

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting**  
**Agenda Item G-5**  
**March 23, 2021**  
**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**  
**Police Chief, Ed Hudak**

**Public Speaker(s)**

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Agenda Item G-5 [Start: 12:57 p.m.]

A discussion regarding mask enforcement  
(Sponsored by Commissioner Keon)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: G-5, Commissioner Keon.

Commissioner Keon: Is Miriam there? – yes. Miriam, I understand that the county has, we instituted their mask.

City Attorney Ramos: Yes. Upon initial receipt of the Governor’s last order, the county temporarily suspended, but then the next day almost, they reversed that course. So, they are continuing to enforce. The Chief can tell you what we are doing to enforce. What ends up happening with the fines and collection of fines is yet to be seen, give the Governor’s two latest orders.

*City Commission Meeting*  
*March 23, 2021*

Commissioner Keon: Well, what the Governor does, the Governor is going to do, but I think for the health and safety and the well being of our community, you need to continue to enforce the mask wearing and if you give fines, you give them, if they get dismissed, they get dismissed. There is nothing we can do about that, but I think we still need to until, like Chief de la Rosa said, until we get to a point where it levels off, we need to enforce the wearing of masks and fine people. Some people will pay it, some I'm sure will not do anything and they'll wait and deal with it as they please, but I think that we need to – I'd like to see us continue to enforce masks. So, is that just the policy of the city, because it comes under the county or is there something that we need to do?

City Attorney Ramos: So, no, there is a mask order still in place, a county mask order, which we can enforce, and we have continued to enforce, is my understanding.

Chief Hudak: We have. Commissioner, for the last six months, we've had both self-initiated and calls, but mostly self-initiated we've had 683 calls for service that had to do with mask wearing. Of those 70 were unfounded or we couldn't find anything. I'm sorry there is no report written which means compliance or 62 citations and over 1,600 verbal warnings. In other words, we spoke to them, which is the option we give to the officers and they usually comply with them. A lot of the calls that we get downtown is on Giralda, as soon as people sit down and they start to eat, they take them off. So, it really appears that a lot of people are, but if they are putting them on going to the bathroom, if we see that we do intercede with the restaurant owners to make sure that their waiters are driving the point. If you are sitting that's one thing. If you get up to go to the bathroom you have to put it on. So, we are doing a lot of proactive work when we see it. We did have a mask detail, and we continue to watch that downtown.

Commissioner Keon: I just notice it, I notice it on Giralda, but I really notice it people walking through Giralda. Once you are seated at the table you can take your mask off.

Chief Hudak: Correct.

Commissioner Keon: I notice it with people like walking through Giralda that are maybe looking at the artwork that's there or they are just walking through to look at Giralda, and I also notice it a lot on the Mile, of people with no mask.

Chief Hudak: Yes. The latest tactic, if you will, when an office, and we've had this a couple of times, you need to put your mask on, usually its around their throat. They come back with, I have a pre-existing condition, and then the conversation ends. We can't ask...

Commissioner Keon: I know. I know.

*City Commission Meeting  
March 23, 2021*

Chief Hudak: We've talked with the City Attorney and once somebody says that, I have a medical condition, its all bets are off. And we have and we continue to work with the orders from you all, as well as the City Attorney and the county orders as well. So, we are cognizant of staying on top of it as well.

Commissioner Keon: So maybe in E-NEWS or whatever, we can just continue to make it known that there is a mask order in place.

Chief Hudak: Yes. We do have our signage out. We can change those boards around, other than the see something say something, mask ordinance is still in law or still in place, and we'll make sure we get that done.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you.

Chief Hudak: You're welcome.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you Chief.