

[Note for the Record: Agenda Item F-7 was resumed at 3:42:08 p.m.]

City Manager Iglesias: Mr. Mayor we have Jessica Keller that wants to clarify her position concerning the FDOT grant, if you'll allow her a couple of minutes to.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Of course – welcome. Good morning.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Good afternoon, Jessica Keller, Assistant Public Works Director for the City of Coral Gables. Today there were a number of things that were mentioned and I'd like to have the opportunity to speak about this because it impacts my professional integrity and a lot of you had questions about the grant and I wanted to have the opportunity to address those very specific questions. There were things that were said today, you did not get the complete picture of what was going on in this grant. I don't know if you have the opportunity to look at the grant, but I have it here, its online, its publicly available. What you kept hearing over and over again was that under the cloak of darkness I conspired with another resident and generated a letter of support which represented the community support of this particular project. I want to give you the full picture. I won't go through every single question that is on the grant application, but I'm going to start with number 4, which was not brought to your attention in the diagrams earlier today. The question is, have any public awareness activities or community meetings been held, scheduled or planned. The application says yes. Next it says, if yes, please describe. The application answered, this project is part of Commission adopted Coral Gables Bicycle and Pedestrian Masterplan. The plan was presented at public meetings on November 13, 2013. The Traffic Advisory Board on May 20, 2014 and adopted at Commission meeting on June 10, 2014. I was subsequently made aware that there was another meeting. I have to remind you, not all of you are aware, but I was not part of the development of the Pedestrian-Bicycle Masterplan, so I have to rely on information that provided from people that were actually involved in the Pedestrian-Bicycle Masterplan. So those are the public activities, the awareness activities that were listed on the grant that were not brought to your attention today. Number 5, is there public and/or private support for the project? For example, petitions, written endorsements, resolutions, and letters of support. Please describe. What was attached is the Coral Gables Resolution 2014-123, the adoption of the Masterplan. The second thing that was attached to the grant was a letter of support from Bike-Walk Coral Gables. You did not get all of the information today and I need to set the record straight. If you have any questions, I'm happy to answer them.

Commissioner Mena: I'll just say thank you, for what its worth. I will say that my decision was not anyway based upon that part of the discussion.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: I appreciate that.

Commissioner Mena: But I appreciate you coming up here and addressing it. I think it's the right thing to do professionally on your part.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: I appreciate that because what was on record today were things – there were false accusations and that affects any future employment that I may have where

I am investigated and there is something on the record that says I falsified documents, that I have made misrepresentations and I really need to clear that up today.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We have no suspicion, any thought that you did something wrong.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: I appreciate that.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We really don't. People on both sides of the issue, one will say one thing, one will say the other, whatever justifies their position. My decision had nothing at all to do with their allegations and I dedicated, and I don't know how long I spoke, fifteen minutes, I dedicated 30 seconds to that part or less to that part of the meeting. The problem we have with bicycles – this is the perfect illustration of the NIMBY principle, not in my backyard, and everybody is for bicycles, but not in my street, but it has to go on some streets, and you were in a very difficult position and they will make things up to make you look bad and to bolster their position things that are not true.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: I really do appreciate you saying that and I also want to take a moment to thank you Commissioner Keon, because you mentioned that staff was carrying out direction of the Commission and that is really important to me, because as you know, it's a personal issue and it has been largely targeted on me and so, I appreciate you recognizing that. Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much, thank you, and thanks for your good work.

[End: 3:47:22 p.m.]