

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-3
September 13, 2022
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Michael Mena

Commissioner Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Jorge Fors

Commissioner Kirk Menendez (On Zoom)

City Staff

City Attorney, Miriam Ramos

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Development Services Director, Suramy Cabrera

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-3 [11:10 a.m.]

Discussion regarding modern residential design approvals in Coral Gables.
(Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

Mayor Lago: Moving onto G-3, a discussion regarding modern residential design approvals in Coral Gables that I sponsored. This is a very simple, simple, it shouldn't take more than a minute. I want to show you some photos that my staff had put together in regard to projects, two projects in particular that were approved before that I want to bring to your attention, which I think are outside, in my opinion, the aesthetic approvals on what should be approved here in the City of Coral Gables, and I know that this won't happen again. This is one; this is one that I think is a little bit falls out of what I believe is in the character of the city. That is not as blatant, but the other one that I'm going to share right now is pretty blatant. That is on 57th Avenue. That doesn't look anything like Coral Gables, and that was administratively approved a few years ago, and its being finished now. This is in our city. Look at it adjacent to the property. We have to make a decision here and the decision is very simple. Either we become like Coconut Grove, some people love Coconut Grove, some people don't, some people are in the middle, or we do everything in our

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power to ensure we protect our aesthetic. I just wanted to bring these two properties to your attention. One of them is not as blatant.

Vice Mayor Mena: I agree with you.

Mayor Lago: Its not as flagrant. It's not as flagrant.

Vice Mayor Mena: But the other one is – how did this get passed?

City Manager Iglesias: That passed during Covid, that it was administratively approved by the City Architect during Covid for residential only.

Vice Mayor Mena: There's like 85 things that are not according to code there.

City Manager Iglesias: I think that hopefully if we do have anything like that again, we will not go as far as residential approvals administratively anymore.

Commissioner Anderson: We can see what happens.

Mayor Lago: Again, this is way before our current City Architect, obviously, our director, but this is something that in my opinion again is just outside the lines in regard to the city. Madam Director.

Development Services Director Cabrera: So single-family homes are not approved administratively, this was only during the Covid Emergency Order.

City Manager Iglesias: Let's hope we don't have that again, but if we do, we will limit the approvals to additions and things like that and not...

Vice Mayor Mena: New construction.

City Manager Iglesias: Yes.

Mayor Lago: Thank you.