

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item C-1
March 20, 2018
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, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item C-1 [9:20:58 a.m.]
Mayor's Comments

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And now we have my comments. My comments are going to be very brief today. I went to, I think it was two Sundays or three Sundays ago to the Miracle Mile Kiwanis Festival and it was a resounding success. Miracle Mile looked beautiful; there were thousands of people there. I spent all of Sunday afternoon there; and the exhibitors, we didn't have any people selling tombs or whatever has happened in other festivals. It was a very, very nice festival and a great use Miracle Mile was beautiful, really beautiful, and we didn't have any problems with the destruction of anything, the landscaping. It was a fantastic festival and I hope that they repeat it and I think it was very, very, very appropriate that we return that to Miracle Mile, because it was a resounding success and made Coral Gables look a wonderful City it is. I also have a report on the World Happiness Summit, which took place last week here. The opening ceremony was at Venetian Pool and it was a beautiful day, the Venetian Pool was beautiful. I met very many interesting people. In spite of their name, the World Happiness Summit, it was a very serious summit with ministers of economics from various countries, professors of sociology,

psychology, economics, political science, etc., from various universities – Penn, Harvard, Michigan, etc.; and the next day, Friday, the event took place at the University of Miami at the Shalala Center. It was a resounding success and again, made us look very much like the City we are, a happy City and a happy university, the University of Miami. That's my report.

Vice Mayor Keon: Can I just add one thing with the Festival on the Mile. I know in the past, there had been concerns raised by merchants, because nobody goes to the Mile or whatever. This time it was interesting, particularly with the restaurants they said because of the redesign of the Mile and the width of the sidewalks, it left that area open and people were really able to walk along the storefronts, and that the restaurants did particularly well that day and it brought the festival sort of closer to each other, so there was much more sort of closeness between the actual festival and allowed people to still use the Mile, so they were very happy with it. There were concerns raised about it, but this year they said because of the redesign and the width of the sidewalks and the curb less sidewalks and everything else, it really made for a good venue for everyone.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I'm glad that you got those comments because the sidewalks were – there were a lot of people there, but there were tables outside, the people were enjoying the restaurants, etc., and then the big traffic was in the center lane; the center lanes were the booths were. It was a wonderful festival.

[End: 9:24:16 a.m.]