

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item E-1
November 12, 2019
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

Public Speaker(s)

Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., County Commissioner

Agenda Item E-1 [9:14:12 a.m.]

Personal appearance by County Commissioner Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., discussing the 2020 Census.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We are going to take something out of order here. We have Esteban Bovo, our illustrious leader with us, to talk to us about the Census.

County Commissioner Bovo: Good morning Mayor and good morning members of the Commission. Thank you for this great opportunity and introduction. 2020 sets up perhaps as one of the most important things we as residents, citizens of Miami-Dade County will embark on, that is the Census. Every ten years, as you all know, the United States goes through this process of making sure that we get counted. Its something that goes back to Biblical times, the ability to take a census and know how many folks are in our community. This one is critically important, because if we look at historical data, Miami-Dade County has participated in about 72-74 percent, that means we are leaving 18 percent, perhaps millions of millions of dollars on the table for those that do not participate in the census process. We have started early in the County this year. We have

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created a committee of which I have headed the task force. We have been going out through the entire county speaking about the importance of the census. And clearly if you are interested in transportation, as we all are, notice I didn't say traffic, I said transportation, if we are interested in education, housing. These are the issues that we need to, at least, map out for the next 10 to 20 years, then the census is extremely important. What we are asking and perhaps you have already done it and you've already embarked on it, if you have, we congratulate you, is to create your own committee here in the City to be the voices that get into the community, and be ready and know that the county is ready to support you and help you as much as we possibly can. But we feel that our goal of trying to get into the upper 80's, perhaps even 90 percent participation could bode very, very well for our community, as far as we plan for the next ten years. And lastly, the State of Florida stands to gain two congressional seats which were taken away from the State of New York. Now that may be good or bad, depending on the climate in Washington D.C., but what is critically important is that the millions of dollars that we've been leaving on the table is something that we can no longer afford. Again, we encourage that the town creates its census committee. You are better agents of getting into your community. We have focused on the hard count communities, which is ironically children under the age of 5, for whatever reason some parents leave them off. We've been saying, if you are born on April 1st or before, you count and you need to count; and also, obviously folks in the migrant community. We've been working directly with agents in the migrant community to be able to give them the confidence and the ability to come forward and participate in the census. Reminder – this year the census will be online, although you can still do it long form and you can still do it by telephone. We will be, as a county, setting up different areas where you can use computers, whether its our libraries, working with the public-school systems, even mobile units with computers on it, so folks can make it easier. We want to eliminate as many excuses as possible. So, we would ask you, let's have a drumbeat that only gets louder after the New Year and builds itself to April 1st when is the actual counting, and the census will be here after that to help with the cleanup efforts many of you participated in the past in census efforts. We know how important this is. Mayor thank you for the opportunity.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very, very much for reminding us, it's a very important thing, and we will create a committee. We will create a committee and I'm sure that Commissioner Mena will volunteer to lead the committee.

Commissioner Mena: Absolutely.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: OK.

County Commissioner Bovo: Thank you for volunteering. Anything that we can help you with as far as provide you information, the county has done some substantial work already. We would

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encourage you as part of your process, your census effort, particular to Coral Gables as others. We did it in Hialeah a couple years back, we saw...in Coral Gables, you can brand it on your own, so it gets that flavor and all hands-on deck.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very, very much. Thank you for your presentation and it is very important.

Vice Mayor Lago: Chairman thank you for being here, as always, it's a pleasure to see you again.

County Commissioner Bovo: I love your City, I really do. It reminds me a lot of the one in Hialeah.

Commissioner Keon: Didn't we identify someone from IT that is already in charge of the census?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes.

[End: 9:18:56 a.m.]