

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Items J-2 and J-3
August 29, 2017
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, Craig E. Leen
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Deputy City Attorney, Miriam Ramos**

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Items J-2 and J-3 [5:50:47 p.m.]
J-2: Status report on 747 / 760 Ponce Nuisance Abatement Matter
J-3: Report regarding misdemeanor citation program

City Attorney Leen: So J-2 and J-3 are being done by Miriam; Miriam can you give us a brief update on both?

Deputy City Attorney Ramos: Yes, of course. J-2 is a nuisance matter in the....neighborhood. We have been working with all parties; Tim Plummer has already done an extensive traffic study on the issues on 747 and 760, so the report has been given to all parties and we have mediation scheduled for September 6th, so if the case is not settled at mediation then it will be coming before you at a subsequent meeting. As to J-3; J-3 is a report on the misdemeanor citation program. As you all know, we have the Justice Advocate Program, which has been extremely successful. Last year we expanded it even further and this continues to better the Justice Advocate Program and what it does is basically anytime that a case is no action by the State

Attorney's it comes to me for review and then I determine if it is worth proceeding under 38-1, whereby we incorporate all state misdemeanors into the City Code. We show Code Enforcement citation and we make people accountable for every single time for the City of Coral Gables. I won't bore you with the details of the policy, but essentially it's the top crimes that we are interested in proceeding with and what the...fine structure would be for each, and also settlement amounts. It doesn't bind us to any of these; these are just as a general policy that we would go by to make sure that we are fair equitable in every situation.

City Attorney Leen: This is a great program, this is a great program, because what we are doing is we are taking the Justice Advocate Program, but we follow every crime basically that's committed in Coral Gables that falls within certain categories, like burglaries or things like that. We have Izzy Reyes and Manny Guarch follow those and assist the prosecution of those matters; and then, now what we are doing is, whenever there is an arrest and there is an arrest form done and let's say there is not a prosecution that occurs, we review that prosecution or non-prosecution. We determine if there were any mistakes done by the police officers, if so, we use as an education opportunity through the Director of Public Safety and the Chief of Police. If we find that it involves something else, like it wasn't police error or something where we could just give additional guidance, but that maybe administratively the prosecutor's office decided not to prosecute, we issue a citation to make sure that if you commit a crime in Coral Gables there is follow through. So we think it's a great program because it shows that anytime a crime is committed in Coral Gables we look at it; and one thing we are finding is that a lot of these are not prosecuted because of a lack of victim participation, which you know is understandable. A lot of times victims feel like by going through the process again they may be revictimized. So what we are trying to do is make it easier for them through the Justice Advocate Program, through the Victim Assistance Program, we've gotten great assistance from the City Manager's office with that and there is a real commitment by this Commission to that program. So the goal is to see that any crime that occurs in Coral Gables there is follow through and that I would just like to commend the City Prosecutor, she is doing a great job issuing a lot of cease and desist orders, overseeing this program and we are very thankful for that.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Thank you.

Commissioner Lago: Thank you – good work.

[End: 5:53:58 p.m.]