

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting**  
**Agenda Item**  
**February 25, 2025**  
**Police and Fire Headquarters**  
**2151 Salzedo Street, Coral Gables, FL**

**City Commission**

**Mayor Vince Lago**

**Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson**

**Commissioner Melissa Castro**

**Commissioner Ariel Fernandez**

**Commissioner Kirk Menendez**

**City Staff**

**City Attorney, Cristina Suárez**

**City Manager, Alberto Parjus**

**City Clerk, Billy Urquia**

**Public Speaker(s)**

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Agenda Item [ p.m.]

Mayor Lago: Before we ask some members of the community to come up and speak, I'd like to read unto the record a Resolution of Condolence.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor, before you begin, I also have the video from Commissioner Castro.

Mayor Lago: Play it after. Thank you. Whereas, Mark dedicated almost two decades to transformation and growth of the Coral Gables Chamber, establishing it as a beacon of excellence and leadership within the business community, not only of Coral Gables, but also the State of Florida. During his remarkable tenure the Chamber grew in size and impact; and whereas, he is not only a visionary leader, but also a beloved friend and cherished member of our community. His unwavering passion and dedication enriched our Lives, making Coral Gables a place of opportunity and camaraderie. Whereas his contributions extended beyond professional achievements; his vibrant personality and generous spirit touched everyone he met, making him a true pillar of the Coral Gables community. Whereas Mark's innovative initiatives and strategic partnerships significantly enhanced the economic vitality and cultural richness of Coral Gables, leaving a lasting legacy that will benefit future generations. Whereas Mark was the former president of the University of Florida National Alumni Association and considered himself the number one "Gator" in the home of the University of Miami Hurricanes. Whereas his leadership style was characterized by his open-minded approach and commitment to inclusivity, which fostered a welcoming and supportive environment for all business members and residents of the

community. Now, therefore be it resolved by the Commission of the City of Coral Gables, as we mourn this immense loss, we extend our heartfelt sympathies to his family, friends and all who knew him. Mark's legacy of service, excellence and friendship will continue to inspire and guide us. In recognition of his invaluable contributions and in memory of his visionary leadership, we hereby present the certificate of condolence. Mark's impact will forever be part of Coral Gables and he will be profoundly missed. I here unto place my hand and cause this great seal of the City of Coral Gables to be affixed to this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025. So, I'd like to hear the video that Commissioner Castro has produced, but I have an idea, and I'd like for my colleagues to support me on this and I think its an opportunity. When you talk about the business community and when you talk about impact, he exemplified impact. He exemplified the business community. The business community is the backbone of our city financially. The Chamber is where it is today because of the great members of the Chamber, Mark Trowbridge's commitment, but our downtown is what it is because of the business community. So, over the last few years, one of the projects I've been working on and I'm very proud of is to expand on our parks. We went from having one park in the downtown, Ponce Circle Park to now having over six and hopefully ten in the next few years, as they come online. I'd like, with the support of my colleagues on the Commission, to name a part in the downtown after Mark Trowbridge. I think that there is a beautiful, beautiful opportunity to honor somebody who drove, drove a mission. That mission was service, dedication, beyond the business community. It was selfless. Anybody who is willing to call me every single day to see how I'm doing above himself, this is the least that we could do. So, I'd like to make a motion to name – the city can decide which park, we have multiple different parks that are coming online, due to private/public partnerships. For example, the Mercedes Benz lot across the street, you have the Publix lot, you have the one in front of Nordstrom's, you have the one on Segovia that's forthcoming. I'd love to be able to name one of these parks after Mark Trowbridge. I think it's a symbolic gesture that will carry a lot of weight and will for sure, not that he needs it, but will solidify his legacy, because what I would like to see is, one day with my daughters are playing in Coral Gables, walking through the city and they ask, who is Mark Trowbridge. I think that is important, because people need to know the story of Mark Trowbridge. Its not the businessman, its not the business leader, it's a guy with a huge heart who was an amazing, amazing person, an amazing person, and if you didn't get to know him, I kind of feel bad for you, I kind of feel bad for you. But I'd like to make a motion, if I may, with the support of my colleagues, the Manager can decide which park is appropriate or maybe they can work with the family and members of the Chamber to make that decision come to reality.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I'll second it.

Mayor Lago: Madam Vice Mayor, with the second. Mr. Clerk.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes

Commissioner Castro: Yes

Commissioner Fernandez: Yes

Commissioner Menendez: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Lago: Commissioner Castro, would you like to see the video?

Commissioner Castro: Absolutely.

City Clerk Urquia: The video for Commissioner Castro.

[Video Presentation]

Mayor Lago: Beautiful video.