

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Items F-2
May 19, 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
Economic Development Director, Belkys Perez

Public Speaker(s)

Claudio Veloso

Agenda Item F-2 [Start: 11:58 a.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission authorizing the temporary installation of two painted Jaguar Parade® sculptures, as part of the original 11-piece collection, on Miracle Mile in collaboration with Jaguar Parade®, and Artery; authorizing the City Manager or designee to execute any necessary agreements, permits, and related documents for the installation, maintenance, and removal; authorizing a temporary encroachment into the public right-of-way; and providing for an effective date. (Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

Mayor Lago: Next item that we have is time certain item F-2.

City Attorney Suarez: F-2 is a Resolution of the City Commission authorizing the temporary installation of two painted Jaguar Parade® sculptures, as part of the original 11-piece collection, on Miracle Mile in collaboration with Jaguar Parade®, and Artery; authorizing the City Manager or designee to execute any necessary agreements, permits, and related documents for the

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installation, maintenance, and removal; authorizing a temporary encroachment into the public right-of-way; and providing for an effective date.

Mayor Lago: I'm the sponsor of this item. Thank you very much, Belkys. You've done a great job. Your team has done a great job. This is going to be, again, something special. Thank you to the ACM, the DCM and the Manager. I'm looking forward to, again, bringing more activation to the downtown.

Economic Development Director: Yep. So, if I can have the PowerPoint up. So, as you said, Mayor, you sponsored this item. It was brought to us by your office. This is the Jaguar Parade project. Jaguar Parade is an open-air art exhibit. Decorated Jaguar sculptures would line the public right-of-way in some areas. This is a project that has had international appeal. And so, at the end of the exhibit, all proceeds from the auction of the statues would be, or the sculptures would be donated to the Jaguar conservation efforts. And so, in this case, we're saying that we, by the way, we're collaborating with a company called Artsy Giovanni Passa, which is the CEO of Artery, it's called, is trying to join by Zoom, but is unable to because he's in Brazil right now. So, we're having him create a statement and hopefully he will be able to do that before we end this presentation.

Mayor Lago: Another thing about this, again, these are temporary.

Economic Development Director: It is temporary.

Mayor Lago: I want to be very clear; this is not permanent. These are just fun sculptures to bring people another opportunity to take a picture, have a good time in the Gables, brand the Gables, kind of like what you did, again, amazing, amazing with what's on Giraldo right now. You can see it in the back. So, it's just an opportunity just to get people out, get people to have lunch, to have a drink, to shop on Miracle Mile in our downtown.

Economic Development Director: It's, there are different artists involved. We're not saying that these are the two sculptures that would be lining the street. We're looking at the 100 block of Miracle Mile on the crosswalk right in front of McBride Plaza, where you would have those two jaguars facing each other on the crosswalk, but we're open to other possibilities. This would not block the sidewalk and would comply with accessibility as well. And I think it's a win-win for everyone. The sculptures are, all the costs related to the installation and insurance and de-installation, everything is covered by the company. It is meant to be outside, so it's perfectly fine with our weather. It is going to attract people, like the Mayor said. It's going to bring people and people will want to take pictures. It will raise awareness for the campaign. And it helps us be a part of something that's already international, that has international appeal. It's, again, a temporary exhibit. It would be from June 10th to July 20th, so six weeks. And they would coordinate the whole load-in and load-out and they will provide insurance.

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Mayor Lago: When you look at this, again, no cost. That's one of the reasons why when Belkys and I had this discussion, I thought it was a great idea. Economic engagement and activation it's temporary. You know how I am in regard to art and I believe there should be a certain level. I think this is fun. You know, the kids are going to love it. And at the end of the day, I'm a big fan of big cats and preservation. I think that this is something that, again, brings awareness. But, you know, I mean, again, we don't have jaguars here. We have the Florida panther and any way that we can educate on conservation here in the Everglades and in South Florida. Again, I think it's a win-win.

Economic Development Director: Mayor, I do want to point of privilege. We have the Deputy Consul Veloso of Brazil here, if he would like to say a few words. Is that okay?

Mayor Lago: Yes, it would be an honor. Please. Mr. Consul.

Mr. Claucio Veloso: Hello everybody. My name is Claucio Veloso. I'm the Deputy Consul General of Brazil in charge of trade promotion and cultural affairs. It's an honor to be here. I just wanted to highlight that the upcoming World Cup will be a very special moment for Miami and Coral Gables and all of the cities within Miami-Dade. And we believe the motto behind this Jaguar Parade is very inspirational. This exhibit has been presented at the UN in New York and Paris during COP 30 in Brazil. So, it's the idea behind the exhibition is to promote and to raise the awareness about the need for preservation of jaguars within the Americas. Some areas of the Americas have already reached the point of extinction of the jaguars. So, we believe this is very important. And the Consulate of Brazil supports this project. And Coral Gables is a very important part of this area. This exhibition will be in downtown Brickell, the Design District, Miami Beach. And we believe Coral Gables is very important. We have FIFA here. We have the Brazilian Football Confederation here. Their headquarters are here. So, we believe Coral Gables is a very important part of this project. So, we thank you for considering this and we hope Coral Gables will be part of this great project. Thank you very much.

Mayor Lago: It's an honor to partner with Brazil. Thank you very much. And a great mention of the World Cup. Mr. Clerk, do you have any public comment?

City Clerk Urquia: Yes, Mr. Mayor. Jackson Holmes.

Mr. Holmes: Okay. First of all, I want to ask your forgiveness if I went overboard in my public comment. Because secondly, I support what you're doing here on this item. I have property on Miracle Mile, I support it. Now, thirdly, I'm trying to avoid being punished, but I have to at least try with a positive and constructive solution. And you can remember how many emails I've sent you. I have proof. Now, first of all, I'm putting myself under penalties for perjury with this. So, you don't think this is a frivolous thing that I'm saying. I have proof that we prevented landfall or that the authorities prevented landfall of Hurricane Aaron in 2001. Hurricane landfall can be prevented. And if we go, if we think back to this item here, we're talking about the light, you know,

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all those poles. If I were City Commissioner, we would get slamming on this thing. And if we stopped the hurricanes from making landfall, then FPL doesn't have any problems. Maybe they could give us our pole. Thank you very much.

Mayor Lago: Thank you, sir. Anything else? All right. May I entertain a motion?

Vice Mayor Anderson: I'll move it.

Mayor Lago: We have a second. Any further discussion?

Commissioner Fernandez: Just one point, Mr. Mayor. The question I have is, it is during hurricane season. Do we need to remove these if there is a storm? Do they need to be covered? Just want to make sure we get that on the record.

Economic Development Director: As part of the resolution language in the encroachment, they're responsible for removal and returning it on the site.

Mayor Lago: And they're made of fiberglass at the end of the day, correct, so they don't weigh much. Perfect. All right. We have a motion to second.

City Clerk Urquia: Yes, sir.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes.

Commissioner Castro: Yes.

Commissioner Fernandez: Yes.

Commissioner Lara: So, I love these activations, Belkys. I think that when you had the one before where it was like Coral Gables, right? And now with these jaguars, and like the Mayor said, the ability to create more interest in visitors to come and have fun in our city and create these moments where people can take some photos, upload them on social media, they become sort of agents of marketing for our City Beautiful. So, I think this is whimsical. It's doing something good by raising awareness. Thank you very much for your comments, you know, regarding Brazil and the importance of raising awareness for the preservation of these beautiful animals. So, I thank you, Mayor, for bringing this before us. So, my vote's yes.

Mayor Lago: Yes. Thank you for giving me the credit where the credit deserves. It all goes to Belkys and her team.

Economic Development Director: Thank you. I just wanted to say the CEO just emailed us because he couldn't join, and he says that he's very happy and thankful, and that he's happy that Coral Gables is now part of this international program.

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Mayor Lago: Thank you. Our Brazilian friends, Mr. Consul, thank you so much. It's a privilege and an honor to have you here. Thank you, sir. Looking forward to doing many other things with you.