

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COORDINATING COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of February 19, 2019**

<b>Members:</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>Commissioners</b>
Lourdes Cuzán	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Israel Reyes	E	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Alma Kadragic	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Comm. Patricia Keon
Claudio Pastor	P	E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Comm. Vince Lago
Volker Anding	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Comm. Michael Mena
Enrique Monasterio	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Peter Iglesias, City Manager
Rafael Gavarrete	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Council-at-Large Appointment

**Country Appointed Liaisons:**

Cartagena, Colombia – Ms. Cuzán  
 Aix-en-Provence, France – Mr. Anding  
 Antigua, Guatemala – Mr. Gavarrete  
 Santa Tecla, El Salvador – Mr. Monasterio  
 Quito, Ecuador – Mr. Reyes

**A = Absent**

**P = Present**

**E = Excused**

**UA = Unexcused Absence**

**Staff in Attendance:**

Beba Luzarraga, Secretary, IACC  
 Jessenia Monge-Fletes, Intern, Mayor’s office

**Guests:**

Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli; City of Coral Gables  
 Pamela Fuertes; Director, Coral Gables Economic Development Department

Chairwoman Lourdes Cuzán called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. A quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Committee members reviewed the minutes of the IACC meeting of January 15, 2019. Mr. Anding made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Mr. Monasterio. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION:**

Ms. Cuzán opened the meeting by greeting Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli, and Pamela Fuertes, Director of Coral Gables Economic Development Department.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE:

Mr. Anding reported that the relationship between Coral Gables IT Department and Aix-en-Provence has been confirmed by each party. Furthermore, Ms. Pamela Fuertes informed the group she received an email from the Mayors' office of Aix-en-Provence, expressing an interest in establishing dialogue which had been discussed during their visit to Coral Gables on November 2017. She advised that the city of Aix-en-Provence welcomes the opportunity for further engagement of all things having to do with Smart Cities. She is also in touch with the French Consulate in Miami regarding efforts to conduct an economic development mission to France in the near future.

LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

No update on La Antigua, Guatemala.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA:

No update on Cartagena, Colombia.

SANTA TECLA, EL SALVADOR:

Mr. Gavarrete confirmed the arrival of the children's playground in Santa Tecla. Mayor Valdés-Fauli reported that Santa Tecla plans to visit the City of Coral Gables in March and we will visit them in April.

QUITO, ECUADOR:

Mr. Reyes informed the group that Pamela Jalil Garcia, Consul General of Ecuador in Miami, met with him on January 23, 2019 requesting historical information regarding the relationship between Quito, Ecuador and Coral Gables. The information was provided.

SEVILLA, SPAIN:

Ms. Cuzán and Dr. Enriquee Monasterio traveled to Sevilla to attend "II Foro Global de Gobiernos Locales Ciudad Sevilla". They had the opportunity to meet and greet Mayor Juan Espadas Cejas as well as various individuals assigned to work with IACC to further establish a strong relationship. Mayor Espadas Cejas stated that they hope to travel to Coral Gables in April or July.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed January 26, 2019 between Sevilla, Spain and Coral Gables, Florida at the Sevilla City Hall. Ms. Cuzán also mentioned that there were many other cities establishing their Sister Cities relationships with Sevilla. Additionally, Ms. Cuzán announced the final step to establish Sevilla, Spain as a Sister City consists on sending all documentation to Sister Cities International in Washington D.C.

Ms. Cuzan reported her meeting with the Rector of the International University of Sevilla regarding joint programs with the University of Miami (UM) and Florida International University (FIU). Additionally, she had discussions regarding tourism programs and Economic Development opportunities.

Mr. Anding asked if Smart Cities was a subject of discussion. Ms. Cuzán reported that while being there, Mayor Espadas Cejas received the correspondence from Mr. Rodulfo of the Coral Gables IT Department addressing Smart Cities and technology.

#### ANNOUCEMENTS:

Ms. Kadragic inquired about the relationship between Sevilla, and Granada. Mayor Valdés-Fauli explained the ongoing effort by Coral Gables to reactivate Granada as a Sister City, yet no response from their administration has been received. She also reported that she had a conversation with Carolina Rendeiro of Sister Cities International regarding Portugal. Ms. Kadragic advised that there are no updates on Aveido, Portugal and San Isidro, Argentina. Additionally, she requested that the committee is given more advance notice when trips are scheduled.

Mr. Anding was grateful to receive the information sent to committee members on behalf of René Negrón of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce.

#### MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Valdés-Fauli encouraged the committee to move forward and consolidate the relationships with our current Sister Cities. The Mayor also gave a brief update on his participation in the elections of El Salvador. He was impressed by the success of the election, adding that it was an “amazing demonstration of democracy”.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beba Luzarraga  
Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council