

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item H-2
June 12, 2018
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

**Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Vince Lago
Commissioner Michael Mena**

City Staff

**City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Code Enforcement Division Manager, Will Ortiz**

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item H-2 [6:15:38 p.m.]

Update Regarding Peafowl
(Sponsored by Commissioner Lago)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: OK – next.

Commissioner Lago: H-2 – Peafowl.

Commissioner Mena: I think the answer to your question is we'll review it and then we'll talk separately.

Public Works Director Santamaria: Glad to answer any questions.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Is Will Ortiz out there? Can you ask him to come in?

Commissioner Lago: H-2 is pretty simple. The peafowl has relocated to my neighborhood now as a... So, my wife whose here can actually attest to the fact that the peafowl are there. So

something that I've been talking about for a few years now, it's only going to get worse from here.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Remind me.

Commissioner Lago: Yes. I've written memos about it and stuff. I send pictures to the Manager all the time on the way to dropping off the girls to school. They are everywhere. So, what's going on is they are crossing...

Vice Mayor Quesada: How do we address it?

Commissioner Lago: This is what I'm saying, it's real simple. The main focus should be on LeJeune between Coconut Grove and the City of Miami. So what we need to do is, we need to empower staff, City Manager, to go and speak to the somebody at the City of Miami and say, let's work on this together, because we can keep catching these things and relocating them or doing whatever they are doing with them to these farms, at an exorbitant cost, when at the end of the day it doesn't resolve anything. We need cooperation with the City of Miami. Unless this Commission says, hey, we want peacocks. You want peacocks then this is dead in the water, it's over, no more conversation.

Vice Mayor Quesada: So what's the next step? Have staff reach out to City Manager...?

Commissioner Lago: That's the only reason why I put it on the agenda.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Agreed.

Commissioner Lago: Do you think it's worth it?

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes – absolutely.

Commissioner Mena: I know that you sent an e-mail, City Manager responded about a specific location off of LeJeune and like Maggiore.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Sansovino.

Commissioner Mena: Sansovino – that empty lot. There's an empty – they are there every day. No, but they've been there less lately and that was one of the spaces where they got rid of ten, I think you said.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Will would you like – if you would like Code Enforcement has been very vigilant in the matters of peacocks and we appreciate it – peafowl and we appreciate it.

Mr. Ortiz: Thank you Madam City Manager. Good afternoon everyone, I'm William Ortiz, Code Enforcement Division Manager. So, I have spoken to all the property owners and residents that have lodged complaints with the City regarding peafowl in their neighborhoods, in and around the area of where they live. We have actually been working with two vendors that have been out to different properties. I've actually been out there with the two different vendors to assess the different areas. It's not exactly an easy thing to capture peafowl, and so they've been very creative coming up with netting traps and different things to try to capture them.

Commissioner Mena: You didn't hire a "Wiley Coyote"?

[Laughter]

Mr. Ortiz: No. No. But right now we are working on the 400 Block of Camilla Avenue, which is one of the first complaints and we have Reliable Animal Removal out there, Sansovino Avenue and LeJeune Road that intersection in that area. We have caught, according to Reliable Animal Removal, 9 peafowl in that area; and so, by the way they are all going to be relocated to a location that we found, so that they can be humanely moved rather than what's happened to them.

Commissioner Lago: Would that be the Granada Golf Course next to the Mayor's house?

Mr. Ortiz: No, it's actually outside of the City.

Commissioner Lago: It's an open field.

Mr. Ortiz: It's outside of the City. Actually it's in Fort Lauderdale, the property that they are going to be moved to. We also have the area 5200 and 5210 San Amaro Drive, which is a recent issue and we have animal rangers out there working on that matter. As of yesterday afternoon, I received a complaint in the area of 420 Vitoria Avenue, and so, I reached out to the property owner this morning, very pleasant man. He explained everything that's going on with his property. I let him know that we are going to work with him on it. He was happy to hear that we have companies that are working on this issue and that we are relocating them humanely. So, that's a brand new complaint that I'm working on. So, there are four complaints and there are a couple of things that have come up. We have heard and had discussions with some property owners that like the peacocks, they like the way they look, they don't mind them; and then we

have other properties owners that don't want them in their neighborhood. We had an issue with the roasters and we are working on capturing roasters where a couple of our traps disappeared. So, hopefully that won't happen in this case. It hasn't happened so far. So, we are working with the vendors on it and its moving forward.

Commissioner Lago: Will thank you. You were out there on a Saturday or Sunday, so thank you for that.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Thank you very much.

Vice Mayor Quesada: So, City Manager you'll talk to City of Miami to see what we can work on, joint enforcement program, I guess.

Commissioner Lago: By the way, I have a feeling that this may be a fruitless endeavor, because I think the City of Miami doesn't want to tackle it. I had breakfast the other day with Commissioner Russell and there are mixed reviews about removing them. They don't want to get rid of them. There are advocates; there are people who love them.

Vice Mayor Quesada: The immediate answer for us is just to continuing notifying Will to catch them.

Commissioner Lago: The geo-fence.

Vice Mayor Quesada: It's not a sentence I thought I would say today.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: OK. Thank you very much.

Commissioner Lago: Thank you.

[End: 6:20:48 p.m.]