

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item E-2
May 9, 2017
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Pat Keon
Commissioner Vince Lago
Commissioner Frank Quesada
Commissioner Michael Mena

City Staff

City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
Assistant City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Craig E. Leen
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Assistant Public Works Director, Jessica Keller

Public Speaker(s)

Debra Register
Maria Cruz
Jackson Rip Holmes

Agenda Item E-2 [0:00:00 a.m.]

An Ordinance of the City Commission of the City of Coral Gables, Florida, creating Section 74-5 of the City of Coral Gables Code to lower speed limits to 25 miles per hour on residential local roads maintained by the City of Coral Gables, providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, codification, enforceability, and providing for an effective date.

(Sponsored by Commissioner Lago)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: The next is the ordinance on second reading, Item E-2.

City Attorney Leen: Item E-2 is an ordinance of the City Commission of the City of Coral Gables, Florida, creating Section 74-5 of the City of Coral Gables Code to lower speed limits to 25 miles per hour on residential local roads maintained by the City of Coral Gables, providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, codification, enforceability, and providing for an effective date. This item is sponsored by Commissioner Lago. One note, this would actually place the 25-mile-per-hour speed limit on residential local roads within the City Code, so there could be no doubt that that is the speed limit. But, in terms of enforcement, it's based on placing the signs out that give the notice of the 25 miles per hour. And, I know that we have City staff that's able to speak about this, and this is a public hearing item.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much. And, I would like to...

City Attorney Leen: And, it's sponsored by Commissioner Lago. Forgive me, Commissioner.

Commissioner Lago: Thank you.

City Attorney Leen: I'm sorry, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I received a lot of comments on this. And Commissioner Lago, you're going to have the floor in a minute. But, I would like to call the City Manager to tell us about the enforcement of this provision.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Absolutely. And, if you would -- if we could explain the signage and how we're going to post it. I'll get someone in here to explain the full enforcement. I can do that, but I'd rather have the...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Perfect.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Director Fernandez.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: (INAUDIBLE) do it. Yes, ma'am.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Good morning. I am Jessica Keller. I'm the Assistant Public Works Director for Transportation and Sustainability, and I want to welcome you guys. I came bearing gifts.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: They're clearly under the gift limit, sir.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: How nice.

Commissioner Lago: I have a pin already. I'll take the pencil -- the pen.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Beautiful.

Vice Mayor Keon: I want a pink one.

Commissioner Lago: Can you do me a favor? Can you talk a little bit about this pen, so people can understand at home what's so cool about this pen?

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: It's recycled.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: It's made from recycled material, yes. That's what we handed out to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Lago: It's a hundred percent recycled.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yes.

Commissioner Lago: That's the good part about it. So, it's not even partially -- 70 or 80 percent. This is very interesting and very cool.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: That's correct. Okay, so you would like me to start with how we will be installing the signs?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes, please.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Okay. So, we will be using our contractor that we have on board now. He will be furnishing -- installing the signs, also removing the existing signs. We have 127 existing 30-mile-per-hour signs in the city, and we will be installing 500 signs. We'll be starting at the north end of the city and heading south. As we complete each street, we will be notifying the Police Department, who will know when they can begin enforcing 25-mile-per-hour on that street. It's pretty simple.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: And, then in terms of enforcement, I have Director Fernandez who can answer those questions.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I'm sorry, we have how many now?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: We have 127.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And, we're going to install how many?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Five hundred.

Commissioner Lago: Can I ask you...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Is that not -- is that -- I'm very concerned and I live on a street where there's a proliferation of signs. Is that not going to be visual pollution from 120 to 500?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: its 537, to be clear.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thirty-seven? Tell me about it. I mean, are the streets not going to be filled with signs? Do we need that many?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Well, clearly...

Commissioner Quesada: I'm sorry, let me just clarify something. It's 537 additional signs or just replacement of existing signs?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Well, replacement -- including the replacement. There will be 537 30-mile -- 25-mile-per-hour signs.

Commissioner Quesada: How many of those signs will be new additional signs?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Four hundred...

Commissioner Quesada: Oh, it's just the replacement.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: No, no, no. Four hundred and some will be new.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: its 537 total signs. We have 127 today.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: There will be 410 additional signs.

Commissioner Lago: Well, if I may, Mayor. I agree with you a hundred percent, and this is something that I brought up to Jessica and the Manager. And, I said why don't we take the opportunity, since we're getting rid of all of these signs -- maybe not getting rid -- replacing. Why don't we spend a little bit of money and do a study, which can talk about the visual -- reducing visual pollutions, which is one of the notes that I wanted to do. Because, we had a meeting with a gentleman -- and I think the City Manager was in the meeting -- no, it was -- you and I were in the meeting, right?

Historic Preservation Officer Spain: I was in the meeting.

Commissioner Lago: I'm sorry, Dona Spain was in the meeting, I apologize. It was about two weeks ago. And he is a resident, and he put together a pretty interesting PowerPoint presentation that talks about some signs that really don't make any sense. You know, no parking left or right and then you have, five feet away, another no parking left or right signs. To me, it's like, why do you need all these signs? No dumping, but there isn't a place to dump. And, signs that probably were put up 25 years ago or 30 years ago that don't really serve any purpose, like the ducks crossing, which I know is a favorite one of Dona. But, I don't see any ducks crossing near the Granada Golf Course, but it's still there.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: (INAUDIBLE)

Commissioner Lago: Yeah, now its peafowl, but we'll talk about that later. So, to me, I think this is a great opportunity to do things the right way. I think that we need to look at all the signs that we have in the City and see if we can reduce the signage. For example, my favorite of them all -- Dona loves the ducks. I love, on San Amaro, the one -- the signs that educate you that there's a roundabout coming and how you need to conduct yourself on that roundabout.

Commissioner Quesada: Alright, well, hold on...

Commissioner Lago: There's two options.

Commissioner Quesada: But hold on, hold on.

Commissioner Lago: Hold on. You lost power today, okay, so -- alright.

Commissioner Quesada: But, you've already exceeded your word limit for the day.

Commissioner Lago: Listen, the Vice Mayor -- today's a big day, okay, for all of us, okay. The Vice Mayor and the Mayor could tell me to be quiet, but you can't, alright. We're back on the same -- even playing field, alright. All jokes aside, my favorite sign of all is how to conduct yourself on a roundabout. There's two options in a roundabout. You make a right and you go around the roundabout, like a civilized human being, or you go right through the roundabout and you smash into the tree that's in the middle of the roundabout. Why do I need 20 signs telling me to yield, telling me to make a right, then make another right, then make a left, then make a left, then make -- do you understand what I'm saying? So, I want to understand what are the County and state requirements, and how is there a possibility that we can minimize the amount of signage that we're going to put. Because, I've seen other cities that they basically state when you drive into the city, there's a big sign that says "All neighborhood traffic, 25 miles an hour" or 30 miles an hour. I think -- are we the first city to have 25 miles an hour?

Unidentified Speaker: No.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Not in Florida, no.

Commissioner Lago: No, no, in Dade County.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: In Dade County?

Commissioner Lago: In all neighborhoods.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: We are the first to have 25 miles per hour officially.

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Why do you need 410 more signs than what we already have?

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: So...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Do you want to say something about that?

City Attorney Leen: Okay, I think I should...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: That's a lot of signs.

City Attorney Leen: I should say something. I want to be perfectly clear that Jessica Keller does not want that amount of signs. She came to my office and we proposed, similar to other cities in other parts of the country, that we have signs at the borders of the city, the residential area, saying its 25 miles per hour within this area. And in fact, that's one reason why we're actually putting it into the Code, so that it is a law. In my opinion, I think we could do that. The issue that we've had is Miami-Dade County doesn't agree. They've told us that in order to proceed, we have to do -- we have to basically have a sign plan approved by them.

Commissioner Lago: But Craig...

City Attorney Leen: This is what they're approving.

Commissioner Lago: Craig, but let me...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Why 410 additional signs (INAUDIBLE)...

City Attorney Leen: Because -- well, the issue from Dade County's perspective is that there is a general law, which says that its 30 miles per hour where there's not an otherwise posted speed limit. So, because that's the current law, you don't need to post a sign. If there's no sign, it's 30 miles per hour. So, now that we're changing it to 25, according to Dade County, we now need to post a 25 mile per hour sign.

Commissioner Quesada: Is this a County -- part of the County Charter or County regulation?

City Attorney Leen: It's a County regulation. I know that -- I can see Peter Iglesias wanting to speak.

Commissioner Lago: Yes, but this...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: These are local streets.

Commissioner Lago: This is why I want Peter to stand up, our Assistant City Manager to give us -- because we're working on right now -- we hope that next month we'll have an understanding between the County and the City of Coral Gables, which will allow us a lot more autonomy from the County. Can you give a little bit of what we've been working on for the past year?

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Yes. We -- the issue of the 25 miles per hour is that if we don't provide proper signage, then the Police Department will not be able to provide ticketing. The signage that the County's looking at is by the Federal Highway Administration, so that you have

-- so that the drivers are actually aware that there is a 25 mile per hour speed limit. If not, the statutory speed limit is 30 miles per hour. And, that's why we have a significant -- more 30 mile per hour signs than we do -- than it would be more for 25 miles per hour, because the statutory limit would be 30 if there's no signage in the urban core. And so, once you go to 25 miles per hour, then the County's looking at the Federal Highway Administration's standard, which is what they apply. They apply that for -- not only for signs, but for the determination on whether there should be stop signs, signalizations, and so forth.

Vice Mayor Keon: It is a problem in that -- like Granada would remain 30 miles an hour, because it's a collector, whereas the streets -- the neighborhood streets that cross Granada would be the neighborhood streets where it would be 25 miles an hour. So, if somebody makes a right or a left turn off of Granada, they now have to go 25 miles an hour, as opposed to 30 miles an hour. I wish there were -- or I think there has to be a better plan than putting a 25 mile per hour sign on every street corner in the city. I mean, we -- I'm not -- I don't know what that -- I don't know what the idea is, but we need to figure out with the County a better way to do that.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: We're working with our consultant and the County to look at -- to minimize that. But, the 25 mile per hour speed limit only applies to local streets. It does not apply to collectors or arterials. Coral Way stays at the current speed limit. Granada is a collector. It stays at the current speed limit.

Vice Mayor Keon: University?

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: So, -- University -- all those that are collectors and are considered collectors and arterials by the...

Vice Mayor Keon: Segovia, Ponce.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: County. So, that's exactly correct. You make a right turn, you think -- you're at 30, statutory rate. Or, you have a tourist or you have somebody from up north (INAUDIBLE)...

City Attorney Leen: And, the other issue is that most of the time when a city is lowering the speed limit in a particular area, they post the sign, so it's different than 30. There is a state law -- we're doing something that's somewhat unique. There's a state law that allows the city, in an area, to establish a lower speed limit -- 25 miles per hour here. We're allowed to do that by state law, and we've adopted a Code provision that makes that the law in the local areas. The issue I think that Dade County is having is that they haven't really dealt with this issue before. The position we're taking is, no, now the general speed limit in our residential area is 25 miles per hour, by law, and we're going to post signs on the outside of the city saying that, so people are aware. We have not been able, at this point, to convince the County of that position.

Commissioner Lago: Peter, let me ask you a question. Don't we have a little bit more autonomy once we have that agreement with the County that we're in the process...?

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: We're looking for the interlocal agreement, but it will be for issues such as minor alignments, circles and things like this. Now, any major traffic issue, stop signs, signalizations, and so forth, would still be...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Speed bumps.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Well, we're looking at speed bumps in that interlocal agreement, so we're working on an interlocal agreement to maximize what we can do internally with their review instead of their complete approval process.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah, but explain something to me. Today, we have 127 signs...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: One hundred and twenty-seven 30-mile-per-hour signs...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Right, right.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: On residential streets.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: What if we replace them? Would that give notice to the people that the speed limit has been lowered to 25?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: I'm sorry?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Would replacing the 127 signs where they are give notice to the drivers that the speed limit is now 25?

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: The issue, Mayor, is that when there's no sign, the speed limit is 30.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Right, but we have 127 signs already.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Correct, but the County does not feel that is sufficient notice for the entire city.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: And, one thing I wanted to add is...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Wait, wait. Who says that in the County and how do they know? If you put the 25 mile an hour at the beginning of each street and at the end of the -- at the other beginning would that not be enough? How -- do they want them every ten feet or every fifteen feet?

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: We are working...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: That's stupid.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: They're looking by the Federal Highway Administration standards. There's a manual called Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, which controls all of the devices throughout the United States. The reason that you go to Georgia and you still see the same signs is because that controls the signage for the entire United States and it makes it consistent.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And, we're talking about our little residential streets...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: It controls everything.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I mean, we have streets like, I don't know, Corsica and whatever, which is one-block long. How many signs do we need there, for example?

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: I think we can work with our consultants to try to -- and I agree with you. We need to minimize signs.

Commissioner Quesada: But, hold on a second. You said something that's inconsistent, because you just told us that the amount of signs were -- I heard from the City Attorney was the number of signs is controlled by County regulation. Now, you're telling me it's controlled by federal regulation, so which one is it?

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: No. That's what they use. They use...

Commissioner Quesada: So, hold on a second. So, the County regulation, all it says is we're going to use whatever the federal regulation is. Is that what it is?

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: They normally use the Federal Highway Administration...

Commissioner Quesada: They normally use or they do?

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: They do use the Federal Highway Administration warrants. In other words, what warrants a stop sign, what warrants signalization?

City Attorney Leen: There's an underlying legal issue, though.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Those are national standards.

City Attorney Leen: The legal issue for the County is that they are -- that applies if the general speed limit is 30 miles per hour and we're reducing it -- we're making it different. Our position is that the general rule in Coral Gables is that it's 25 miles per hour, so that we don't have to post the sign. There's a legal difference. The County Attorney's Office is taking the position that the speed limit in our municipality and local roads is still 30 miles per hour, notwithstanding our Code provision. They're relying on a state law. And, they're saying -- and what I've raised with them is, well, there's another state law that says we can lower the speed limit in our local area to 25 miles per hour, so now you don't need to post a sign. It is 25 miles per hour. If there is no sign, it's 25 miles per hour. And, the only thing we would need to do is give notice along the border of the city, similar to other cities in the country that do this. But, we have not been able to convince the County of that. So, if we go forward and put 127 signs up that say 25 miles per hour, we do it at our own risk. There's a chance that if we enforce that it's possible that when it goes to traffic court, they will not agree with our position or that the County will not agree with our position and we'll be at odds with the County.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: And all...

City Attorney Leen: By the way, we could do that. We could do that, but we're doing it at our own risk then. We have to understand that.

Commissioner Lago: So, how do other cities do it? And, getting back to the Mayor's point, how do other cities do it in reference to a traffic circle. We have like 15 signs on a traffic circle. When I go see, for example, other municipalities, they don't have it.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: When you go into other municipalities, they're taking on the risk.

Commissioner Lago: Okay, taking on the risk. I like to take the risk, because...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Commissioner Lago: If you live in my neighborhood -- I'm being honest with you -- if you live in my neighborhood, it's an atrocity what you have to deal with every single day. The signs are always being knocked down. You know, again, it's an issue...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: They're ugly.

Commissioner Lago: You can't even walk...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We're proud of our...

Commissioner Lago: Yeah.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Trees and our whatever, and then you have all of those, you know, huge, yellow pedestrian crossing signs every ten feet, you know, pointing towards a very well-striped crossing. They're ugly. Look at Coral Way. Coral Way is full of signs.

Commissioner Lago: So, why don't...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Every ten feet, there's a sign.

Commissioner Lago: Why don't we do this? Why don't we, like I mentioned in the beginning, why don't we try to see if we can find a consultant who can -- staff can start working with to see how we can eliminate as many signs as possible that really don't serve a purpose and then provide us with some guidance over the next six months...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: There are certain signs that exist in the city, because residents have asked for them. If I had to -- if I was a person who gambled, I would say that the 127 signs that I'm talking about were requested by residents and they're installed. Because, like the City Attorney mentioned, it's 30 miles per hour, so we don't necessarily need the signs to enforce, but those are requested. We often get requests from residents the "Slow Down - There Are Children Playing," those sorts of signs, "Duck Crossing." They are generated by residents. So, there are a number of signs that exist in the city that we could take down. There are other signs in the city that we are required to install if we follow the guidance of the County.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

Vice Mayor Keon: You could start by taking down all the "No Dumping" signs along Edgewater Drive. There's no place to dump.

Commissioner Quesada: Hey, let's do this. Let's do this. I'm assuming -- I think we're all in support of the second reading of the item.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Absolutely.

Commissioner Quesada: Obviously, what's holding us up is the propriety of how many signs there need to be. So, what I'm going to suggest is -- I'm going to make a motion -- you know, I'm going to move for this dais to approve the item on the agenda with the like-kind exchange for signs. So, if it's 127, we'll change the 127. Let's get the ball rolling. Let's get it moving in that regard, okay. Prior to the next Commission meeting, I want the City Attorney's Office to get back to us -- I want you to give us a legal memorandum to all of us -- and I like this now, because there's three attorneys up here -- telling us -- I need more clarity of the law, because right now it's a little difficult for me to ascertain what is required and what is not required.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And, also -- I agree with you, and thanks for that suggestion. But also, you know, we pass this today after hearing the comments from the people that want to speak...

Commissioner Quesada: Oh, I'm sorry.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: But, we pass this today and -- you know, depending on the comments, and then we appoint one of us and maybe it can be, you know, Commissioner Quesada and Commissioner Lago. Or I'll be very happy to join that group and then maybe -- two of us -- and meet with the County and staff and County Commissioners to discuss this. And you know, Coral Gables is a special city. So, but we have two -- are you finished? Are you...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yeah.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Pete.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: If I may say one thing. Our Parking Director is currently looking at all signs that are not useful and removing them, so we are trying to do that right now. Whatever sign was there for 30 years that does not apply, those are...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Err on the side of removal.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Yes. Those are being removed.

Commissioner Quesada: And...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: And we plan...

Commissioner Quesada: On consolidation.

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Quesada: Why can't we have a bigger sign with everything in there?

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Quesada: That could be an option as well.

Commissioner Lago: Please.

Commissioner Quesada: Again, also, in the legal memorandum that I would like to see from the City Attorney's Office, legally whether that is allowed or not.

City Attorney Leen: Sure, certainly.

Unidentified Speaker: Yes.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: And, we certainly want to work with our consultant to minimize those signs, I think...

City Attorney Leen: In terms of...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Five hundred and thirty signs are a lot of signs. We're working with the City Attorney and our consultant to see if we can minimize that number of signs.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright, well...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Let me also say that we're working much more closely with Dade County now. I think we've got a lot more cooperation. We were able to get Commissioner Lago's 25 miles per hour, which that was, I think, quite an achievement. We're working with our interlocal agreement now to have more say and less scrutiny, so I think we have a lot better cooperation with the County now than we had a couple of years ago.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

City Attorney Leen: Mr. Mayor, in terms of designating a Commissioner, I would recommend you designate one, because if it's two, we'll have to publicly notice the meetings with the County.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I would love to take that role, and I have several things to discuss with the County. And, I'd love to take that role, if it's okay with all of you.

Commissioner Lago: It's perfectly fine.

Commissioner Quesada: I'd like to nominate Commissioner Mena to be a part of that, as well.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: No, you can't do it.

City Attorney Leen: Well, it's just that we'll have to publicly notice the meetings with the County, if we have both of them.

Commissioner Quesada: Oh.

City Attorney Leen: That's the issue.

Commissioner Quesada: I'm just trying to get him working.

City Attorney Leen: I will make sure to keep each of you updated individually, and I will get your input individually.

Commissioner Mena: I just want to make one point about Commissioner Quesada's suggestion, though, which is I think we need to have an understanding of the legal on this, because my concern is if you do what you suggested and we roll out the 127 or so new signs...

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Replace 127.

Commissioner Mena: Replace.

Commissioner Quesada: Replace.

Commissioner Mena: Excuse me, you replace the 127 signs, but then you get a legal opinion that says 25 miles is not enforceable unless you have 4 or 500 signs, then all we've done is just passed an ordinance and replaced 127 signs and we can't enforce it.

Commissioner Quesada: Yeah, but that's why...

Commissioner Mena: That's my concern.

Commissioner Quesada: That's why I was asking and I didn't have a chance to finish my thoughts. But, what I wanted to do was I want to get that legal opinion. They'll get it to us within the next week. And, then the next Commission meeting, we'll finalize whether we need to have additional signs or not. If we are not required to have any additional signs, then it's already moving. Because, a lot of things -- a lot of times what happens is, you know, when we pass something or we don't because we're waiting for one item and it takes...

Commissioner Lago: Forever.

Commissioner Quesada: Forever to roll out.

Commissioner Lago: Mayor...

Commissioner Quesada: I just want to get the ball rolling already.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Commissioner Lago: And I...

Commissioner Quesada: By the time they start ordering signs and start moving in the process, you know, nothing's going to happen in the next two weeks.

Commissioner Mena: Right. I just want to be careful of the expense...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Commissioner Mena: Of moving forward with ordering the signs until we have an answer on that. I'm not saying we shouldn't approve it today. I think we should.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And, I'll take the suggestion maybe Commissioner Mena should be the one that leads this effort, not me, so here you go.

City Attorney Leen: Mr. Mayor.

Commissioner Lago: Enjoy the Stephen P. Clark building. You can park across the street in the parking garage. Just one last thing, and I think we've killed this discussion and we're getting into the weeds here. I just want a friendly amendment to Commissioner Quesada's comments. And, that is I want a study done. I want to have it in my hands, like we did with the Tree Succession Plan. We know exactly where everything is, every single tree, what's missing, what are we replacing, what are we doing, how are we making sure that we protect our canopy. Commissioner Keon has been the leader -- Vice Mayor Keon has been the leader in regards to that issue. I want to know every single sign in the city, and I think it's time that we hire somebody to get this done appropriately, so that we can see, like, for example, what Commissioner Quesada mentioned. We don't need four signs on the corner of Granada and Bird Road right on the waterway telling us, you know, no parking left or right. Literally, it's one sign every ten feet. I mean, what are the chances you're going to park in between those signs. You know, it's ridiculous.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And look at Coral Way.

Commissioner Lago: It's ridiculous. So, let's -- I really want to do that, if you could -- I think it's beneficial for the city, and I think it'll allow us to embark on something that'll reduce visual pollution.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We have a motion, and we will listen to the people that want to speak in the meantime. But, we have a motion to approve this ordinance on second reading, Ordinance 165583, and also an instruction to the City Manager to conduct this survey. But first, let's hear from Debra Register, who wants to speak.

Commissioner Quesada: Yeah, and Mr. Mayor, just to be clear, I'm going to table my motion until the public comments...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Commissioner Quesada: Are concluded.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: No, the motion was made, you know, subject to comments, yeah. Yes, ma'am.

Debra Register: Hi. My name Debra Register, and I live at 1240 Placetas Avenue. Thank you, Mayor, thank you, Commission, for letting me speak. Listening to you talk has changed some of my opinions, okay, but I still think that by lowering the speed limit, unless you have the police to enforce, we're spending money ahead ourselves. As I've talked to a group of policemen in many places, at the polls, outside the Commission meeting now, they said you're putting a Band-Aid on something before you rectify the police and help them enforce. I know years ago when I worked in Downtown Coral Gables and I traveled Ponce, I knew I'd better have a 30 mile per hour on my car, because one day there's going to be a policeman there, going to and from. That is our most important thing right now, as opposed to lowering the speed limit. Also, the police had said that you will (INAUDIBLE) for people who are traveling to and from and visiting that might not come from a main road that you said you're going to put a warning sign on that might go down one of our residential. If you're only going to have 127, then they could be ticketed

and not be aware. So, there's -- this matter is more complex, and I think you all need to not vote on it, because you need to rectify the items that you've discussed today.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much.

Ms. Register: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: The next -- Maria Cruz, to speak on speed limit enforcement. Ms. Cruz. Welcome. Speed limit enforcement.

Maria Cruz: Maria Cruz, 1447 Miller Road. And, I wasn't involved in this at the beginning, but you know what, it makes a lot of sense. I think it's time for us to put a speed limit. Let me tell you, if you sit around where I live, if you see San Amaro and you see how fast those cars are going, we're lucky that nobody has gotten killed there, very lucky. But, I also would like to say when -- just tagging along what she said, we do have a police chief. Maybe we need to hear from the Police Chief what we need to do to have the proper enforcement. He should have been here to discuss that.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We already talk -- heard from --, but I don't think at this time -- we would like to have the survey that we discussed. We'd like to pass this, and then for the next meeting, which is appropriate, we will talk about enforcement and we will talk about these issues, yes.

Ms. Cruz: And, I hope when we get to enforcement, we ask the Police Chief, because I believe traffic should be under the police. Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay. Thank you very much, ma'am. The next and last requested speaker is Jackson Rip Holmes. Three minutes.

Jackson Rip Holmes: Thank you. Jackson Rip Holmes, 35 Sidonia Avenue, Coral Gables. The only reason I'm taking up your time -- as many of you know, I'm an Uber driver, and I used to be a taxi driver -- if you can believe this -- 25 full-time years, out on the road. So, I've been ticketed. I see the traffic -- I have some familiarity with the subject matter, and I have a proposal for the negotiations that you undertake with the County. Temporary signs. I get a ticket last week in Surfside. It really annoyed me right. And, I think that notice to drivers is important, but it doesn't have to be eternal. Once we get the word out -- I'm going to just float an idea. You may not like it, but I'm just going to float it just as an idea. Temporarily, we do the 400 signs, but let's say six months, then we reduce it to 200, then back to 127, in an appropriate time. So, it's like telling the world -- if you remember the old merger of Exxon and Mobil, they spent like a couple billion dollars on a campaign saying we're changing our name, but not our stripes. And, they did this huge advertising campaign just to announce that Exxon and Mobil were merging, so this is like a temporary thing. Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you, sir. Alright, there's a motion on the table made by Commissioner Lago...

City Attorney Leen: No, I think it was tabled, right?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Pardon?

Vice Mayor Keon: Oh, can I...

Commissioner Quesada: It's back on.

Vice Mayor Keon: Ask one question, though? Jessica, of the 137 signs that exist now, are those signs all on neighborhood streets, or are they also on the collectors and everything else? They're on neighborhood streets?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Those 127 signs are on the streets that would be converted to 25 miles per hour. There are more signs that are on the other streets, but those -- we inventoried only the ones on local residential streets.

Vice Mayor Keon: On local residential streets.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yes.

Vice Mayor Keon: Okay. You would only have to -- like in the gated communities, you would only have to post one sign at the entrance to the gated community?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Correct.

Vice Mayor Keon: Okay, so it's the other -- it's the open communities.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Most of the signs are on the north...

Vice Mayor Keon: Around here, the North Gables.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yes.

Vice Mayor Keon: Okay, thank you.

Commissioner Lago: I just want to make sure, Mayor, if I may, just so people understand at home. This is not the end-all, be-all. This is just one piece of our toolbox. There's multi-facets here. Number one, we're having a traffic master plan study that we're hopefully going to complete pretty soon in the next few months, and we're going to be rolling that out to all the residents and the community, so they can make sure and give some input. We already had two public meetings in regards to that. We have the interlocal that we're working on with the

County. And once we have that, we'll be able to address these issues and these upgrades a lot quicker, not having to wait for the County's approval on every single issue. And, the third and most important issue, which I've been asking about for a few months now and I hope to see this materialize as soon as possible, because the residents keep asking me -- it is the retired police officers that we're going to have coming out and enforcing the speed limit and really giving citations between certain hours in the morning and certain hours in the afternoon. And, I think that's critical. I don't know if Mr. Fernandez wants to come and speak about that or if anyone else wants to speak about that, but...

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Did you want to give an update on...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Why don't we talk about enforcement at the next meeting?

Commissioner Lago: Okay, that's fine.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Commissioner Lago...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I think that's best.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: You said something very important. Any one of these things alone is not going to solve our problem.

Commissioner Lago: Yeah.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: You have to have all three. You have to have the enforcement. You have to lower the speed limit because we want...

Commissioner Lago: We have to change the culture.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: People to travel more slowly. And, we have to change our roadway design, and that's where that interagency agreement comes in. So, all three of those together is what makes our streets more livable.

Commissioner Lago: We're taking a big step here, so I think it's important.

City Attorney Leen: And Mr. Mayor, just...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: It'll be very interesting to hear Director Fernandez's presentation next time on our technology and the cameras and the speed limits and whatever as part of this enforcement, signs that -- I think it'll be very, very interesting, because this is crucial. But, let's get this passed today and we'll talk about enforcement when we have more information. Commissioner Lago, you want to...

City Attorney Leen: Just as parliamentarian, so there's been a motion. I know you're appointing one member...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes.

City Attorney Leen: To be your designee, and then in addition, you've asked me to prepare a legal memo for next time. I do want to note that by passing this ordinance today, you still reserve the ability to look at signs because Section 8 indicates that the City is going to work to reduce signs with the County. I did want to note -- and I know the ACM/Building Official wanted to note this as well -- that we ultimately, even if we have a strong legal position, will need to either convince the County or get into some dispute resolution with the County, because if the County Attorney does not agree with us, the County courts may not enforce.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Commissioner Lago: Craig and you also forgot my friendly amendment, which was requiring that the City hire a consultant...

City Attorney Leen: Yes, I'm sorry.

Commissioner Lago: To really do a complete review of the City's signage. I want to see a complete review, just like what we did with the Tree Succession Plan.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright, is there a second?

Vice Mayor Keon: So second it. Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay, we will call the roll, please.

Commissioner Mena: Yes.

Commissioner Quesada: Yes.

Vice Mayor Keon: Yes.

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes.

(Vote: 5-0)

Vice Mayor Keon: Can I ask -- one reconsideration is to -- and it's not that I don't want Commissioner Mena to do this, but Commissioner Lago has established a long-time relationship with the County and these people in working on this issue. And for continuity, I don't know if you would prefer that he would...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Maybe it would be better to have Commissioner...

Vice Mayor Keon: Continue to do that, if he would want to.

Commissioner Lago: Whatever you want.

Commissioner Mena: I have no issue with that. If Vince has been, you know...

Vice Mayor Keon: Yeah.

Commissioner Mena: Running point on that issue...

Vice Mayor Keon: I just think with continuity for...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah. That's right. And if...

Vice Mayor Keon: The learning curve -- you may...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Commissioner Lago wants to take it on, they approve it.

Vice Mayor Keon: Do you want to? Will you continue that?

Commissioner Lago: Of course. I'd love to. I'd love to.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Commissioner Lago: We're working on a -- we just broke ground today, and this is a big deal.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Very good suggestion.

Commissioner Lago: We're the first city to get this done.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Very good suggestion.

Commissioner Mena: Can I say one more thing on this...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes, sir.

Commissioner Mena: Issue that wasn't mentioned? I know we're going to talk about enforcement at another time, and I think that's important because, you're right. We have to do that as well, and nobody's saying that this is the end-all, to Vince's point. But, I also think it's not just a speed limit enforcement issue. It's a safety issue, and I think...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Of course.

Commissioner Mena: We talked about that in the past, which is there are people who do drive the speed limit. And, when there are traffic incidents involving those people, the statistics show that at a reduced speed, the injuries or the fatalities that result are less.

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Mena: So, I think that's an important point to make. It's not just enforcing the speed limit against those who aren't abiding by it. It's the safety that results when there's collisions involving people who do abide by it.

Commissioner Lago: Yeah, and what -- we brought that up last time, and I'm happy you mentioned it right now. When you lower the speed limit from 30 to 25 percent (sic), it's a 70 percent -- 74 percent reduction in fatalities. Again, a lot of people love, especially during election season, and I know we're -- give me one second, and I want to make this point, because it's close to your point, okay. A lot of people during election season talk about overdevelopment, overdevelopment, overdevelopment in the city is, you know is crazy. Guys,

it's not overdevelopment. It's the lack of leadership at the county level that hasn't done a significant job or even any job -- I'll be honest with you -- and I met with Chairman Bovo two weeks ago and I told him -- I was very clear. I said, listen, people in the City of Coral Gables are tired of the invasion to the neighborhoods. This is getting out of control. We have over 700,000 cars that drive through the City of Coral Gables, but we only have 49, 50,000 residents. So, what's going on? You have a mix of ways. You have a lack of leadership over the last 30 years in regards to our traffic master plan and construction of any true rail or mass transit. And the final issue, the third point is that you have an incredible amount of people that moved into this community from South and Central America, from other countries, and we haven't planned accordingly. And, we are in the epicenter. We are located in an area where everybody has to traverse us, either to get to the airport, either to get to, you know, the south point of this community. So, we haven't planned in 30 years. The easy point, the easy answer is development. Guys, this is not development. It's that we need to take the necessary measures to really address these issues. And, to Commissioner Mena's point is this is about public safety, because they're not going to erect, you know, a holistic approach or a transportation answer, or they're not going to expand the Metrorail for years to come. They're talking about the SMART Plan now, and I hope and I ask everyone to, you know, become a little bit more versed in regards to what is the SMART Plan, and to openly lobby their County Commissioners because, by the way, our hands are tied. So, what are we trying to achieve today? We're trying to make the streets safer and slow traffic down and to enforce the laws.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. The motion was made. The ordinance, on second reading, passed.