

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item L – Discussion Items
February 14, 2023
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Michael Mena

Commissioner Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Jim Cason

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suarez

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item L [2:42 p.m.]

Discussion Items

Mayor Lago: Starting with Commissioner Anderson, do we have any further comments?

Commissioner Anderson: Just a reminder, February 16th, 4:30 p.m., bring your puppy.

Mayor Lago: Okay. Perfect. Mayor.

Commissioner Cason: None.

Mayor Lago: Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Mena: No sir.

Mayor Lago: Thank you very much.

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City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor before you finish, just really quick. Wanted to give the Commission an update on early voting. Since the weekend prior to the election is Easter weekend, the recommendation would be to do early voting the weekend before that, which will be the weekend of April 1st and April 2nd. We can also open early voting the Saturday before Easter Sunday. So we can do an extra day, more than what we normally would do.

Mayor Lago: Okay.

City Clerk Urquia: Keep in mind that based on the number of candidates we have, we have to plan for a Run-off Election, as well, so we would have early voting the weekend before Run-off Election as well.

Vice Mayor Mena: If you do it for one, you have to do it.

City Clerk Urquia: Well we don't have to.

Vice Mayor Mena: No, no, I understand.

Mayor Lago: What is the will of the Commission?

Vice Mayor Mena: You could on the second go around do the full weekend right before.

City Clerk Urquia: Yes, I can, because there's no holidays around that weekend.

Commissioner Menendez: I'm of the opinion, because at least from religious, one is Easter Sunday, the other one is Palm Sunday and if you have to chose between the two, I personally think Palm Sunday is the more least problematic, in terms of families lives and their faith. I guess I'm more comfortable doing it Palm Sunday.

Vice Mayor Mena: I would do that whole weekend and I would also do the Saturday as Billy mentioned.

Commissioner Cason: I agree.

Commissioner Anderson: I agree as well.

City Clerk Urquia: Okay. So just to be clear, we are going to do Saturday, April 1st, Sunday, April 2nd, and Saturday, April 8th. If there is a Run-off Election, we would do the 22nd and the 23rd of April.

Vice Mayor Mena: Agreed.

City Clerk Urquia: Thank you.

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Mayor Lago: Works perfectly for us. No comments. Well, I'd like to again thank staff, thank everybody for their hard work. I thank the Manager, City Clerk, City Attorney, my colleagues, its been a long meeting. I hope everybody enjoys their lunch. Thank you. And today was a beautiful display of democracy in action where everybody can come and speak at the Commission and everyone can enjoy and receive an answer, as long as its done in a very respectful manner. We can always get to the bottom of an issue, and everyone comes to an understanding that the City of Coral Gables, in my opinion and the opinion of many always does things in the best interest of their residents and the business community. So thank you for allowing us the privilege to serve you. God bless. Have a nice day.