

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-4
February 14, 2023
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Michael Mena

Commissioner Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Jim Cason

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suarez

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Police Chief, Ed Hudak

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-4 [1:38 p.m.]

An update regarding the acquisition of an electric (Tesla) vehicle for the Coral Gables Police Department. (Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

Mayor Lago: G-4. Team, I have a lot of items here. I'd like to acquire a Tesla for the Police Department, the New York Police Department just got one, got three; Missouri has gotten three; and Freemont, San Francisco bought one and they are saving about \$4,000 a year in gas. Here are all the articles. I can share them with you.

Commissioner Anderson: You have my support.

City Attorney Suarez: Mayor, one clarification, is it just an electric vehicle.

Mayor Lago: It's an electric vehicle.

Chief Hudak: So, it's not Tesla specific.

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Mayor Lago: It's not Tesla specific. It's up to your standards and to the Manager.

Chief Hudak: Alright. We have been in touch with Dorian Leasing, who is out of South Florida, I'm sorry, out of Central Florida ____ is a part of that team, so we've been talking with her already to see if we can either lease one or do a pilot program. Some of the issues we have, and the Fleet Manager and the Automotive Director will tell you, we are currently looking forward to 2025, I believe it is, when Chevy comes out with a police officer rated police package. So, we are going forward with as you had discussed with the Tesla. It will be a pilot program to see, only because the cost of putting in the charging station at the station and to issue it to an officer and a charging station and electric bill at a house becomes a little bit pragmatic. However, we will have to go along with these six electric cars that we have within the police department now. We will look at that, but it will be pretty much downtown area, used in the downtown area by an officer, but it won't be a take home car. So, I can't commit to that. I don't know if it will be a Tesla. It will be an electric car that the police department will be marked.

Mayor Lago: So, Tesla just recently dropped their prices significantly. You know when you charge it's probably about \$10 or \$15 a month to charge. I do it at home and it's wonderful. I'm saving a few hundred dollars a month in gas and I think its going to be a wonderful addition to continue to showcase the fact that the City of Coral Gables is leading with our sustainability. I want to make sure that the police can use it and they enjoy using it and that it makes sense and that they are happy with it, connecting this is the wave of the future, and we are going to take one step forward, maybe a baby step, but we are taking a step in the right direction, in my opinion.

Chief Hudak: So Mayor, do we want to talk about the procurement code of that, if we're looking at specifically at a Tesla.

Mayor Lago: Just want to make sure its American made.

Chief Hudak: Our process would be to look for something specific electric and then – I don't know what the turnaround time is on those. So, if we want to go forward and have me look at the Teslas, understanding that there would be a waiver of the procurement code, if this is what we want to beta test or pilot test, to see if that's something we want to go forward.

Mayor Lago: I don't own a Tesla, I don't own Tesla stock, but at the end of the day, I just want something that's made in America. If there is a better electric car that's made in America, find it for me, I'm more than willing to move on that.

Chief Hudak: To expedite the request, I think if we did this as a pilot program test, to see if we would look at an electric car, specifically if you want me to test a Tesla.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

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Chief Hudak: Then I think if we did that...

City Attorney Suarez: Then you should waive the competitive process of the procurement code if you want to direct.

Chief Hudak: And we will try that out, and if for some reason it doesn't work, we'll come back to you and say, listen, this is a different electric vehicle that may be in the future and I'll do back to Dorring, whose the company that's well respected in leasing police vehicles throughout and I'll get with Ms. Cornair and hopefully we can get this thing as quickly as possible and we'll add the lights and the electronics to it as well.

Mayor Lago: I love it. Okay. Do we need a motion for that?

City Attorney Suarez: We do, to waive the procurement code, we do.

Vice Mayor Mena: I'll move it.

Commissioner Anderson: Second.

Vice Mayor Mena: Yes

Commissioner Menendez: Yes

Commissioner Anderson: Yes

Commissioner Cason: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Lago: Chief, I appreciate you and staff and the Manager. Thank you so much.

Chief Hudak: No problem.