

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting**  
**Agenda Item F-3**  
**April 14, 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**

**Public Speaker(s)**

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Agenda Item F-3

Discussion regarding voter protections  
(Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

Mayor Lago: Moving on to item F-3, a discussion regarding voter protections. So, I'd like to hand this out to my colleagues. So, I want you to follow me on a little journey, okay. So, we have some slides for this item that I want to show you. So, we've been working on this in my office for the last few weeks. It's election season. Everything that I send out says Vince Lago on it or Coral Gables First. I don't have to use anything else. I put my name on everything, everything I send out. We have a lot of individuals right now here in the city, it happened today, that are sending out text messages and are sending out shadow polls and all kinds of things that are against state statutes that are actually against the federal government. What I want is my colleagues here to put their money where their mouth is. I'm going to Tallahassee. I'm working on this. I already hired attorneys, and I want my colleagues to support me on this. Let me give you a little walkthrough. For the last few weeks Coral Gables residents have received thousands of political survey emails from an entity called Analytics 305. Analytics 305 is not registered in the State of Florida. The survey asked residents how likely they are to cast their mail-in ballot. It was bilingual, professional

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and targeted. There is no organization called Analytics 305 registered in Florida. There is no website, there is no sponsoring organization, disclosure as required by law. The text message that was sent out today did not have a disclosure. It was Commissioner Castro's, and it led you back to a put...

Commissioner Castro: It wasn't.

Mayor Lago: It led you...

Commissioner Castro: I cleared the record that wasn't my text message okay.

Mayor Lago: It was another entity on her behalf.

Commissioner Castro: No, it was...

Mayor Lago: If I may finish.

Commissioner Castro: Do not blame me for things that are not...

Mayor Lago: If I may let me finish. It was another organization in help of Commissioner Castro that led back to Political Cortadito in an effort to obviously derail and cause as much damage to the referendums as possible. This is the same situation you have here. Forensic investigations have established that Analytics 305 and People Count USA share common attributes. I have a legal team and a technology team that's working on this. I've been having it for two years and we're going to find out, and we already have found out, and we've already submitted it to the Ethics Commission both at the state and at the local level, Kathy Fernandez Rundle's office and a litany of other entities that we're dealing with. As a matter of fact, I have a meeting in two weeks with the state to address this issue and my attorneys. More importantly, I received this email at my city government email address. This is where we have a problem. The email contained what appeared to be an inline survey question, but when you click on the bubble it launches your web browser to a web browser and takes you out of your email system entirely to a Survey Monkey page on the internet. The bubble is disguised as a link. Your response does not go back through the email chain; it does not enter the city's email archive. It is captured by a private Survey Monkey account owned by an anonymous actor and the resident is none the wiser. You are misled and you are taken advantage of, and your information is used. Now this is important because when a when a Mayor receives a communication at his official email address about an upcoming city election and responds to it, that response is public record per Florida Statute Chapter 119. This is a deliberate subversion of Florida's Public Records Law, and this is not the first time this has happened. The commission is well aware of the previous survey sent by People Count USA. The operation resulted in a lawsuit, and this is why I want everyone to listen, okay. This is not the first time this has happened. The Commission is well aware of the previous survey sent by People Count USA. That operation resulted in a lawsuit in a court order, and it revealed the persons responsible. I was

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responsible for that court order. I paid for the lawyers. I know who did that. Forensic analysis has revealed that the Analytics 305 and People Count USA domains were registered within three months of each other in 2023 and share many similarities. I have directed that formal legal complaint to be filed with Survey Monkey to ensure that the records are preserved for investigators and have referred the issue to Miami-Dade State Attorney, the Florida Attorney General and the United States Attorney of the Southern District of Florida. I have been in communication with all of them and I'm meeting with them next week again. Today I'm introducing a resolution formally condemning this conduct and announcing a voter protection legislative package that will require anyone targeting Florida Coral Gables voters with political communications to identify themselves fully. I urge my colleagues to carefully consider how they will vote. Anonymous actors should not be permitted to run covert surveillance operations against our residents. This is a piece of legislation that I've sent out there for you. Now, you have another item on this or no. If you look at the information, here is the survey that was sent out. When you fill this survey out it is not a public record, because it is not part of the city's. This was received by many people in the City of Coral Gables and employees. This is misleading and subversive and threatens our democracy. What I'd like to see is for my colleagues to support me in the legislation that I have here which I would like to write with your help. Everyone, everyone, could join me in this resolution so that I'm going to ask our City Attorney to put on the next agenda using the resolution that I gave you here. It's an opportunity to address an issue and to stop an issue that I'm currently fighting and to force entities, unions, shadow packs, individuals who don't want to use their names to step out of the shadows and follow the law and protect our democracy. Madam City Attorney, with the help and support of my colleagues in the Commission, I would like for you to prepare a resolution in a similar nature that addresses these concerns and urges all legal entities that we have at our disposal to address this type of misconduct. Madam Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I would support that. Actions like this what has been happening here with the surveys are one of the many things that cause people to distrust government, so we need to make sure that we take every action necessary to not allow these types of activities to go on unchecked. So, I do support this, and I'll ask the City Attorney do you need a motion from the Commission.

City Attorney Suarez: It sounds like the Mayor would like this to come back next meeting so we can work on it. I just saw it now for the first time.

Mayor Lago: I'm giving this information. I always, I don't just bring things on. I give you information, study it for two or three weeks and then come back, but I would like all my colleagues to support me on this and be a part of this piece of legislation, be a part of this, be a co-sponsor on it.

Commissioner Lara: Through the Mayor.

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Mayor Lago: Yes sir.

Commissioner Lara: You can count on me as a co-sponsor.

Mayor Lago: Perfect.

Commissioner Lara: And to work alongside all of our, I believe and I hope the rest of my colleagues on the dais, because you know what being proposed and introduced by you with this legislation, no fair-minded and no democracy loving individual could in all fairness be against it, because what you're alleging has occurred, what you're trying to prevent from happening in the future is otherwise it has no place in democracy and indefensible otherwise. So, count on my support, co-sponsor, I'd be happy to and to assist between now and the next Commission meeting.

Mayor Lago: Thank you.

Commissioner Fernandez: Through the Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Fernandez: I would also like to see if we can include in here text message polling that has been done, as well as this election and last election, which was also not informative of who was conducting the polling. I mean it's first time I'm looking at it so, I haven't gone in depth into it, but I would also like to co-sponsor.

Mayor Lago: And I'm happy you're excited to be involved in this because you're very familiar with what People Count USA is and when you talk about text messages, it should be text messages, it should be all communication, all communication and as I've said before, number one, anything that has my name on it is for me, and Coral Gables First, anything that I put always has my name on it and I'm very clear about that, very clear about that. I don't need to send out articles from, you know, if I do send out articles they have my name on it always, they've always had my name on it, but at the end of the day, just like People Count USA, which you're very familiar with, you're very familiar with that, you know it like the back of your hands, I'm excited that so far we have four out of the five. Madam Vice Mayor, you'd like to add something.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Oh yeah, no I mean, four out of the five. Yes, I will definitely join in on that.

Mayor Lago: Okay.

Commissioner Castro: Through the Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Yes, go ahead.

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Commissioner Castro: Yeah. So, you were referring that maybe I had sent a message or something. I can admit to in my personal capacity there is volunteers are canvassing and in any documents that I've given, it says it in the bottom, political advertisement personally by me. So, anything that is done by me even if it's in my personal capacity, I am stating it very bluntly. Now I haven't gone through this, but with what you're saying I wouldn't be opposed to it. I cannot tell you right now, because I haven't gone through it it's brand new, but if it makes sense to me you would also have my support as a co-sponsor.

Mayor Lago: To discuss and put a little clarity to what the Commissioner's saying. Rip Homes, a few other individuals are walking door to door and have actually mentioned that they're doing this on behalf of Commissioner Castro, and they provide a document. The document does not have a disclaimer. I have a copy of the document.

Commissioner Castro: I do too.

Mayor Lago: It does not have a disclaimer.

Commissioner Castro: I have it in the car.

Mayor Lago: It does not have a disclaimer.

Commissioner Castro: You're not looking well then.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner, please don't interrupt me, I give you the respect that you deserve. It does not have a disclaimer. Today there was another text message sent out which tees off, you know, I'm Commissioner so-and-so and I'm against all, you know, against the referendums and it takes you back to a Political Cortadito article. It does not have a disclaimer. That is against the law, that is against the law, whether it's a fire union, or it's the Commissioner or it's another entity, nefarious entity that's hiding shadows, it's used in an effort to subvert and to put our democracy at risk. This is not a third world country; this is the United States of America. When I'm going to send out information in regard to an election, I'm going to put my name on it, like I always have. So, Madam City Attorney, we have support from the Commission. I ask you to please put this on the agenda and I will work with you, and I will give you other information that I think is pertinent that should be included in this piece of legislation and after we're done, I ask that this legislation be submitted to all state entities both local and state from Kathy Fernandez Rundle, to the Ethics Council both at the state and at the county to make sure that we follow all the rules that again, that we do not subvert our democracy, because I think that we could do much better than what we're seeing. Good. Thank you very much.