

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

**Minutes of the Meeting of September 18, 2018**

<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	E	P	P	P	P	P	E	X	X	X	Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Israel Reyes	E	E	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	X	X	X	Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Alma Kadragic	P	P	E	E	-	P	P	P	E	X	X	X	Comm. Patricia Keon
Claudio Pastor	P	P	P	P	-	E	P	P	E	X	X	X	Comm. Vince Lago
Volker Anding	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	X	X	X	Comm. Michael Mena
Enrique Monasterio	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	-	P	X	X	X	Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark, City Manager
Rafael Gavarrete	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	X	X	X	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

**Guests:**

Steven Edelstein, Edelstein Law Firm; former member of IACC  
 Rene Negron, AXA Advisors; representative of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Anding called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. A quorum was present. Ms.Cuzan, Ms. Kadragic and Mr. Pastor were excused.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Reyes made a motion to approve the minutes of the IACC meeting of August 21, 2018 and Mr. Monasterio seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION:**

Mr. Anding, Vice Chairman, opened the meeting and welcomed Mr. Steven Edelstein, Edelstein Law Firm and a former member of the International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC) and Mr. Rene Negron, AXA Advisors and representative of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce International Committee.

#### AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE:

Mr. Anding reported his outreach on behalf of the Mayor to establish contact with Aix-En-Provence's technology experts regarding the "Smart City" initiatives for the City of Coral Gables. They have provided a name of the Director and contact information which will be shared with Leticia Perez in our Economic Development department for her to share with the Rodolfo Raimundo, Director of the IT department. Direct contact should be established between them. A copy of the email interchange with Mr. Anding, which contains all the information, will be attached to the minutes.

#### LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

Mr. Gavarrete had no updates on his efforts to assist La Antigua, Guatemala in obtaining hospital equipment. No feedback from Baptist.

#### CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA:

Due to Ms. Cuzan's excused absence there was no report on Cartagena, Colombia.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Reyes followed up on the need for liaisons for the two countries without leaders and agreed to be the liaison to Quito, Ecuador which has been brought back to active status. Additionally Mr. Monasterio agreed to be the liaison to Santa Tecla, El Salvador. New assignments are reflected in the "country appointed liaison" section of these minutes.

Mr. Reyes requested a letter from the Mayor to introduce him as the country liaison from Coral Gables to be able to re-establish the relationship.

The efforts of considering San Isidro, Argentina to be added as a sister city, are paused at the moment. Also paused are considerations for relationships with Turkey, Italy & Aveiro, Portugal.

The committee requested that Carolina Rendeiro be invited to the next meeting to present a national level update of the IACC efforts.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Mr. Edelstein, former member of IACC was welcomed and gave a history and update of the Coral Gables International Affairs Foundation of which he is the President and Carolina Rendeiro is the Treasurer. It is a registered 501(c) (3) and was established while Jim Cason was the Mayor of Coral Gables. He explained the legalities, and the initial approved levels of contributions. There are no longer set levels and the foundation can receive any amount of donations. It started with \$45,000.00 and the current amount is \$11,000. The foundation has contributed to several efforts associated with sister cities and he gave brief descriptions of efforts they have undertaken in the past. Mr. Edelstein requested a meeting with Mayor Valdés-Fauli to discuss new fundraising activities.

A proposal was made regarding the possibility of using funds from the Foundation for the shipment of the container with children playground equipment to Santa Tecla, El Salvador. Mr. Gavarrete is overseeing the effort and estimates they will need about \$3,000. Motion was made by Mr. Monasterio and seconded by Mr. Reyes. All in favor, the motion was approved.

Mr. Negrón was appointed by the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce to be the liaison to the Sister Cities program. He is an AXA Advisor and chairs the Chamber's Global Business Affairs Committee. He reported that there are three projects that are to be considered as a link to our committee. All of them will require participation from our members and some will require contributions from the City of Coral Gables: 1) Flags on Ponce is known to the committee and there is an installation agreement with the City. There are several levels of contributions for the country flags; 2) Sister Cities Committee which currently does not have much interaction other than Carolina Rendeiro's participation. They would like to increase the engagement from other members. The Chamber is considering the establishment of an "international membership". No final determination on this issue yet and remains a work in progress; 3) Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce Goals conference. They would like to invite and have participation from the Consular Corps and expand their role in the Chamber to create a strategic partnership. Mr. Anding and Mr. Negrón encouraged members to participate in the Coral Gables Chamber Committees to continue to develop a stronger relationship with them.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Invitation for the next meeting will be extended to: Pamela Fuertes the new Director for Coral Gables Economic Development Department; Carolina Rendeiro, former member of the committee and current member of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce; Leticia Perez, Coral Gables Economic Development Department and Beatriz Rangel who will present background review of exchanges with Quito, Ecuador.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 16, 2018 at 8:30 am.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 9:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beba Luzarraga  
Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council