

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-2
December 10, 2019
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Michael Mena
Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Assistant City Manager, Ed Santamaria

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-2 [2:45:54 p.m.]

An update on traffic calming initiatives between Blue Road and Miller Drive.
(Sponsored by Vice Mayor Lago)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: The other items are G-2, 3, and 4, and I have a question before we get to it, Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes sir.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Are these three, two intersections and one tree, items that are better discussed with the City Manager and not bringing it before the Commission?

Vice Mayor Lago: I always discuss it with the City Manager, but I think they are important to put on the record. A lot of residents have questions and I think that this one tree is important, because I wanted to show you something that happened in my neighborhood. I'm blessed to live on Urbino. So, in reference to G-2, the traffic calming initiative, I just want an update from staff. I'm getting

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a lot of calls from residents that deal with – they see all the traffic calming initiatives that are coming to fruition after a few years of having conversations, all the speed bumps that are being rolled out; and there are concerns on Alhambra, there are concerns about some of the speeding that’s going on there and they want to see what’s on the plan. And I also have spoken to them about the issue of Blue Road, about if we could put some traffic calming devices on Blue Road and I wanted staff to basically address that issue.

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: Good afternoon Mr. Mayor, members of the Commission, Ed Santamaria, Assistant City Manager. So, traffic calming citywide – As you know we have embarked on a very ambitious plan to implement traffic calming measures citywide throughout all of our residential neighborhoods. Right now, we have completed work in the Blue/Bird, as directed by the Commission. That was the first area to receive traffic calming measures. That’s been completed. There are areas in the Blue/Bird area neighborhood that we’ll be coming back to, that had initially opted out for the program, now they want to opt back in. We’ll be revisiting with them at the opportune time and moment to do so. We are about to complete some work on Aragon and Giralda in the first quarter of next year. There are also other projects in the pipeline. Regarding citywide – The City has been divided into six zones, we are consolidating two of those zones, so we are going to end up with five zones. The tentative schedule as of this moment is that there will be public meeting beginning in January and about every other month there is going to be a public meeting involving each of the zones. So, we hope to be over or complete public meetings in August. At that point, we would have met with all city neighborhoods as represented in those zones. At the same time, we are going to be working on design and balloting throughout the other zones. We are going to be getting design in March and we hope to conclude design sometime in November. So as that happens, we are also engaging in a procurement process to add to our resources in terms of constructing traffic calming. We are looking to add contractors so that we can enhance and maximize our production on whatever projects gets approved through the concurrency process, because we still have to go through some level of concurrency. So that is my update citywide. As it relates to Blue Road. Blue Road, as you know is a county right-of-way and it’s also a major county arterial. It’s a collector and I really doubt that the county is going to allow any kind of traffic calming because the county is really looking at moving vehicles.

Vice Mayor Lago: So, let me ask you a question. In between Blue Road where there is a circle, all the way to Miller, where there’s another circle, its pretty much a straight shot, is there an opportunity there to potentially that slows traffic down. Insert like we planned before, but it’s been defeated, circle.

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: There is an opportunity.

Vice Mayor Lago: There was a pretty gruesome accident there the other day two blocks away from me right on Alhambra.

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: There is an opportunity, we have to petition the county. We just can't do it under the city's traffic calming MOU.

Vice Mayor Lago: OK. Perfect. Thank you. By the way, all the residents that we mentioned, which the ones on Cantore and the ones adjacent to that, that were opposed to traffic calming are now all in support, which I think is a testament to, not only the effectiveness of the traffic calming, but also, it's a very beautiful project. Its actually nicer than what I expected it was going to turn out.

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: We are the City Beautiful.

Vice Mayor Lago: I know. It's a testament to staff's efforts, so I wanted to say thank you for that.

[End: 2:50:33 p.m.]