

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item D – Mayor’s Comments
September 22, 2020
Virtual Meeting
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Michael Mena

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item D [9:32 a.m.]
Mayor’s Comments

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Mayor’s remarks – Today, I would like to use the passing of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, to pay tribute to this amazing trailblazer and thank her for fighting gender discrimination. Just think of the things that we can be grateful she did. The right of women to sign a mortgage without a male, the right to have a bank account, for women to have a bank account without having a male co-sign. The right to be pregnant, have kids, and work; and she fought, not only for the women left behind, but for the men who were discriminated as well. So, in the name of my wife, Francia, my daughter Mariana, my stepdaughter Daniella, my daughters-in-law, seven granddaughters, and all of the women of Coral Gables, I thank her. I’m sure that Commissioner Keon, who throughout the years has probably experienced some of these issues and girl-dads, Vice Mayor Lago, Commissioners Mena and Fors, join me as well in thanking her for her pursuit of equality in items such as access, equal pay and benefits. We can certainly ascertain that she truly made a difference. These past few days I’ve read many articles regarding her legacy and like may of you have seen many of the “Notorious RBG” quotes. Regardless of what side of the aisle you sit on, I believe they are relevant to this Commission and our City. One of the items that was of great interest and Circuit Court was how she was committed to civility and respecting the opinions of others regardless. If they are a different point of view as her close

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relationship and friendship with Justice Antonine Scalia attested to. A quote that struck me is, when a thoughtless or unkind word is spoken best to note, reacting in anger or annoyance will not advance one's civility to persuade. Civility, ladies and gentlemen, respecting the opinions of others. For the next six months that I have the privilege to lead this body, and I hope well into my future, the aspiration is that we all heed her sage advice and ensure that we respect one another's opinions. To be more civil, reach consensus as we move to achieve great things for our city. I aspire to remember that quote and I urge my fellow Commissioners and the public, as they address today and, in the future, to do likewise. Thank you very much. Thank you very much.