

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item F-2
March 10, 2026
Public Safety Building, CMR
2151 Salzedo Street, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago
Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Commissioner Melissa Castro
Commissioner Ariel Fernandez
Commissioner Richard D. Lara

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez
City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Police Chief, Ed Hudak

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item F-2 [Start: 12:12 p.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission affirming the city's commitment to human trafficking prevention through community outreach, education, and interagency coordination; and directing the City Manager to conduct public awareness and educational programs in anticipation of large-scale international events including the 2026 FIFA World Cup. (Sponsored by Vice Mayor Anderson)

Mayor Lago: Item F-2.

City Attorney Suarez: F-2 is a resolution of the City Commission affirming the city's commitment to human trafficking prevention through community outreach, education and interagency coordination and directing the City Manager to conduct public awareness and educational programs in anticipation of large-scale international events including the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Thank you. I brought this item. I noticed that nothing else had been brought forward on the agenda, so on Thursday I asked staff to put together a resolution so that we can

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direct the City Manager's office to have a multi-prong approach towards educating the community. The see something say something is an easy way to say, that to report things in, but if you don't know what you're looking at and if you don't realize that it's an issue then you're not going to be able to report it in. So, our one of our best tools are all the residents that we have in preventing crime and stopping crime and this educational series will not only, we have a table at the Farmer's Market. There'll be a full session, I think this coming Saturday, is that correct City Manager?

City Manager Iglesias: Yes. Through the Mayor. Yes Commissioner, Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Anderson: And then we'll be doing additional educational programs and putting it on the ikes and handing out materials, etc. and with our Police Chief walked in, do you have something you would like to say about this?

Police Chief Hudak: I went to the bathroom. I thought we were taking a break, sorry.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Oh, okay well you know yeah you know you never...

Chief Hudak: Following the Chair you. You said we're going to the bathroom I went to the bathroom.

Mayor Lago: We're going to go to the bathroom after this, I apologize. My bad. You were following orders, that's it.

Commissioner Lara: Mayor, can I just ask really quick since we have the Chief up here. Chief, also when you're answering the question from the Vice Mayor, I would like to take advantage of you standing right there if you can give us if there's an update from the last two items that we had at the last Commission meeting by way of update concerning training, education although those two items were in fact tabled but it was with an eye towards following through and see if there's anything that's been updating uh on that front, right, with respect to awareness and training whether it be with Police or with Fire, please.

Chief Hudak: Sure, yes sir. On the item F2 resolution for the community outreach, as directed by this Commission last meeting, we have started our external talking points so to say with the Farmer's Market and again, I think the best way to go about this is the unified approach with the State Attorney's office, which we partnered with. We have started to put out, basically, how to contact identity, which I think is probably the best way of what we're looking for somebody who's human traffic, abused trapped forced. This is something that's been coming out for a while now and we are obviously we've met since the last meeting, I say we, law enforcement with the State Attorneys the Attorney General is in town, he's allocated money from those funds from the state for coming up for FIFA, I mean it is very identifiable issues, unexplained injuries, unexplained hotel use, controlled with drugs, secretive about whereabouts, not allowing to make decisions,

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forced to have sex with others, isolated from friends and family, secretive about new relationship, exchanging sex for things of value, not in possession of money or ID. These are some of the things and this is two-sided, so it's also English and Spanish and it gives the direct line to the hotline. Going into the FIFA and the World Cup, as part of this resolution is, we will have officers, additional officers assigned to what we have already to the to the human trafficking task force, so that will be going out. These will start -- we started going on top of that and I brought some for all of you and your constituents. There is a QR code that we have that goes directly to the State Attorney's office to the hotline. Again, I think what we'll get into the training questions in a second, I will leave these for you and your staff if that's something that you want to put your offices. You'll start seeing these around. We've talked about working with people in the BID to make sure these are actually put in the in the back of house, so to speak, of hotels, restaurants, things like that where they see something like that, again see something say something. I did have a brief conversation not just with my PIO, but with our communications person as far as start running these on our regular basis with as we get closer to FIFA, excuse me on our social media plans along as coordination with the city's social media issues. So, I believe in the spirit of what we've talked about today the education interagency coordination being part of the task force, which we have been, the human trafficking task force that has been, I think, yielded results as I reported last time. We've had 20 cases that we've done. We also had another 10 ongoing cases since then. We've been able to break up some pretty decent rings, when I say decent, stretching from here to Texas from Atlanta down here in New York. So we continue to share intelligence with them, but also you know from the law enforcement standpoint and there's about 14 different FIFA subcommittees just here in South Florida, one of those is going to be the human trafficking, we're all working together; DHS as the federal side, they were also present at this meeting and I'm pretty confident that we are going to a) you know put out a unified message throughout all of Dade County and also a unified response with the State Attorney's office, the resources that comes with them going forward. So, I think unless you have another question, Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yeah, no. I'm going to ask you also to follow up with what we can do in a way of offering a presentation service to groups, such as Gables Good Government, the Rotary Club, other clubs that we have in our community, because you know just those bullet pointed items alone are not enough to educate the residents on what they need to be looking out for. As I mentioned in the last meeting, you have the activity that occurs at Airbnb's and hotels, unusual activities you know. You see certain behaviors that shouldn't be happening and a number of people coming in and out, you know, the same thing goes with drug trafficking. There's a certain amount of cars coming and going and the type of activities that you can see and it will alert people to something that they thought was perfectly normal and they don't want to get in somebody else's business, but there's a secure line they need to know that there's a secure line that they can reach out to you on, you know, and have the protections not to have their identity revealed because they you know people are worried about repercussions if they identify somebody. So that type of

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messaging also needs to be included, and I think we need to reach out to local community groups to help spread the message.

Chief Hudak: And we will. I believe if anybody, I mean for everyone's edification here, I mean our Community Affairs Unit, the public information, along with our crime watch meeting protocols that we do. We do have a specific point to talk about how to get into the human trafficking. Fortunately, for our government and for you all the Airbnb factor during this time is something that we are going to get phone calls on and I know historically we've had people, you know a production company with Airbnb, a house in the middle of the Gables and they'd be having parties all night long and thankfully we've got a lot of phone calls just because of the Airbnb allowances or non-allowances that then turns into our extended investigation that we would do here. The second part of that is so yes, we can take this out and we will take this out through our Community Affairs Unit to different areas not just the Farmers Market, we can show up in neighborhoods, we can talk to businesses, we have been in touch with the Airbnb people, I mean they are they are paying top dollar going into this FIFA group, they are part sponsors with FIFA Worldwide, so we're expecting to be extremely busy during that time. I can't say enough, and I know you all and I briefed you all on this by email about the use of our Safer Watch app that neighborhood that we've talked about on Romano has used the Safer Watch app religiously as late as last night when somebody showed up at the house and they were subsequently arrested. So, the Safer Watch app provides that anonymity to the people that are calling in on residents and in the Safer Watch app is suspected human trafficking where they can send that directly to our Communications. It takes us, me, you, the Manager out of it goes right to Communications and that's something else that we can put forth, not just these identifiers, but what to look for to see something say something. So, I'm pretty confident and we can report back to you as we get closer through the summer about what our efforts have been and who we've contacted, the hits that we've get on our social media, but also I realize that social media is part of our communication strategy within the Police Department in the city, but it's also us getting out there and talking to people in person which is still you know that's what makes us a great city is that we're there in person.

Commissioner Fernandez: Through the Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Just a quick question, you know how many individuals do we have using the Safer Watch app right now?

Chief Hudak: I can get that number for you. I don't know because they are on the register.

Mayor Lago: Can you get us that information to send it just by email and Mr. Manager, will you include the Safer Watch app on our E-NEWS and then and a little blurb from the Chief discussing human trafficking and obviously FIFA and you know preparation for this big day and the hundreds of thousands of people are going to be coming here to South Florida, just a blurb on that and just

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you know any links and obviously asking people, imploring people to really download the Safer Watch app that'd be nice.

City Manager Iglesias: Through the Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Yes sir.

City Manager Iglesias: Yes Mayor. I think this resolution is fantastic. I think we will hit the Farmers Market, community groups, businesses make sure your Airbnb get the Safer Watch app going and also just communicate as much as we can

Mayor Lago: Get it on E-NEWS.

City Manager Iglesias: Through E-NEWS, through everything because I think this is just a huge issue and something that we certainly want to prevent.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner Fernandez.

Commissioner Fernandez: You had something to say Chief, go ahead

Chief Hudak: No, no, no, along with the branding line of it in partnership with the with the State Attorney's office, the Coral Gables logo, the Coral Gables Police Department logo will be also on all of their stuff going forward, so we sent our artwork over already. So, again this collaborative effort is also going to be branded for us so that's something else that we would put out that they know it's coming from Coral Gables.

Commissioner Fernandez: I think Safer Watch has been a phenomenal technological advance. It helps really to get the information out there because you can even send a photo, which makes it easier for law enforcement to respond, they know exactly what they're looking for, because sometimes you give a description but it's really hard to figure out who that person is. Whereas, if you have that photo you can figure out exactly who that person is. As far as the flyer that you were showing, would you be able to send that to us, so that we can put it out in our newsletters.

Chief Hudak: Yes, we will have it all sent out to you.

Commissioner Fernandez: And if there's any social resources for social media that we can use as well to help spread the word. There was another question that I had for you and now it skips my mind -- social media. If it comes to me, I'll ask again, but I appreciate it and I know that in Crime Watch we have these discussions. Crime Watch is one of the few groups in this city where you have the leaders of most of the organizations who are involved in the city sharing information and the State Attorney's office does a phenomenal job, they're always present, giving us information and making sure that we're aware of what they're working on. Oh, I remembered the question. On

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the QR code, there's a concern that I have about that. There has been an issue that has been brought up by the Department of Agriculture here in the state where people have been placing QR codes on top of other QR codes, so that if you scan the QR code it's taking you to whatever it is that they want you to go not where you're supposed to go. Is there a way to monitor that once we've put them out. I don't know, maybe that's something that IT can do when they go and do their...

Chief Hudak: I would check with the State Attorney's office QR code, and I know her logo is embedded in the QR code.

Commissioner Fernandez: Nowadays they can go online.

Chief Hudak: I don't know if they can do anything and I would have to check with her IT people to see how in fact I would make sure that that goes directly to them.

Commissioner Fernandez: Because I'll tell you, I actually had an issue downtown where they had one of those scan your credit card to pay at a parking garage, they had placed it over the regular one and they stole my credit card information.

Chief Hudak: Right.

Commissioner Fernandez: So nowadays they're using every single trick in the book to try to steal your information.

Chief Hudak: The old phone number is the best on the QR codes on everything but also the hotline which is 24 hour staff by the State Attorney's office is obviously the way to go and I think a lot of people especially a majority of our population looking at our demographics as a city, they'd much rather be making a phone call and talking to a human being and asking those questions, and again, I've said this often in this community, if the hair on the back of your neck stands up call us, we'll decide whether it's real or if it's perceived and hopefully we'll have the same success with this. The Safer Watch app also does a lot more things. It is the alert system for Miami or for the Dade County School System, so we have that there. It also supplements our direct connect alarms with you all at City Hall. We've worked with the Manager as far as giving you all additional access directly to communication, so we've been very, very happy with the company and as it continues to grow, but I think you know our success story is 103 Romano that was that neighborhood was terrorized for lack of a better term, for the better part of I'd say two years maybe longer, the amount of arrests we've made out of there when people are showing up on a regular basis they don't they literally don't have to get out of bed they push the button, my people know where they're at. You know yesterday they gave us a description, finally the house has been foreclosed on, that sale is coming forward and we should hopefully put that to bed. I can't say enough about the app itself, it has worked very well for us. Getting it out there to the Vice Mayor's point is, that's our struggle and

that's our challenge but we will do collectively. Mr. Mayor to answer the Commissioner's questions.

Mayor Lago: Yes sir.

Chief Hudak: On the last conversation that we had similar to what Commissioner Castro brought up, the following day I had a meeting with the State Attorney's office as I said alluded to, along with the Fire Chief, the Attorney General was there, it was the DHS Local Supervisor and number two. So what we have pending now is the State Attorney's office, Chief Prosecutor, Assistant Chief Prosecutor Steve Talpins, as well as the Head of the Human Trafficking Task Force for the State Attorney's that Kathy has assigned, Kathy, I'm sorry, State Attorney has assigned, is that we are tentatively scheduled for March 17th and 18th and one other date to have them come in and physically train the firefighting personnel throughout the department on how to recognize some of the things that we've said and how to contact us. Once that is done and I just want to walk you through how that will happen is firefighters on the scene that we are not there which is probably about I'd say seven to ten percent of the fire calls, a police officer doesn't go on, for the most part we all travel together where the Police Department gets there through. They will notify us via our Communication Center, once our officers arrive, we will have our human trafficking detectives respond, assess, and take the case from there. So that training is set for the 17th and the 18th. The individuals and I don't remember their names that were here that the Commissioner brought, I know in talking to the State Attorney's office they too are trying to get the same training that we are getting from the State Attorney's office. I mean they are a referral group; they're focused on the victims. I'm not sure what their partnership availability or association is with the State Attorney's office, but when we're referring those victims our victim advocate gets involved but the State Attorney's Office Task Force is what takes over. I'm very confident that if we identify somebody who has been a victim or is being trafficked the undercover or the private area that the State Attorney's office has here in the CAT is where we can take everybody. So, this is not giving somebody oh here's your referral. Our officers, our detectives can take them to a facility that is protected and can give them all of the resources that they have. The meeting that we had was at the facility with the Attorney General. The State Attorney's Office Task Force is a model for the country and people are coming down to try and emulate what she has put together on the human trafficking side. We are really just embellishing a little bit of what we did when we had Super Bowls, obviously we know this is going to be a lot bigger, but when I tell you I can give you a specific of the facilities. The hotlines answer there but there is clothing, there are medical services provided there, there are housing accommodations there temporarily, so it's not like we do like, Oh, call this person and you'll be fine. That is not the case. It's not just like a homeless like, if we come across someone homeless, we make recommendations, if they refuse no. Our people in the middle of the night if we have a place to take them, we will take them there. On the human trafficking victims, the victims that are being human trafficked there is a facility and it's a county-

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wide facility that we are using. As far as the training, I'm confident that our Fire Department personnel will be able to recognize these issues and again, I think every time if there's a heart attack call, if there's a choking call, a police officer is automatically going okay, because of our AEDs, because whatever it may be. So, we will respond very rarely do we not respond to those kinds of calls. Oppositely, I mean our officers, they go through some of the training that we get through the state that we have to sign off on. We've had additional cases specifically in human trafficking where they know if it's something this officer doesn't recognize we're not sure, they have the ability to call out our human trafficking assigned detectives right away and they will respond to the case. Similarly what we do if we come across fentanyl, if we come across a drug case, an overdose, the department for years if there is an overdose in a house and it's suspected fentanyl our narcotics detectives are notified and will respond, not to do anything to the person who has overdosed but to try and track down where the drugs came from. We have been doing this for years and we will continue to handle it the same way in the human trafficking side.

Commissioner Lara: Through the Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Lara: So, Chief thank you very much for you know, I commend you for you know, we met briefly and for moving you know in following up to the last meeting on the two resolutions that were tabled with respect to human trafficking and training, thank you for moving as quickly as you did with meeting with the key players and trying to move the needle forward and I'm actually quite impressed with what you have to report and I think that right the upcoming FIFA is going to be on a bigger platform and more challenging than the Super Bowl would have been, but it sounds to me like our police and fire are up to the task and I've learned a lot in this process as well. So, thank you very much for that. Although I have a question for you, I think you mentioned during your report that during the last Commission meeting there were two women who were brought as alleged experts during that resolution that was being debated, did you say that they were going to the State Attorney's office to try and get training and...

Chief Hudak: The meeting that I had with the State Attorney when they were there, I guess because I asked about the individuals. They looked briefly familiar, I didn't know and the State Attorney said well, these are the two individuals that are creating this, I think it's a 501(c)3, I'm not sure and that they had asked for the same training that I was like trying to set up for our people. So again, I think that's the unified way that this is all going forward and I think through the Manager and we've had several discussions operationally, although we've got a lot on agendas is that as we get closer to the FIFA World Cup through the summertime, the Manager also wants to bring you all up to speed on what our works are doing. This is the human trafficking component. There's going to be crowd control issues, there's going to be, you know major events throughout the county that we are going to have to assist, and I know, if you don't know this, the largest requested match of all

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of the FIFA tournament is Columbia and Paraguay and we have it and it's here. If Argentina wins out of the bracket then they may be down here that would be Messi's last day and speaking with my colleagues, the Chiefs, as well as last week, I met with the head of the secret service down here, the head of FBI at the same time and DHS, we are expecting a fan fest 23 days downtown Bayfront Park and they're expecting 30 to 40,000 people a day for 23 days. So Miami is going to be tied up, we're going to be backing up, so there is going to be some conversation that I'm going to have to have through the Manager, as well as to you all to brief you on what our involvement as a police department is going to be, because they have always been there for us, we're going to have to do the same thing, let alone everything that we have here, whether it be the watch parties, the things like that, the hotels and what groups we have here.

Commissioner Lara: Chief, about how long is it until, I guess, the big show?

Chief Hudak: 94 days.

Commissioner Lara: You got it down to the day.

Chief Hudak: Well, I'm living it, so yes. I understand what's coming on that, so.

Commissioner Lara: Well, I commend you, the command staff and the fire for everything you're doing and for being up to the task. Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I'll move this item

Commissioner Castro: Through the Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Castro: Funny enough it's item F-2 when the prior Commission meeting the item was F-2 as well the just a pure coincidence. That item F-2 of the last Commission meeting was really awareness and for us to prioritize as a city, that's what F-2 was really about. There's some similarities to this, so I want to go ahead and I want to commend the Vice Mayor, I'm flattered that you will bring something like this back and I also think Commissioner Fernandez said on the record during last Commission meeting that another Commissioner would probably bring it up as a sponsor and it will probably get approval. I think that's what's going to happen, because I think this is so important that, obviously, I'm going to vote for this item. Now, these two ladies that you were talking about have reached out to the City Manager numerous times, not only that but after the Commission meeting, we met together with them, with the City Manager. The reason I haven't put something on the agenda is because we're still working on this training and I know that they've

sent you probably, I don't know four e-mails, and I don't know if you've been able to respond to any of them.

City Manager Iglesias: We've been working through the Police Department and Chief Hudak did discuss the issue of their organization, and their organization is trying to obtain the same training that our Police Department and Fire Department are doing through the State Attorney's office. So, I think that Chief Hudak has answered all those questions completely. I think we would rather go directly to the State Attorney's Task Force, yes task force and that also that I think they have that building, excuse me, don't they have a community center for these.

Chief Hudak: Correct and if I can through the Mayor.

City Manager Iglesias: Of course.

Chief Hudak: Commissioner, the only thing I would recommend us not to do as a police department is having some other kind of resource because in this case dealing with the Human Trafficking Task Force all of the resources go through them. We have our own victim advocate here. We handle those kinds of cases. In this case and with these women, I have not met and talked with these women. I am not opposed to talking with them. I know they approached the Manager, but we have been looking at centralizing it and the only reason why I haven't kind of followed up is because in talking with the task force group those ladies are trying to become a referral for the task force. If in fact the State Attorney says yes, we're going to use them but routed through the State Attorney's Office Task Force. I'll meet with them and when I brought them up, they weren't identified as somebody who they would refer them to now if that makes sense.

Mayor Lago: And just using common sense, why would you use a middle person to get to Kathy Fernandez Rundle? Why don't we just use Kathy Fernandez Rundle.

Chief Hudak: Well Mayor, I'm not sure what product or what training that group gives us other than what we would get from the State Attorney's office for recognition. I mean the key to this and I know we've overused this, but it is so true, the see something say something, the officers see this and they're not quite sure because they don't and then that's when we bring in the people that we really dive down to and trains like this is human trafficking. There's things I wouldn't recognize.

Mayor Lago: Personally, Chief and I'm sorry but let's cut to the chase here. I know everybody wants to be politically correct and you know let's stick with Kathy Fernandez Rundle. She's the professional, she's in the community, she's elected by the people, she's a lawyer, she's our State Attorney, she has all the resources at hand to address human trafficking. She's the person that's the point person when you talk about human trafficking here in South Florida when you talk about the

Super Bowl, when you talk about FIFA, when you talk about you know World Cup, when you talk about issues at the national championship, big events everything goes through her. So, I personally feel more comfortable dealing with a known commodity professional like Kathy Fernandez Rundle, than dealing with somebody who is trying to get training through Kathy Fernandez Rundle and be a referral force that's just the way the way I it to be personally.

City Manager Iglesias: Through the Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

City Manager Iglesias: Yes, Mayor I think that one of the things I asked the Chief was to find out what they are providing and find out what the State Attorney is providing. If the State Attorney is providing a task force they have a community center, they have they have all these all these issues. I think I'll work through the State Attorney's office and get and get these things this problem worked out through the State Attorney's office not through some private organization. If the State Attorney wishes to use other private organizations to help them in this process, then certainly that's something through the State Attorney's office that they can handle extremely well.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner.

Commissioner Castro: Yes. It is my understanding that this organization is the only state certified human trafficking program there is right now and that you can get credits for doing it. Now that's why I recommended it. I also understand what I was recommending was a hands-on training for our Fire Department. I'm very confident in what the Police Department's doing, but this was specifically for the Fire Department. Now when I go back to the last Commission meeting and you guys cited Vector Solutions, which goes under Target Solutions, when I put my item on the agenda was the time that the Fire Department implemented a human trafficking module under Target Solutions, which that is really a little sad that it had to take me to overshadow what I was presenting to go ahead and put something there for the first time ever. Now I'm glad that at least we put something doesn't matter you're trying to overshadow my work, the important thing is that something's being done, but something has to be done hands-on, it cannot be let me watch a little video, check mark. Absolutely not. Absolutely Not. Human trafficking is very, very important. So, thank you very much for saying that we're looking into hands-on training whether that organization does it or Kathy Rundle, I don't care. The important thing is that something's being done.

Chief Hudak: Through the Mayor. Based on the conversations from the item that was tabled, the hands-on training is not coming from the Police Department it's coming from the State Attorney's office, the Chief Assistant State Attorney will show up we're coordinating with them to within two or three days hit all the shifts and again it is it is going to be help them recognize the telltale signs of somebody who is being trafficked. I don't want them to get involved. It is a police issue. I just

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need them to identify things, the same way you know, and so I believe – Look, I mean, our people get the same kind of training that the Fire Department gets by the state statutes where we're timed, we have to take those tests. The hands-on was absolutely something that out of those conversations that I heard from the Commission, and the State Attorney has graciously agreed. I mean I've got the emails back and forth to her, from her to her, and then she said it's going to happen, so you know that is going to happen and it's going to be hands-on specifically about this, but there's always going to be follow-up you know our officers still have to take the human trafficking courses through the state that we do on our power DMS side so it is being addressed.

Commissioner Castro: And one last thing. Through the Mayor. Thank you. One last thing I want to go ahead and just pinpoint I think is very important. Last time around I went ahead and I took out a little card, it was the Blue Campaign, right, and then the Mayor here to my left also put up a packet of Vector Solutions. During that Vector Solutions packet if you really go through it, they're citing the Blue Campaign, so I want us to keep a little more eye on that because if we're citing the Blue Campaign, are we not also endorsing the fact that we're calling ICE on victims.

Chief Hudak: Okay and I looked into that card and I actually I got that card from the women who were here presenting that day. That card that number and I spoke with the DHS Supervisor here in Miami, that card is given out to notify DHS who doesn't just deport people, they're the federal agency that investigates human trafficking and that number specifically was for the offenders, in other words, the people that are targeting them and again as we as we discussed, per 908, if there's a victim of human trafficking we are not, we being the police and the state attorneys made this very clear, we will not be contacting. We have had ICE officials on some of our operations that our detectives were part of and part of the undercovers. ICE did not deport those individuals even though we knew that they were illegal. So, I want to be -- and I know there was some disinformation about the Blue Campaign. I wasn't aware of what we were talking about in that context of the Blue Campaign until that conversation came up. I've been questioned that I didn't know what it was. Well, I wasn't, I mean, and I think I saw the Blue Campaign national advertisement which works. As far as how ICE is, ICE, DHS, which is the DHS number that was on the card is specifically that if I think this person's being trafficked and that person is the one who did it, hey this is the person who, I think. They start looking at the same thing we look at smugglers, this is what we're looking at and that card that I saw that you had Commissioner, I got a copy of it from the two ladies, so it was the same card and again we got to keep it in context of, I don't necessarily want the Fire Department to be calling DHS on something that it needs to be vetted out by our detectives, it needs to be something other crimes. So, I agree with you, we are not and again, I can't reiterate this again to our residents and to our visitors, if you are the victim of any crime or if you're a witness to a crime we are forbidden from contacting ICE on your deportation status and that was a hard stop. I sat in this room and told you all when we had to sign when I signed the 287 that was part of it. We did not have a choice not to sign it, and we don't have

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a choice to call ICE on anybody who was the victim or a witness of a crime and that has not changed and I'm confident telling you that because the media since...

Mayor Lago: All right go. Go ahead.

City Manager Iglesias: Through the Mayor. Thank you, Mayor. Our Police Department and our Fire Department work very cohesively, they do. Every one of our firefighters is a paramedic. They understand trauma, they understand those issues and since our Police Department and Fire Department work so cohesively, they will contact this is a police matter and when they see something like that, they contact the Police Department. In addition to that, over 90 percent of all calls are answered by Police and Fire, so I do think that our Police and Fire Department are doing a very good job in this. The Airbnb issue is a major issue; police get involved also. So, I do think the outreach to the community, as the Vice Mayor is proposing is fantastic, the see something say something, and that will work very well because of the cohesive nature we have with police and fire. I think the fact that we forget that sometimes that all the police, all our firefighters are paramedics, and they understand what they're looking at.

Mayor Lago: Yes sir.

Commissioner Lara: So, echoing both the City Manager the Mayor, Chief, you know I've worked personally for about a decade with Katherine Fernandez Rundle on her human trafficking task force. I've been involved in this long before I ran for Commissioner and I'll continue to do so one day when I step down. So, I know firsthand personally and professionally what an amazing job she does and her entire team, so my support would be that we keep a tight, cohesive, comprehensive alignment with the State Attorney's office and her human trafficking task force in order to take precious limited resources the support and our bandwidth to ensure that we have the most effective anti-human trafficking task force that we can for the city and of course beyond our boundaries. With respect to, I was surprised that you were saying that the card that you had and let's be perfectly clear, that card that was being circulated around at the last meeting, Chief you're saying that that number if called is to direct individuals responding to the human traffickers or the alleged perpetrators, never the victims so let's not have any misinformation go out from this dais right, there is no credible reasonable or truthful suggestion that that card or that number or frankly there our policemen when responding to any suspicious activity involving human trafficking is to then to convert that into an ICE raid.

Chief Hudak: Correct.

Commissioner Lara: Okay. And the last thing through the Mayor, just a quick question or comment. I didn't know, Commissioner Castro, we've been speaking about these two ladies that showed up at the last meeting the ones that I understand were seeking the same state certified

training for human trafficking the State Attorney's office use. What is the name of that organization that they represent.

Chief Hudak: SALT – sexual assault.

Commissioner Lara: It's SALT.

Chief Hudak: Something like that.

Commissioner Lara: Do you know Commissioner, it's my question to you, do you know the name of their organization?

Commissioner Castro: Through the Mayor. Yes, I cannot remember it off the top of my hand, off the top of my head, but the card the card is here and if you notice where it says where the number is this report human trafficking. I think that's very, very general and if somebody has this card they're reporting human trafficking.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner, Commissioner listen I'm trying to limit you embarrassing yourself anymore today okay, because I when I found out that that card, that that card literally was doing the reverse what it was trying to do, I wasn't going to bring it up today, because I didn't want to embarrass you, but it's brought up I'm going to talk about it. I know everybody wants to get re-elected, I understand, but we got to do things to really move the needle. How do you move the needle? Ask the Chief and Kathy Fernandez Rundle's team to do an overnight raid, I've done 12 of them, go and legislate changing the laws to change hourly motels, go and push agendas that really fight human trafficking. Don't grandstand here so you can send a flyer out later just like the RTZ about something like that, it's just embarrassing. I mean when I found out about the card, I said I'm not even going to bring it up because I don't want to do that here, didn't I say that yes or no?

Chief Hudak: Yes.

Mayor Lago: Because I'm not going to bring it up because I don't want to bring it up, but my point is let's move on from this, we're fighting over something that is absurd please. We have a long agenda still. Go ahead Commissioner.

Commissioner Fernandez: I second the motion that the Vice Mayor made about 20 minutes ago.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Through the Mayor. I just want to make sure it's clear what we're voting on because we've taken full circle around the block and I want to bring it back home.

Mayor Lago: Yes sir, yes ma'am, excuse me.

Vice Mayor Anderson: This only deals with educating residents on residents anybody that wants to learn about human trafficking, Katherine Fernandez Rundle was elected in the 1990s, I was a young lawyer at the time. I've been in her office; I saw the development of the human trafficking unit there. She has decades of experience in this area and has refined it to perfection and as Chief has said made this human trafficking task force which our police department works with, and many other police departments works with. This is an educational piece for everybody because our residents are the best eyes and ears that we have. It was patently obvious to me when I looked at the DHS card that had nothing to do with reporting victims. It had everything to do with reporting bad guys, witness protection programs have existed for many decades and the protection of tipsters, the protection of victims, the protection of witnesses is routine in criminal justice. Very well known to me because I've done criminal law practice, I've made sure when I represented victims that I protected their safety, their identity, and made sure that they were protected from the perpetrators going forward. So, thank you for seconding the motion and I think we're ready to vote right.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk, do you have any public comment.

City Clerk Urquia: Yes, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lago: All right.

City Clerk Urquia: Maria Cruz.

Mrs. Cruz: Mrs. Maria Cruz, 1447 Miller Road. Here we go again. Commissioner Castro comes up with some idea, it's turned down, I mean there is not worth it, we shouldn't discuss it, don't embarrass yourself, but then lo and behold lo and behold the city picks up on the idea. Well let's start with, I have my little notes here, let's improve permitting by doing something special, no, no that wouldn't work. Well now we're going to do it. Let's have a welcome packet for the city, no we already have one. Nobody has seen it. She produced it, they're working on it, maybe it's on the website. She started the doggy walk or whatever she calls it about adopting pets. Guess what, the city now wants people to adopt pets, very good; and the latest one that I could think of sitting here, she wanted simply the first responders to get more instructed, more information and how to identify the victims, not for the victims to do anything. She wanted when they went to a home, to a business and saw something that they would know more, she was asking for more. Guess what, now we're meeting with Kathy Fernandez Rundle, okay, according to the to the Chief to learn more about training. Guys, if the embarrassment is not on Commissioner Castro, the embarrassment is on the people that lend themselves to these shenanigans, to this farce, okay. My suggestion to the Commissioner is when you have a good idea do not put your name on it, share it with somebody else, they'll bring it up, they'll say oh i just had this magnificent idea and I bring it up to you and it gets through and you'll get the purpose you will make a difference, but you don't have to get credit

City Commission Meeting

March 10, 2026

Agenda Item F-2 – Resolution affirming the city's commitment to human trafficking prevention through Community outreach, education and interagency coordination

[Date]

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because if you get credit this is election time. Yeah, it's election time, that's what the Town Hall meeting was yesterday about. Let's talk about what I have done, what I have presented, what I've been here doing and so it's I, I, I, I, I, it was not a we, we, we, but you know what, it's election time. Do not feel embarrassed, Commissioner, you're not an embarrassment, there are other people that are really embarrassments on this Commission

City Clerk Urquia: That's it, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lago: All right, perfect. We have a motion and a second.

Commissioner Fernandez: Yes

Commissioner Lara: Yes

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes

Commissioner Castro: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes