

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Items C-1
April 10, 2018
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

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

City Staff

City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item C-1 and H-1 are related: 9:16:33 a.m.]

Mayor's Comments

Presentation of a Proclamation declaring April 2018 as "Autism Awareness Month" in Coral Gables.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Now we have a Proclamation declaring April 2018 as "Autism Awareness Month" in Coral Gables. David you want to say some words please.

Speaker: First, thank you Mr. Mayor and all the members of this august body for the honor you are showing Crystal Academy today, and more so for the continuous support we've always received from you. It is a great help in an incredibly worthy mission. I have the unfortunate, I feel the responsibility to let you know that we have a little video for you that we made for this month's events and new information may render that video inadvertently misleading, in that the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital has now come out with new numbers, which suggest that the rate of autism in America may have changed from the 1 in 68 that we've all become used to over the last couple of years from the CDC to 1 in 45 children between the ages of 3 and 17. These numbers suggest since males we know, the prevalence in males is higher than in females. These numbers suggest that two (2) percent of our female children and as many as three (3) percent of

our male children are being born with a mental disability, a neurological disorder somewhere on the autism spectrum now. It is my now my more happy responsibility to show our gratitude this month, we are focused on inclusion. The message for us used to be letting everybody know that autism was out there and who we were and now we are pretty sure everybody is aware, our new message now is inclusion and our new message that we are creating now is that our children are 1 in 68 or unfortunately maybe 1 in 45, but they are also one of us; and on the message of inclusion our gratitude goes out to the Coral Gables Youth Center for all the work they are doing to include our kids in the community represented here today, like Eric Acofkin and John Heckle and to the Coral Gables Museum, represented today by John Allen for all the support that they have shown us. We would also like to thank for their continuous support Mary Snow and the Coral Gables Foundation and the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce. And lastly, but with the fullest possible heart, our gratitude goes out to the professionals who work tirelessly day in and day out to help our children overcome those challenges, represented today here, as well as they possibly could be by the lead teachers and director of Coral Gables. You guys stand up.

(Applause)

Speaker: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. You want to show the video?

[Video Presentation]

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Beautiful.

(Applause)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Let's have our picture taken with your people.

[End: 9:22 a.m.]