

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting  
Agenda Item E-1  
December 10, 2019  
City Commission Chambers  
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

**City Commission**

**Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli  
Vice Mayor Vince Lago  
Commissioner Pat Keon  
Commissioner Michael Mena  
Commissioner Jorge Fors**

**City Staff**

**City Manager, Peter Iglesias  
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos  
City Clerk, Billy Urquia**

**Public Speaker(s)**

**Nick DiDonato, Coral Grand LLC**

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Agenda Item E-1 [9:50:56 a.m.]

Personal appearance by Nick DiDonato from Coral Grand LLC, the tenant of the Coral Gables Country Club.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We have a time certain, time certain at 9:51 (a.m.), sorry, appearance by Nick DiDonato from Coral Grand LLC. Nick. I apologize, but I don't think it would have been productive for you to be here.

Mr. DiDonato: Actually, this was quite interesting and productive to watch the process and hopefully you'll move forward with it, and it will work out well for you. But thank you for allowing me to be here today and making this presentation. It's always a privilege to be in Coral Gables, it's a beautiful City and be able to see the due process going on here in this Chamber, and also to see the beautiful City, because I come from a place that's very cold in Toronto, so its always great to be here. I'm here to report on the Coral Gables Country Club and our progress. We have now come to about our tenth year, coming close to ten years when we first took over the property; and I'd like to say that things are moving along very well. The relationship with the City and with the

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community has been a great privilege to be able to be here and be able to work with them. The Country Club has become a focal point of the community. The Liberty Café has become a focal point of the community where people continually visit and enjoy the atmosphere. The Coral Gables Athletic Club is also becoming one of the hubs of the community. So really, I think the Coral Gables Country Club continues to be the center of focus of the neighborhood and is being utilized for the initial purpose of what it was and will continue to be done in that way. I do want to mention a couple of things that we are continually reinvesting into the property to ensure we maintain such a wonderful historic site and we upgrade and stay with the time. So, this year we've invested close to a million dollars in infrastructure renewal and redevelopment. We've upgraded the gym, we've upgraded the air conditioning system and continue to maintain the property. In terms of our financial viability and stability, we continue to be profitable. We are doing extremely well. Our numbers had slipped just a little bit, ten percent last year due to some circumstances, mainly I believe with respect to hurricanes and the fear of hurricanes where we lost a month of business with respect to bookings at that time. But I think people will settle in and our bookings for next year are very strong and we will be back on target by next year. So overall, we are happy to continue to support the community. We are happy to be here doing business in Coral Gables, a very progressive City and a very beautiful City. So, things are going extremely well, and we will continue to maintain such a prolific property, such an important property for the City of Coral Gables and we'll do our best to make you proud and make the City proud of what we do.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you Mr. DiDonato. I have a suggestion. Look at the windows in front of the right of the main entrance on the North Greenway side. The wood is...

Mr. DiDonato: We will look at that and maintain it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: The ones on the other side are perfect.

Mr. DiDonato: We'll take a look at the wood. We are not allowed to change them because they are heritage windows, so we've looked at that and our initial discussions we wanted to change those windows, but the heritage would not allow that, so we have to maintain them. Fortunately, they are not perfect, but they are original wood windows and we will continue to restore and maintain. So, we'll look at that right away.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Mr. DiDonato: Thank you so much. Nice to see you.

[End: 9:54:48 a.m.]

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