

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item I-2
December 6, 2016
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Jim Cason
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Vince Lago
Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Commissioner Jeannett Slesnick

City Staff

City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
Assistant City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Craig E. Leen
Deputy City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item I-2 [0:00:00 a.m.]
Discussion and adoption of Civility Code.

Mayor Cason: I-2.

City Attorney Leen: Mr. Mayor, before I start I-2, I just want to say for I-3, that I'm going to be requesting two executive sessions, Robert Murhee, et al., v. City of Coral Gables, case number 2013-020731 CA (01), as well as Starbuck's v. City of Coral Gables, two related cases, 2016-

City Commission Meeting
December 6, 2016
Agenda Item I-2 – Discussion and adoption of Civility Code.

029939 CA (01) and 3D 16-2577. The 3D case is in the Third District Court of Appeal -- pardon me. Yes, the Third District Court of Appeal. Why is it in the --? Forgive me. I may have to revise this case number slightly, because it's supposed to be in the Circuit Court Appellate Division. The other two cases are in the circuit court. So, let me just check with special counsel and I'll update that number. In addition, I-2 is a discussion and adoption of the Civility Code. For that, I would like to ask the Deputy City Attorney to discuss this. I just want you to know that, as parliamentarian, I'm strongly supportive of a Civility Code. I know our City Manager -- she raised this issue. I think it's great. And I know the Mayor -- we met with the Mayor, and he's sponsoring the item, as well. So, with that, Miriam.

Deputy City Attorney Ramos: Hi, again, everyone. So, back quite a while ago, we adopted rules of public participation and decorum, which are incorporated in the Civility Code, as Exhibit A. And those really address situations of City Commission or board meetings. What happened was that during a staff meeting, actually, one of our staff members or department directors told us of a very disturbing experience during a community meeting, which didn't qualify as a board meeting, and certainly, not as a Commission meeting, where they actually feared for their safety. They felt that people got, you know, very upset and they felt, you know -- physically, they felt very uncomfortable, causing them to end the meeting and leave and get into their vehicles. And so, the City Manager asked our officer to please draft a Civility Code that would broaden, you know, when these rules apply, not just during board and Commission meetings. And so, that is what this is. And we added a number two, which talks about remaining seated during a meeting while the individuals are speaking, which the Mayor wanted to address as well. So, if you have any questions, I'm happy to answer them.

Mayor Cason: We love civility.

Vice Mayor Quesada: So move.

Commissioner Lago: It's plain Jane.

Commissioner Slesnick: Second.

Commissioner Lago: Pretty simple.

Mayor Cason: Vice Mayor made the motion, and Commissioner Slesnick second.

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes.

Commissioner Slesnick: Yes.

Mayor Cason: Yes.

(Vote: 4-0)