concerned about this man, incredible.

City Clerk Urquia: That's it, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Again, what you just witnessed right now is, imagine, we're asking for collaboration during the World Cup, during an event where our police and fire are going to be, stretched thin because of multiple events in the city and also our MOU with Miami-Dade County, and we're told to just approve a special use permit. I'm sorry, I can't, under no circumstances, I cannot jeopardize public safety. So, we have a motion and a second.

City Clerk Urquia: Commissioner Castro.

Commissioner Castro: I'm going to go ahead and reiterate that we have legal counsel right in front of you. She's willing to come into a deal that is to your best convenience and you're still not willing to even give it a chance. So, you prefer to defer this when you know it's not beneficial for the applicant and honestly, it's not beneficial for the city as well. They're willing to compromise. They're willing to come into an agreement with you. I'm glad that I came here first because Commissioner Lara, I'm going to ask for you to please, please think about this just a little more. You saw the legal counsel's willingness to work with us. This is a small business that does not do good every day, that only does good when there's events. That's how this business survives. Not

City Commission Meeting

everyone here owns a business and knows how to operate one, even though some of us say they do. It takes a lot of sacrifice, a lot. So no, my vote is no.

Commissioner Fernandez. I would have hoped that we would have been able to reach an agreement today. I think even for our staff's planning purposes, it would be best to know exactly where we stand today versus two weeks from now. Unfortunately, I don't think we have the votes to continue this item today and finalize an agreement. I've heard from folks who want to make sure this event takes place, not just here in Coral Gables, but elected officials from other places who say this is the place they come to watch their soccer events. And this is, right now, the only event that's planned in the City of Coral Gables to watch our World Cup. But I'll say I do have some of the concerns as well. July 4th, I think, is a day that's going to be impossible for us to staff. And I think those are things that do need to be worked out because of the commitments we do have with FIFA to ensure that we have the officers that we need to cover the events that we're going to need them for. I just wish we would have been able to get this done today. I'm a no on deferring.

Commissioner Lara: Yeah, so no one thinks that we're going to be doing any kind of business tonight anyway. It's already six o'clock. There's no reason why the applicant or yourself couldn't meet tomorrow with our staff, City Manager, or any of the members of the Commission that can make themselves available if you'd like. But if nothing else, you have office hours that the Mayor's held for over a decade on Friday. So, a deal could be reached very shortly. It doesn't have to wait until the next Commission meeting to receive plan D, I guess, right. So, let's get to it, right. I want to see this game and all the matches celebrated in the city. I want this done in a way that's reasonable with respect to the safety and the welfare of our residents. No one wants to be punitive with a business owner. I'm in full support of a small business owner, right. But this has been done in a way that I think is almost self-defeating. Again, I would love to have seen the applicant not to say one thing against you, because I know you are, as you say, a fully authorized attorney. By the way, while we're at it so, can we agree July 4th is off the table in advance of the negotiations that are ongoing?

Amanda Corcan: I think we can agree. The condition that I proffered was, if we cannot find police, we will not have it on any of those dates, and that includes July 4th, any of the dates.

Commissioner Lara: But what I'm asking is, can we agree right now, July 4th is off the schedule, and we continue to negotiate from there?

Amanda Corcan: I'd like to reserve that if police are available, that we could have it.

Commissioner Lara: But we've already heard from not only the Commission and commentary and the Chief of Police that he's overstretched. So, can we agree July 4th is off the table?

Amanda Corcan: I don't believe so, because I think under the union agreement, they can pull from other sites.

Commissioner Lara: Okay, so I guess there is some more wood to chop here. Again, if we would have received this a week ago, we would have been a week ahead of the game. Again, someone else's delay doesn't become my emergency. So, I'm a yes on deferring, but I'm strongly encouraging the applicant, yourself, and all those who are related to the outcome to come ASAP to the table and let's get it done. Let's get it done.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, I've represented a lot of small business owners for a long period of time. And I understand there was a plan B and a plan C. What wasn't shared, this wasn't shared with the police department and cleared by the police department. So not having that clearance, not having that approval, and not doing that homework ahead of time results in an inability to approve it at this point. So that homework needs to be done. I've had that homework talk with my clients, whether they're importing products and they didn't get the necessary approvals ahead of time from the various agencies that have to do the approvals, or other things such as police coverage. So, the homework needs to be done ahead of time. And that's why I moved to defer this item. Absolutely want to see this be a success, but the homework needs to be done first. So, I'm a yes.

Mayor Lago: I'm available tomorrow. Would you like to meet first thing in the morning?

Amanda Corcan: Yes.

Mayor Lago: You were hired yesterday. The police were unaware of every fine detail. I'm a no on July 4th, firm no on July 4th, giving you the roadmap to success. At the end of the day, I have voted in favor of these events before, but the difference was, which I don't know why my colleagues to the left and to the right fail to recognize it. When we approve these events before for World Cups, you didn't have a World Cup in Miami. I mean, that's a huge deal. That's a huge deal where our police, our police were not traveling to Africa. They were not traveling to the Middle East for the World Cup. They were here because the World Cup was not here. It's real simple. So, at the end of the day, I know that some of us want to help out Fritz and Franz and I get it, but my loyalty is not to Fritz and Franz. My loyalty is to the residents and I'm getting calls from the residents that tell me we want to have this event, but we don't want to have a compromise in regard to our police and fire. So, at the end of the day, I am 100 percent in favor of doing this event, but I will not compromise. For example, you're hearing it from my colleagues. You're hearing it from the police. We have to man; how many people attend 4th of July? How many people? – 6,000, 7,000?

Police Chief Hudak: 30 to 40,000.

Mayor Lago: I'm not even close, okay. 30 to 40,000 here in our backyard, okay. And then you have a game at the same time. I mean, we have a big force, but at the end of the day, it's not that

City Commission Meeting

big, okay. So, we have to be honest with ourselves. We have to be honest with ourselves. And if it's, I'm sorry to say this, at the expense of Fritz and Franz, that we have an additional manpower, even if that's more than two or three more men and women at the Biltmore, I'll take that. Because at the end of the day, you don't know what we could avoid or a circumstance that we can get into that we may be short-staffed. So don't take this personal. I'm more than willing to meet with this gentleman and yourself and all our team through the Manager's leadership, but we have to come to consensus. We're trying to agree on something in this Commission meeting that has not been ratified. I don't feel comfortable having to deal with, for example, what I dealt with on Sunday, where the Chief and the Manager and I had to address it immediately. We do this all the time. So, I know what's going to happen that day. People are going to be calling me. They're going to be calling my colleagues and say, hey, we have issues. It's the World Cup in Miami. It's going to be a party. And I don't have a problem with that party. We do Dia de los Muertos. We do an event for Barranquilla. We do Carnival. We do major events. We welcome those major events where there's thousands of people here, but we have to be very thoughtful, and we have to plan accordingly. So, this deferral is not to hurt your client. Your client has more than enough time to get this done.

Amanda Corcan: Can we meet tomorrow?

Mayor Lago: Told you, I'm the one that proffered it.

Amanda Corcan: Excellent.

Mayor Lago: So, you can deal with Lora and the Manager and the Police Chief and the Fire Chief, and we'll have a sit-down conversation and we'll sit. But I'd like your client to be there, please.

Amanda Corcan: Excellent, thank you.

Mayor Lago: Please, okay. So, I'm a yes on deferral. Thank you very much. I'm looking forward to the event. Thank you.