City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting Agenda Item D-1 September 8, 2015 City Commission Chambers 405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Jim Cason Commissioner Pat Keon Commissioner Vince Lago Vice Mayor Frank Quesada Commissioner Jeannett Slesnick

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)

Fausto Gomez, Gomez Barker Associates, Inc.

Agenda Item D-1 [Start: 9:22:42 a.m.]

Legislative Report by Fausto Gomez of Gomez Barker Associates, Inc.

Mayor Cason: I'd like to ask Fausto Gomez if you'd come up and give us a Legislative Report.

Mr. Gomez: Good morning Mr. Mayor, Mr. Vice Mayor, Commissioners, it's always a pleasure to appear before you. I have had the opportunity to be meeting with the Manager and Naomi in the Manager's office, who is in charge of inter-governmental affairs and certainly with the attorney as well. And what we'd like to do today, with your permission Mr. Mayor, is basically briefly recap the last Legislative Session, but more importantly talk about what we have in plan for this forthcoming Legislative Session. And let me just quote the Palm Beach Post, talking about the last Legislative Session. It says that Legislators are going around the state on an "excuse me tour"; excuse me for the dysfunction, excuse me for not getting things done, excuse me for going back to Tallahassee every month for session, and ultimately very little getting done

for the taxpayers for the State of Florida. So even though I'm not a legislator, I work up there representing you and so therefore I'll take part in that "excuse me tour." Let me just say this, the 2015 Legislative Session was probably one of the most dysfunctional that I have seen in my 35 years of being in Tallahassee. Very little got done. There was dysfunction with regards to the budget; there was dysfunction with regards to policy. The session essentially ended in discord between the Chambers and that discord has continued to the fact that they were not able to reach an accommodation on the reapportion of Congressional Districts, and now we are going into another Special Session in October to reapportion the Senate Districts, and so therefore if you can't reapportion the Congressional Districts which none of the members are in Congress and certainly in Tallahassee, you can imagine the dispute about redistricting the Senate Districts when you have 40 members whose political futures and certainly those House Members that want to run for the Senate is being discussed. In the midst of this dysfunction, which is really the only word to describe it, I think Coral Gables did rather well. And let me just highlight some of the things that Coral Gables was able to accomplish this last Legislative Session. Not only did we get the budget language, again allowing us to pay ourselves back from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Trust Fund, which averages \$100 to \$150,000 a year. In the Historic Preservation arena we secured \$350,000 for the Merrick House renovation and we secured funding of, slight funding for the Police and Fire Station, educational materials at \$3,500. In Cultural Affairs, because I know that you all have a tremendous interest in organizations that are in Coral Gables or serve Coral Gables, funding was achieved for the Coral Gables Museum, Actor's Playhouse, Alhambra Music, Coral Gables Cinematec, Gables Stage, and Coral Gables Congregational Church. Now, let me just say the things that were vetoed by the Governor. He vetoed the Miracle Mile and Giralda Avenue drainage \$200,000; he vetoed what rehabilitation at \$80,000; he vetoed the environmental sustainability design education program, which he funded last year, which was funded by the Legislature last year, he approved last year at \$100,000 and certainly he vetoed the Underline, which we all had an interest in at \$2 million. And these accomplishments let me thank certainly Senator Margolis and Senator Diaz La Portilla, as well as Representative Fresen and Representative Rodriguez for fighting for Coral Gables. They are our delegation and they fight for us and we need to thank them. The vetoes, frankly, are just part of a pattern that over 80 percent of all projects coming to Miami-Dade County were vetoed by the Governor, over 80 percent of all projects. The vetoes total \$461

million and the key infrastructure projects, which were water, the only two projects survived in Miami-Dade County, of a whole list of projects, only two survived. And if you ask folks in Tallahassee or if you ask the Governor's office why did those two projects survive in...cities, nobody can tell you. And so therefore, you see the issue now being exacerbated between the Senate, in particular in the Governor's office because of the vetoes. On the policy area there were some significant wins for us. Silver Houses finally are going to be regulated by the State of Florida, those are the alcohol and drug rehabilitation homes that are covered under the federal ADA and can plop down in a residential neighborhood without cities and the state having any jurisdiction over them. Finally, that's been taken care of and those are going to be regulated. And I don't think we have a Silver House in Coral Gables, but certainly our surrounding municipalities like South Miami and West Miami and others have been facing this and I'm glad we haven't had it here. In the pension, and I heard a little discussion about the pension, although we have a local pension plan and because we were created by the Legislator prior to 1927, based on an amendment, we are exempt from much of the regulations with regards to pensions. However, the mortality tables for local pensions were changed, so therefore we now need to have the mortality table that the state uses, which probably ups the cost of pensions. Recording by law enforcement officers with regards to the cameras are now exempt from public records under three categories, and in a session like this probably a lot more is what harm was evaded than what passed. The prohibition red light cameras was defeated. The Communication Services Tax which at a rate of 3.9 percent, which the City received significant dollars today from the Communication Services Tax that was essentially now only the portion that the state receives was waived, not the portions received by the City. Similar for the Sales Tax on commercial leases, which the City receives a portion. Utility relocation – rather significant issue. Basically, that means that the utilities wish for local governments to pay for the relocation of their facilities within municipalities and have the municipality pay for those relocations. That is a significant, significant, significant issue that's coming back this Legislative Session again. And obviously, transportation, the Metropolitan Planning Organization issue, which again will be back this Legislative Session, which is of key interest to Coral Gables. So based on what happened last year and what we anticipate this year, and I'll be back in Tallahassee September 16th to begin legislative committee meetings for the first time, and Session begins January 12th, which has been upped from the typical March start date to January. What the Manager and Naomi and the

Attorney and I discussed were a couple of items for next legislative year, which I think would be of interest, obviously we'd like to hear what your interests are. Number one is, maintain the language for the repayment of those dollars which is crucial for us, and I think I'll probably retire and not be around when the City of Coral Gables finally repays itself for the expenditures that were used for the Police and Fire Department. Second, the MPO issue, rather significant – and if I can take a moment to explain this. Last Legislative Session there was a proposal advanced even though he claims not, it was advanced by the Mayor of Miami Beach specifically, OK, to redo the Metropolitan Planning Organization and as you know the Metropolitan Planning Organization is the organization locally that allocates funding and does transportation planning for all of Miami-Dade County. And the proposal to redo it would up the standard for participation from 50,000 residents to 60,000 residents, so you are moving the ball. In addition to that, the 13 County Commissioners currently serve on the MPO and now you would have a handful of County Commissioners serving on the MPO who are designated by the proposal, and then you'll eliminate the School Board, you eliminate Miami Expressway Authority, you eliminate other entities. That proposal would have essentially that Coral Gables would not have a seat on the MPO and we are at the cusp, at the cusp of 50,000 residents and being able to get a seat on the MPO. So this proposal would have passed at 60,000, the only cities that could serve or would serve on the MPO would be Homestead, City of Miami, City of Miami Beach, City of Miami Gardens, and City of Hialeah, and actually the City of North Miami that currently serves on the MPO because its 56 or 54,000 residents, would be eliminated from the MPO. That's a significant issue because the MPO controls the recommendations for policy and funding for transportation of this community, and certainly transportation is a significant issue for Coral Gables because we are in the heart of Miami-Dade County and we get east-west traffic, back and forth during the mornings and during the afternoons. That's a significant issue for us that will continue. Obviously, the red light camera issue, which obviously there is a proposal now to go back after the Communication Services Tax and eliminate the local portion which is the funding that we receive and that is a significant, that would be a significant financial hit to every municipality. I don't recall Madam Manager how much we get.

Mayor Cason: \$4 million or something like that, in that ballpark.

Mr. Gomez: In that ballpark. So that's a significant, significant, significant hit to Coral Gables.

Certainly there is a proposal again to eliminate the local business tax and that's again, a financial

burden on Coral Gables. We are also going to be going back for the two water projects that were

vetoed. As most municipalities are going to go back at the request of the Senate, in particular and

saying, we want to fund these things again, and we want to put them in front of the Governor's

office, again. The Underline would be a significant issue; we have now filed an application for

Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program, two applications at \$200,000 apiece. The

FRDAP list was funded this past year for small projects from A to Z, the big projects, which big

is relative \$200,000, was not funded, but we'll see what we can do. And then obviously, the

series of policy issues like the alarm issue and the trespassing issues and things of that nature, we

will address those again. And with that Mr. Mayor and obviously, Vice Mayor Quesada, I know

that you always have a view, as well as your colleagues always have a tremendous interest about

the organizations in Coral Gables, and obviously we'll keep an eye out for them just like we did

this last year and you saw the funding that was received, because I know that every time I come

up here, I always talk about, let's talk about the organization so I wanted to make that point.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Well thank you so much. There is another one that we had discussed prior

to the beginning of this session, which was texting and driving.

Mr. Gomez: Yes.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Any discussions related to that? I think you had told me there was a first

Bill on the...

Mr. Gomez: Texting and driving – there were actually four Bills filed. Interestingly, they have

the support...

Vice Mayor Quesada: Let's be clear, we want to prevent texting and driving.

Mr. Gomez: Of course, they have the full support of the communication service providers from

AT&T to Verizon and everybody else, and they just seem not to be able to get out of committee.

Vice Mayor Quesada: What does that mean? So that means they are just having trouble tailoring

it properly?

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Mr. Gomez: No, it really means the philosophical underpaintings of the Legislature with regards

to perhaps more libertarian approach, and so that's the problem that texting and driving has had.

Similar to the problems that we had with the Silver Houses that finally we were able to break

through after seven years of trying on the Silver House issue, we are finally able to break

through. But the texting and driving, in particular, you have tremendous support for us. You have

League of Cities, Association of Counties, the Association of Telecommunication Providers, so

the guys who basically – you know you have your contract with AT&T or Verizon or whatever,

they are in favor of eliminating texting and driving and making it a primary offense...

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes, because right now it's a secondary offense. What that means to the

police officer – if a police officer sees you texting and driving they can't stop you and give you a

citation, only if you were speeding or you weren't wearing a seat belt or if you were committing

some other offense at the same time, right?

Mr. Gomez: That is correct.

City Attorney Leen: Can I add something Mr. Vice Mayor? The Commission had asked for an

opinion on this a year ago, and we gave an opinion to you and to the Police Department. I

worked with Izzy Reyes on it, former Judge Reyes, and what it said was, a person who commits

texting while driving if they are not looking at the road or doing something demonstratively

negligent they could still be pulled over for careless driving. That was the opinion we gave and I

think we asked the Police Department, I think you asked the Police Department to enforce the

careless driving statute to the fullest extent of the law and to use it where they could. Where

someone was texting while driving in a way that was always careless, but where they could point

to something other than the texting, which demonstrated the carelessness, such as not looking at

the road. And then of course, you also asked and Fausto it should be added to our Legislative

Agenda, because they did ask and I recall as part of the resolution that it become a primary

offense.

Mayor Cason: Craig, we've been attempting to get the, I'm not sure if it's the County, to take a

look at the census from 2010 to take an intermediate census or some other way to show that we

have more than 50,000, so that we can get – is there anything in the legislature can help us on

that, or is that...

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City Attorney Leen: What we've done is, we've contacted the Census Bureau and I have some

forms that we have to fill out to determine an estimate for what the cost would be for an inter-

decennial census. What we are being told by Miami-Dade County is that the statute, it would be

helpful if the statue was amended to reference an inter-decennial census, as opposed to just the

decennial census.

Mr. Gomez: That's correct. And now obviously, the City of Doral believes its over 50,000

population, so what I'll be doing is I'll be coordinating with the City of Doral so they can take

the lead in trying to change the decennial to inter-decennial census in statute, and so therefore it

benefits them as well, it benefits them more than us, because we are at the cusp, they believe that

they are over the 50,000.

Mayor Cason: What was the motivation, in your opinion, for Miami Beach to up the number to

60,000?- who are they trying to exclude from participating?

Commissioner Lago: They are trying to exclude us.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I think the goal really because there has been a lot of conversation about

this and I spoke to Commissioner Sosa about this, I want to say Raquel Regalado as well, and

Commissioner Suarez from the City of Miami. I think the idea is they have so many people on

that Board, they feel like it's not as effective as it could be, because there are so many people, so

they want to limit it a little bit more, but then they create their own – in my opinion they create

their own problems because City of Miami has two representatives on that Board, which is

unfortunate.

Commissioner Lago: In my opinion, Vice Mayor, I think they are also running into other issues.

For example, the Chairman of that Board of the MPO is always the Chairman of the Commission

and the County. They want to basically put this City in a situation, they may not be doing it

intentionally, but that's the direction we are headed in. If you cut in half the amount of

Commissioners from the County that are on that Board, the City of Coral Gables could be in a

position where we don't have any representation, neither at the County level or at the local level,

and that puts us in a very precarious situation, because as we all know, because we speak to the

residents on a daily basis, the Mayor did a study which shows that there are over 190 entrances

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to the City of Coral Gables, so we are basically surrounded by a multitude of cities and all those

individuals who use our City as a cut-through. Again, there is nothing we can do about that,

we've been very candid with the residents. We can just try to enforce and try to be as safe as

possible, but without a seat at the MPO, we don't have a stake, and I think that it is essential that

we do everything in our power, I think we are headed in the right direction to make sure that we

are able to sit at that table.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I think in the meantime, before we get there, before we actually get a seat,

if we are able to get a seat is, I think we need to do a better job of working with our

representatives, I mean its Commissioner Sosa and its Commissioner Suarez. I think we need to

be more vocal with them. I know we are vocal with them, but we really need to be aggressive

with them just so that they are thinking about us when they are at those meetings.

Commissioner Lago: Just to give you an idea, I'm meeting with Commissioner Sosa, I think it's

either tomorrow or Thursday, and I'll be attending the next MPO meeting, just as a guest, just

sitting in the audience, and I want to start doing it on a regular basis, and I welcome any of my

colleagues to just start getting involved in the MPO. I have yet to attend a meeting, this would be

my first, but I think it's a good opportunity to become a little more versed and show that Coral

Gables is interested in becoming involved. We are not just talking about potentially being

involved. I have two quick points that I want to get your opinion on. And first off, Fausto, as

always you do an incredible job representing the City and protecting us, especially when it

comes to those major pension issues that we have. Number one, the Underline; it's an important

project for all of us. I know that the County has a budget line item of close to \$3 million - \$3

million or \$2 million, I'm not sure of the exact amount, where they are going to cover what the

State of Florida cut. How can we show support to the Underline?- can the City proffer a letter,

just showing support and hope that we get more money in next year's budget? What can we do

because that's an essential project for the future of this City?

Mr. Gomez: Commissioner Lago, I understand that the City passed a resolution prior to last

Legislative Session and I also understand that you all contributed something to the Underline.

Commissioner Lago: \$50,000.

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Mr. Gomez: \$50,000. I would basically in the legislative programming again include the

Underline. I focused on the Underline, not only because of Coral Gables, but frankly because I

think it's a great project. The money was put in by Senator Latvala from Clearwater and he put

in \$2 million for the Underline and he also put in \$2 million for Ludlum Trail, which doesn't

affect Coral Gables directly, but essentially it's in our neighborhood.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Ludlum Trail is the 67th Avenue project that goes along the former railway

line?

Mr. Gomez: Yes. Yes.

Vice Mayor Quesada: That's South Miami, correct?- or it's a combination of South Miami and

unincorporated Dade.

Commissioner Keon: Unincorporated Dade and West Miami.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I've heard a lot of things about that project, are residents in favor of it?-

did it get approved?- or is it still pending?

Commissioner Lago: Mixed reviews.

Vice Mayor Quesada: That's what I heard. I'm not really sure.

Mr. Gomez: So there was \$2 million for the Underline, \$10 million for Ludlum Trail, the

Governor vetoed both.

Vice Mayor Quesada: He did?

Mr. Gomez: Yes. And it's South Miami, Miami-Dade and City of Miami, because the terminus

in the City of Miami and the majority is in Metro-Dade, then at the south end its right on the

cusp of South Miami.

Commissioner Slesnick: Fausto were the budget cuts the 80 percent across the board in most of

the other counties?

Mr. Gomez: We were hit out of the \$461 million; Miami-Dade was hit hardest.

Commissioner Slesnick: The hardest. Also the Legislative Session starts in January this year?

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Mr. Gomez: January 12th.

Commissioner Slesnick: So are all the committee meetings in October and November now?

Mr. Gomez: September 16th then we have three weeks of committee meetings in October, three

weeks in November, none in December and the session starts on January 12th, however one of

the committee meeting weeks in October is going to be dedicated to the Special Session on

Senate Reapportionment that needs to happen, and you saw the Supreme Court basically last

week remanded back the Congressional Reapportionment back to the Trial Court and the Trial

Court can remand it back to the Legislature to take another stab at it. So the time that the

Legislature is dedicating for Special Sessions may be taking up significantly for committee

meetings, maybe taken up by Special Sessions on Reapportion.

Commissioner Slesnick: Thank you for all you do for us in Tallahassee.

Mr. Gomez: Thank you.

Commissioner Keon: Can I ask a question also please? Fausto with the MPO, do you find that

there is a lot of support for reducing the number of people on the MPO among the legislature?

Mr. Gomez: It was an issue that was not discussed at all and suddenly it was presented, and so

you had significant discussion with regard.

Commissioner Keon: Who presented it? What legislator presented it?

Commissioner Lago: Nunez.

Mr. Gomez: Nunez

Commissioner Keon: Nunez - OK.

Mr. Gomez: Representative Nunez presented the MPO proposal. That essentially spurred the

Chairman of the County Commission going to Tallahassee and discussing MPO. It spurred the

Miami-Dade League of Cities to come up with its own proposal and the Chairman of that is

Councilman McDonald from Pinecrest and there is a proposal for the MPO from the League of

Cities, there is a proposal from the County. I frankly do not know and I'm not aware whether the

Mayor of Miami Beach or Miami Beach will advance the proposal again, but whatever proposal

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is advanced, obviously my goal and our goal is the City of Coral Gables needs to be protected

and needs to have a seat at the table.

Commissioner Keon: OK. I just wasn't sure. It didn't seem like there was much discussion or

debate on the issue, so I didn't know where the legislative support came from with regard to it.

The other I wanted to know about is, with drainage projects – are drainage projects generally

funded through the state general revenue dollars?- or are there specific funds for drainage

projects like transportation projects or whatever else?

Mr. Gomez: There are two ways to fund them. Number one is, either a line item allocation from

the State of Florida and we have been extremely successful during the time that I have

represented you in bringing dollars for water problems, which is either storm water or waste

water.

Commissioner Keon: Right.

Mr. Gomez: And then there is a pot of money which is a loan fund in the Department of

Environmental Protection, which are federal dollars mixed in with state dollars and basically you

apply for a loan. The interest rate variable and it's based on the socio-economic characteristics of

the municipality and it depends on the project and it's a competitive project. And I believe,

Madam Manager, I don't recall, I think Coral Gables has in the past secured loans from that pot

of money for projects.

Commissioner Keon: Have we?

Mr. Gomez: So I believe that we have a mix of both.

Commissioner Keon: OK. Have we applied for those funds ever?

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Yes we have. We have received loans, but we haven't

received grants.

Commissioner Keon: But we haven't received grants. Its federal money combined with state

money or federal money alone?

Mr. Gomez: I believe its federal money combined with a little bit of state money.

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Commissioner Keon: With a little bit of state money.

Mr. Gomez: But it's a majority of federal dollars.

Commissioner Keon: But its federal dollars. Do we have the right to apply directly for federal

dollars?- or do we have to do it through the state?

Mr. Gomez: I believe you have to do it through the state for those loan dollars, I believe the

federal government operates through the state and then the state essentially gives the loans to the

municipalities.

Commissioner Keon: And what about with transportation dollars, do projects like the Underline

or some of those, do they qualify for transportation funds under the state also?

Mr. Gomez: Actually they do. There is – the Senate President has created a program which is a

program to link bicycle-pedestrian paths in the State of Florida, and in particular what he did is,

he created a program to link the east coast of Florida to the west coast of Florida through central

Florida, and right now they are allocating, I believe its \$25 million a year to a specific trust fund

in the Department of Transportation for those projects. Obviously, that money then would go to

this east-west connector in central Florida. Once that east-west connector is finished and /or the

Senate President is no longer Senate President, then obviously we can apply for those dollars and

I think, and as I've spoken to the Manager in the past and I think I've spoken to all of you in the

past, I think it's a great project to connect all the cities in south Dade through the Underline to

Key Biscayne and then through the City of Miami, and actually if you are going to do it under

the Metro Rail Station, you can take it all the way to Hialeah and that would be a very, very

interesting project for Miami-Dade County.

Commissioner Keon: Is there a way, can we look to expand the use of those dollars other than

just east/west?- is that solely up to the Senate President can you also lobby on behalf of these

communities to have it expanded to more than...?

Mr. Gomez: Well the Senate funds have taken the lead in funding the project, and it's taken the

lead in funding that line item because of a particular project.

Commissioner Keon: Right.

Mr. Gomez: I can lobby, but I will tell you that I'll probably be unsuccessful in trying to take

dollars away from the Senate President.

Commissioner Keon: No, but even if we add to them to broaden that program, does that come

through one of our own legislative caucus?

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Excuse me one second. We attended; Glenn and I attended a

County convened meeting with several municipalities. While we had also asked had we try and

lure some of that money specifically for the Dade County need, it was decided among those in

attendance that the best way is to continue to support that significant funding that accomplishes

that east-west and then be the first ones in line for a fully coordinated plan all cities together for

Dade County applying for the next funding.

Commissioner Keon: Right. Well that's what I'm asking, what is the – that's just through the

Senate President that you ask that or it's through our legislators, our local legislators asking or

working with them?

Mr. Gomez: No. There has to be a plan, it has to go to the MPO, the MPO needs to approve the

plan then it gets forwarded to Tallahassee for inclusion in the Florida Department of

Transportation Five-Year Work Program. Now when it's there in that Five-Year Work Program,

then our delegation can sort of say, you know if it's in the fifth I'd like to move this project up

from the fifth year to the third year or to the second year and the dollars are there with this sort of

trust fund that was created for the connection of bicycle paths and pedestrian paths.

Commissioner Keon: So, if the MPO, our regional MPO were to propose such a program that

would be the first step in moving forward to the Legislature.

Mr. Gomez: First up would be a joint application, as the Manager correctly said.

Commissioner Keon: OK.

Mr. Gomez: Then the MPO reviews it, approves it forwards it to Tallahassee for inclusion in the

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Florida Department of Transportation Five-Year Work Program, that's how the process begins.

Commissioner Keon: OK. Thank you.

Commissioner Lago: I have one last question sir. Fausto, what have you heard in regards to the

proposed Constitutional Amendment, Solar Amendment right now?

Mr. Gomez: Well it depends on which Solar Amendment, because there are two.

Commissioner Lago: I'm talking about the one that's the proposed third party, which will allow

third party solar companies to conduct business in the state.

Mr. Gomez: It's not a legislative issue. It's basically, the Supreme Court has ruled that that can

go on the ballot, the last I had heard. Their discussion is with the Florida League of Cities and

that's really an internal discussion with cities and their association, and I don't think the

legislators, in particular will get involved in that until this issue is passed or not passed by the

citizens of Florida, and it depends on how many signatures they already have and I really haven't

followed it.

Commissioner Lago: My question was more, are they going to encounter enough resistance

where it's not even going to make it onto the ballot in reference to special interest, that obviously

would not want that on. We are one of the last few states that has not allowed third party and you

have a situation because I think we are like the third or fourth largest recipient of the sun, solar.

So again, it just doesn't make much sense for all of South Florida, the State of Florida to not

allow this.

Mr. Gomez: There again, it's a Constitutional Amendment, and the Attorney can perhaps help

me. I don't recall...

City Attorney Leen: The current procedural posture is there has been oral argument in the

Supreme Court, but there hasn't been a decision yet, so we are awaiting a decision. This is a

Constitutional Amendment, so obviously it's not something we could go to the Legislature with,

but are there any – and the thing you may be curious about is if there is legislative...

Commissioner Lago: Is there any opposition or...

City Attorney Leen: If it's not passed.

Commissioner Lago: Craig is 100 percent correct. I just want to see if you had heard anything, if

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there maybe was some ground troops.

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Mr. Gomez: The legislators haven't discussed the solar amendment. They usually get involved in

those Constitutional Amendments if they pass and then they have to write the implementing

statutes and the preliminary rules to the Constitutional Amendment. But you've had

Constitutional Amendment that has passed and they have never been implemented because the

rules had never been written.

Commissioner Lago: Will you do me a favor as always, because you are always on top of it, so I

just want to make sure if you hear anything, just keep me in the loop, educate me, because I think

that along with my colleagues, as you noticed, we voted in favor of as many sustainability

projects as possible and really changing the outlook in regards to that here in the City. So if you

can help me at all, I'd really appreciate it. Thank you Fausto.

Mr. Gomez: Certainly.

Mayor Cason: Thank you Fausto.

Mr. Gomez: Thank you Mr. Mayor. Thank you.

[End: 9:54:28 a.m.]

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