

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item J-1
October 10, 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
City Attorney, Craig E. Leen
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item J-1 [12:40:00 p.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Coral Gables, Florida declaring Principles of Inclusion for all individuals with disabilities and urging action by national, state, and local governments, businesses and residential communities consistent with these Principles.

(Sponsored by Vice Mayor Keon)

City Attorney Leen: So, item J-1 is a resolution of the City Commission of the City of Coral Gables, Florida declaring Principles of Inclusion. The City is declaring October to be American with Disabilities Month in Coral Gables. This is something the City has been doing now on several occasions both for autism in the month of April and now for disabilities generally in the month of October. Sponsored by Vice Mayor Keon. It's a wonderful thing the City is doing. I just wanted to thank the City Manager, our ADA Coordinator Raquel Elejabarrieta, and also Erica Kaufkin, Carolina Vester, Fred Couceyro, we have a number of individuals who are really going above and beyond to try to go above the requirements of law and incorporate and accommodate individuals with disabilities and everything we do. I think it is wonderful. I have to

tell you, I hear so many, as you know I'm part of the disabilities community with my daughter who has very severe autism, she goes to Crystal Academy, and I talk to a lot of families and parents and they love what Coral Gables is doing, so I think the Commission and the City Manager for that, and thank you Vice Mayor for continuing to sponsor this.

Vice Mayor Keon: I get a lot of comments from people, whose children are disabled or whose children are now grown and have said how much they wished that these programs had been in place and available, or that they knew that they could have been available to their children when their children were young. Each and every one of us we have children and grandchildren and we know how important it is for those children to have a friend and to be able to participate with other kids in activities and feel like they are included and they are valued, you know the efforts, particularly of our Recreation Department and their outreach is just wonderful. They really deserve all of our thanks for what they have done to make life just a little bit better for children.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Commissioner Lago: Mayor if I make one quick point along with this. Craig and I were recently invited and I invite you all to attend the Disability Independent Group event, which is happening on Monday, October 23rd at California Pizza Kitchen. It's going to be a great event. The gentleman who...to us, I always forget his name,

City Attorney Leen: Blake Sando.

Commissioner Lago: Blake, my appointment as a matter of fact.

City Attorney Leen: He's on the Disability Affairs.

Commissioner Lago: He's my appointment; he's a great individual who has really done a lot in reference to Disability Affairs. So he's inviting us October 23rd, on Monday, California Pizza Kitchen at 6:30 (p.m.) to 8:30 (p.m.). It's a very welcoming environment, people of all abilities are invited to attend and you know diversity is the norm and encouraged.

Vice Mayor Keon: Our Chamber has been working with the different restaurants in the City to talk to them about making accommodation for persons with disabilities and for families that have a child that is maybe affected by excessive noise, or excessive light, or whatever in a restaurant, that they can go out as a family and go to dinner or whatever. A number of the restaurants are working through the Chamber to make an area available in their restaurants where it is maybe a quieter place or whatever. California Pizza is one in particular that has worked with them to have a place within the restaurant that is much easier for them. We want to thank the Chamber, it has

really been a real citywide effort, the Chamber has been wonderful too in working with us on this.

Commissioner Lago: So this event at 6:30 (p.m.) on October 23rd is going to be a dinner, and everyone is welcome. Like I mentioned before, it's about inclusion and they want to make that perfect setting for people with disabilities. If you are interested call Debbie at 305-669-2822 to register.

City Attorney Leen: And Mr. Mayor, I also should thank Stephanie Throckmorton, who used to work at Disability Florida, she's our Assistant City Attorney, she writes many of these resolutions and has been very active, along with Raquel in making sure that we are top notch in this area. So it's a resolution.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: OK.

Commissioner Lago: So moved.

Commissioner Quesada: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you call the roll please.

Commissioner Quesada: Yes

Vice Mayor Keon: Yes

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Commissioner Mena: Yes

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

[End: 12:44:48 p.m.]