

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item C
September 28, 2021
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

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Attorney, Miriam Ramos

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Maria Cruz

Lauren Kahn

Agenda Item C [Start: 9:18 a.m.]

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Lago: Public Comments, Mr. Clerk, before we move on to the Mayor's Comments.

City Clerk Urquia: Yes, sir. The first speaker here this morning is Ms. Maria Cruz.

Mayor Lago: Ms. Cruz, the floor is yours.

Maria Cruz: It is probably going to be a surprise. Maria Cruz, 1447 Miller Road. I believe to give credit where credit is due, and I am here today, that it is a wonderful day in the City of Coral Gables and thanks to you all for staying the course. Thank you.

Mayor Lago and City Commission: Thank you, Ms. Cruz.

City Clerk Urquia: The next speaker is Ms. Lauren Kahn.

Mayor Lago: Ms. Kahn, good morning, the floor is yours.

Lauren Kahn: Good Morning Mayor Lago, Vice Mayor Mena, Commissioners, Lauren Kahn with offices at 600 Brickell Avenue. I am here on behalf of Agave Plaza Trustee, LLC. I want to speak as to Item I-2, I believe you all received the correspondence from our offices last night requesting a deferral on that item. I just wanted to add a few... also Mr. Clerk, could you confirm that that will be made part of the record.

City Clerk Urquia: Yes, ma'am.

Ms. Kahn: Thank you, I appreciate it. The proposed budget amendment came as a surprise to our client, and there is no doubt that our client's interests are adversely affected by this proposed budget amendment. Additionally, the city's interests we believe are adversely affected, it leaves a gaping hole in the city's Art in Public Places Program. I had relied on Resolution No. 2020-199 which allocated certain funds towards public art. Our client has worked towards procuring that public art and has spent significant funds. The public art was intended to be put around and, in the Plaza, Coral Gables Project and it was intended, I believe the Mayor and some of the Commissioners have wanted to put Coral Gables on the map as a place known for its public art. We feel it is appropriate to defer item I-2 to afford an opportunity for our clients to meet with City Staff and personnel to see if we could come up with a solution that addresses both the public safety interests and the public art interests of the city. Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Thank you, very much. I appreciate you being here. Mr. Clerk?

City Clerk Urquia: That's it, Mr. Mayor.

City Commission Meeting

September 28, 2021

Agenda Item C – Public Comments

[Date]

Mayor Lago: Okay, then we will close the Public Comments. You know, I want to... before we close the Public Comments and move on to the Mayor's Comments, I want to remind the residents and the business community the purpose of the Public Comments is one hour. I want to make sure that it is open for everyone to join us. You can say whatever you like, if you are unable to make the item because it is time certain, or for one reason or the other you can't make the meeting you can join us on Zoom, it is opened to the public. So, please take advantage of the Public Comments, it is yours, it belongs to the community and it's open for one hour for as long as the Commission deems appropriate in regard to the amount of people that are interested in speaking on that day. So, when I get two people, and I am happy that two people are here, that is great, but I want to see more people come in and take advantage of the Public Comment because that is the reason that we legislated that portion onto the agenda.