

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item J-3
December 5, 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
Assistant City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Government Affairs Manager, Naomi Levi-Garcia

Public Speaker(s)

Henry Iler
RJ de Varona
Anthony De Yurre

Agenda Item J-3 [0:00:00 p.m.]

A discussion regarding the status of the High Pines/Ponce-Davis annexation process.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: The next is J-3, discussion regarding the status of High Pines/Ponce-Davis annexation process.

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Agenda Item J-3 - Discussion regarding the status of the High Pines/Ponce-Davis annexation process.

Commissioner Lago: Naomi, you made it.

Government Affairs Manager Levi-Garcia: I'm here. Thirteen more weeks, at least.

Commissioner Lago: You made it.

Government Affairs Manager Levi-Garcia: Good morning, Mayor and Commissioners, Madam City Attorney, Madam City Manager. So, our initial deadline for the submission of petitions has passed. It was November 30th. We sent petitions to 2,400 voters in the High Pines/Ponce-Davis area. They had the option to vote for or against the annexation. We'd like to present our preliminary results. Our consultant, Mr. Iler, has prepared a PowerPoint.

Henry Iler: Yes. Good morning. Henry Iler. I'm the consulting planner on the annexation for the City. What we did was we, first of all, ordered the overall voter roll for the entire High Pines/Ponce-Davis area. And that, as you said, came in around 2,383 voters. And then after we sent out the mailing, we requested ten individual voting rolls for subareas within the area from the County Department of Elections. And so, that's that first -- that's the first one that you see there on the screen. And then, if we go to the next slide, you can see the results of the number of voters for each area, the number of petitions we received in that area, and then the yeses and the noes.

Vice Mayor Keon: We -- do we have a copy of this?

Commissioner Quesada: It's very difficult to see.

Vice Mayor Keon: You can't see it from here.

Commissioner Quesada: We can't read it from here.

Vice Mayor Keon: You can't read it from here.

Mr. Iler: Sorry.

Vice Mayor Keon: Do you have copies of this?

Government Affairs Manager Levi-Garcia: Yeah. We'll make some copies and bring them to you.

Vice Mayor Keon: Thank you.

Mr. Iler: Okay. Sorry about that.

Commissioner Lago: No worries.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: While Naomi's making copies, the largest vote population didn't vote.

Vice Mayor Keon: Didn't vote.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Did not vote. They didn't say yes; they didn't say no. They didn't vote. And so, that's -- I believe the number is 70 percent did not vote...

Mr. Iler: About a 30 percent response.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: In this process.

Vice Mayor Keon: Oh.

Mr. Iler: Which is actually not bad for a mailout ballot, but -- in fact, it's pretty good.

Commissioner Mena: I looked -- I reviewed this yesterday. I don't know if you guys had an opportunity to look at it. And my reaction was, just north of 80th Street and up against 57th, which there's a bunch of older apartment buildings there, that's where the highest concentration of noes were, I think. There's a lot of volume in there because there's more units, so that -- my initial -- I don't know what your perspective was...

Mr. Iler: No, that's exactly right. Just between 76th Street and 80th, there's a band east-west that goes in there. And I think there's a lot of folks in multifamily and we got a high -- we had a high number of people respond, almost 200 petitions just in the northwest area, south of 76th Street. And so, what we did -- and we'll wait for the copies. But, what we did was to -- we saw in the northeast area that we had a lot of support along Sunset, but then we had the area in between -- 76th in Davis -- where we didn't have such good support. Actually, 47 percent. So, we kind of -- we sliced the area a little differently. We counted the petitions using Ponce as the dividing line - - Ponce Road, rather than 76th Street. And you can't read that, but we came out with a northeast area that was more oriented north and south. So, Ponce was the dividing line, so from Ponce over to 47th Avenue (Irwin) was one area. And then the other area was Ponce over to School House Road. And so, we subdivided the northeast area a little differently, counted the petitions by address. And, the results came out a little differently and gave us another option for annexation. And, I don't know if you want me to keep going or just kind of wait until the copies come.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Well, and when the copies do come, we'll also load it onto the computer for the public. But, I think what's important is not only the support that -- how the area blocks out in terms of residents that were in support, but also, even in those areas where residents were not in favor of the application -- and we're not sure if that means status quo, stay with Miami-Dade or if there's a smaller percentage that may wish to go to South Miami. We

need to understand that better. But even when there's 299 potential voters in the area, we still had over 100 people that had not voted.

Commissioner Quesada: So, is this a rep -- in your experience, I mean, is this a sufficient enough representative sample considering all of the people that did not vote?

Mr. Iler: Yeah, I think it's very representative. Now, keep in mind, the vote occurred in September, which is a time when folks that are not here, you know, the second homers and things, might not be here. So, if the vote is taken maybe in March, we might get a little bit more voting because, you know, there's just more people here. But other than that, I think it's very representative. I think it's kind of what we -- based on the meetings that we had, I'm not very surprised at all with these results. We knew the -- kind of the strongest -- the strongest support is in the Ponce-Davis area, down in the southeast portion of this section. We kind of suspected that south of Davis was pretty good support. And, we got a feeling from our meetings that the northwest area -- there were a lot of folks from the northwest area, just in our -- you know, just coming to the meetings and everything. So, these results are fairly good in a lot of respects for the city, because there's major portions of this area that have greater than a 60 percent yes. So, when we get into some of the options after you get the copies, you'll see that very clearly and it gives you a lot of -- like three or four good options. One of the key things that we'll need -- and in fact, we've already counted the County staff -- is if we don't -- by the way, the total vote was just about exactly 50-50. It was 50.2 to 49.8 for the whole area. So, you can see -- when you weigh in the northwest area, which had most of the petitions, you know, a lot of petitions, that that negative vote brings it down to about 50-50. But then if you look at various quadrants, it's much higher in some areas. So, it was very good for us to be able to kind of bring this down to a subarea, and then you can take the data and bring it up to whatever area you want, which is what we did in the options later on. But, a key question is whether the County will allow the City -- if you do choose to take a portion of this area -- if they will allow us to make this enclave smaller, but still there. Let's say that we just annex the area south of Davis and leave everything north of Davis. Does the -- would the County be supportive of an annexation area that's -- or enclave

area that's half the size of what they had? So, that's a key question at the County level. I think some of that will depend on whether Little Gables goes forward, and obviously, it is going forward to kind of counterbalance the financial aspects. But, that's a question we put to County staff and we hope to have an answer very quickly.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: So, do you have other slides there that they may at least be able to see...

Mr. Iler: Let me see if they actually are visible.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: The boundaries in terms of the -- because they showed me -- you all showed me some slides yesterday.

Mr. Iler: Yes. Now, this is an area where we subdivided the northeast area to be more north-south. So, you can see Ponce is the line of division. And, you can't read that until you get the copies, but it showed that the area east of Ponce gave us a 56 percent yes -- the area east of Ponce in the northeast area. And to the west of Ponce Road, 51 percent yes. So, that section changed quite a bit when we changed the way we looked at the voters.

Vice Mayor Keon: Ponce-Davis, what avenue? What is...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: (INAUDIBLE) west...

Vice Mayor Keon: What is Ponce-Davis equivalent to? What is the -- what is Ponce Road equivalent to, avenue wise?

Mr. Iler: It is 49th Avenue.

Vice Mayor Keon: 49th.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah, but west of Ponce and south of Davis was also a very positive vote.

Mr. Iler: Very positive.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Very positive.

Mr. Iler: Yeah. So, when you look at this data...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: The only negative is the quadrant north of Davis and west of Ponce, and that is -- traditionally, that has been a very -- should I say...

Mr. Iler: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Bohemian area. And I remember many, many years ago when I -- we had a meeting at some church down there to discuss annexation, and I'm talking about 18, 20 years ago. And I was very vehemently -- not violently, but vehemently challenged by somebody who lived west of Ponce and north of Davis.

Mr. Iler: Yes, and that's...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Close to 57th, as to, you know -- and you expletive would not allow me to have my monkeys in my backyard. And I said, no, we would not, but you can't have them now either. And they're very anti-Coral Gables.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: So, Mr. Mayor, we have not encountered a monkey discussion as a part of this annexation. But, what we will tell you is then number of people that have voted up or down are not enough for us to move forward with an application today, because we need 20 percent...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Of the registered voters affirmatively stating they want to move forward.

Mr. Iler: Yeah.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: And so, while in individual quadrants we have had that, the overall requirement is not, so you all have choices.

Commissioner Quesada: Hold on. What's the overall requirement? What's the number as we sit here today based off this vote?

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Of the positive that needed to say affirmatively?

Commissioner Quesada: Yeah. You said we didn't hit the 20 percent. What was the number we got?

Mr. Iler: It varies by each area, but...

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: No, the total overall.

Commissioner Quesada: But the total.

Mr. Iler: We were right in...

Commissioner Quesada: Total.

Mr. Iler: Eighteen -- we were right in the -- in some of the areas, we got over 20 percent yes.

Commissioner Quesada: Okay, but the total, the whole area.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Like...

Mr. Iler: Oh, the whole area?

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Three hundred and...

Mr. Iler: Probably about...

Government Affairs Manager Levi-Garcia: We have 377.

Mr. Iler: We have about 15 percent.

Commissioner Quesada: I'm sorry?

Government Affairs Manager Levi-Garcia: We have 377 verified yes votes in the total area.

Commissioner Quesada: And that equals how many...

Government Affairs Manager Levi-Garcia: For 20 percent, we would need 480. We're looking at 2,400, so about 100 short if you're looking at the total area.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: When she says qualified, we had the number of votes before we had to qualify. But the signatures on both sides, yea and no, they fell out. And so, the question that we would also ask the Commission, do you want us to continue with an information campaign in the area targeted more to those that have not yet voted? Do you want to

pursue the discussion of carving to those areas that have known support and recalculating, or how would you like us to proceed, if at all, in the annexation process related to High Pines and Ponce-Davis?

Commissioner Mena: Do we know or do we have information of, for example, households where maybe the head of household responded affirmatively, but you've got another two or three registered voters who didn't respond?

Mr. Iler: Right.

Commissioner Mena: Do we have that type of data?

Mr. Iler: It's not very big in the area that had strong support. There's only like five or ten more that we need. And it's -- in fact, in one area, we have more than we need for the 20 percent. So, it's mainly -- and if I could just go through this, you'll very quickly see where we do have -- it'd be fairly simple to get the -- more yes petitions. And, it's probably critical for us to get an idea of where you're falling as far as the options. Not today, of course, because you're just seeing this, but in the near future. If I can go to the first option, our strongest support was down in the southeast area. If you look at this whole quarter section, there are 315 total voters. We got 80 petitions, around a 20 percent or 25 percent response. 235 did not respond, but we had 68 percent yes out of those 80, so that's a strong yes there. So, that's one option. Our strongest support is in that southeast area. If you go forward and look at the area just south of Davis -- you take 80th Street, everything south -- and actually, that's the southeast and southwest, you have -- you go up to 685 voters in those two areas. We received 214 petitions; 471 did not respond. Once again, you're looking at a much better response there. You got almost a third there, which is a very good response. And, this is the one group where we had more than enough. We have actually 84 and we need 74, so this is actually a very good area. Sixty-five percent yes; thirty-five percent no. So, this is also strong -- very strong support for the city based on the survey. Now, one of the reasons, as I said, for redoing the northeast section was to see if there's a way we

connect to some of the supporters in the northeast section. And our option, which is our southeast and southwest and northeast Ponce east -- that's a tortured name, but at least it shows you that it's the area east of Ponce in that area. If you use Ponce de Leon road as the dividing line up in the northeast, then you have 942 voters, 292 were received of the surveys and 650 non-respondents. Once again, just below a third in the response, which is pretty good for a mailout. Sixty-two percent were yes, thirty-eight percent no. so, you still have very strong support in what I call the inverted L shape of this option.

Commissioner Mena: But what's our 20 percent, you know, threshold number here in our -- I would like to see these also broken down by how many votes you need to get for this pass. That's ultimately what matters, right?

Mr. Iler: Yeah.

Commissioner Quesada: Well, I guess we can do the math.

Mr. Iler: You're going to do about...

Commissioner Quesada: 851 plus 368, you know, and what's 20 percent of that.

Mr. Iler: Yeah. You're going to do about 200 here. You need about 200 petitions here.

Commissioner Quesada: Well, actually, no.

Mr. Iler: Yes votes.

Commissioner Quesada: Total voters -- yeah, 1,219 total voters, so 20 percent of that...

Mr. Iler: Three hundred...

Commissioner Quesada: There's your number, about 240.

Vice Mayor Keon: Yeah.

Mr. Iler: Yeah. You might need...

Commissioner Quesada: So, about 120, 130 over.

Mr. Iler: Yeah. So, this is, once again, very strong for the city, 62 percent. And then the final option that we mapped for you is going all the way over to Schoolhouse Road. So, this would actually be doing the southeast, southwest and the northeast section. This is the largest area that we have an option for; 1,219 total voters in this area. This is roughly -- this would be roughly about 480 acres right in that area; 368 petitions received in this large area, 851 non-respondents. Once again, very good, 35 percent kind of response. And we had 60 percent yes. And you can see that when we take in the western part of the northeast area we have a little bit of -- yeah, we have a few more noes. So, our 62 percent in the previous option went down to 60 percent, because of that western area -- that western one-half that we took in there next to Schoolhouse Road. But once again, strong support, 60 percent. And once again, the good thing about the last two options is it also clears up the boundary situation you have up in the northeast corner, where east of Irwin you've got that kind of teardrop area that I'm sure people have a hard time figuring out where the boundary is in that area. It would smooth that out.

Commissioner Mena: But the problem I'm having with this is the 60 percent -- I mean, it's nice to know that, but it really doesn't matter. At the end of the day, in order -- even if you just did this, in order for it to pass, you'd need 20 percent of the voters. I'm doing rough math here. I don't even know if you'd get there on that number. In other words, you have 1,200 total voters, so what's 60 percent of the 368 petitions received. I think we're still short of the 20 percent, aren't we?

Mr. Iler: Yeah, it's going to be about -- you're going to need about 250 yes, roughly.

Commissioner Mena: So, we don't get there...

Mr. Iler: And so...

Commissioner Mena: Even on this.

Commissioner Quesada: Yeah.

Mr. Iler: Yeah.

Commissioner Quesada: No way.

Mr. Iler: We might need 40 or 50. But once again, it's very -- it's fairly easy to do another mailout just to the ones that didn't respond and we certainly know who they are and we've got all their information. We can also just do selected neighborhood -- door to door in some of the neighborhoods where we didn't have a lot of response. There's a number of ways to get those -- I think the main thing for us is -- once you feel comfortable that this is a decent indicator for you to really utilize, which of these areas appeal to you the most, because before you can do a resolution on any area here, we need to know what the area's going to be, if it's going to be less than the whole. So, in your deliberations, one of the things we'll need in order to move forward, even with the new petitions that we might need to get up to 20 percent will be kind of an indication from the -- maybe, you know, at a future meeting -- what you think is the best option for the city. And like I said, I think a lot of this is dependent on, of course, the City moving forward with Little Gables. And I have conveyed that to the County and I expect to get a response from the County as to whether they will allow a smaller enclave area to remain, and that's also a key issue.

Commissioner Mena: Yeah, we need to know that, because...

Mr. Iler: Yeah.

Commissioner Mena: Otherwise...

Mr. Iler: And so...

Commissioner Mena: We're wasting our time...

Mr. Iler: I've sent them the same maps.

Commissioner Mena: Right.

Mr. Iler: And so, we should have a response within a day or two.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I have no question that if we do the right way, that we'll move enough votes to make it happen from at least most of those areas, except the quadrant -- the northwest quadrant. But in the others, we will get enough votes and enough position reaction versus negative that it'll happen. I mean, I have no question of that. My...

Commissioner Mena: The idea of seeking additional petitions -- I mean, I -- that's really just -- the only purpose of that would be to get a higher percentage of people who are supporting it at this point. But, that doesn't impact whether or not it ultimately passes when it goes to the vote and we need 20 percent.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: We need 20 percent of the registered qualified voters wanting it in order to apply.

Commissioner Mena: Got you.

Mr. Iler: Yeah. That's...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay, we have...

Commissioner Mena: (INAUDIBLE) any of these areas.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We have Mr. De Varona here. Would you like to say a few words?

RJ de Varona: Yes. Thank you. I'm RJ de Varona, resident of Ponce-Davis. Some comments -- and I've had the pleasure of meeting with all of you on different occasions. To the City Manager, for example, I was very surprised by the number of votes on both sides that were disqualified. And, I asked her if she could please tell me what mine was, because I registered to vote 25 years ago. Ask me how I signed my name back then and I have no idea what that's like. So, I think in the interest of due process, I think perhaps if we do move -- if you move forward with more petitions, perhaps you could write to the folks that submitted it and their vote was not counted on both sides and say, listen, FYI, you know, this will affect you even voting in a general election if you vote by mail, because there is some issue. So, I'll put that to one side. I do think that the large concentration of the no votes on those multi-families which are just on 57th basically from about 74th to about 78th really is a misnomer. And I really would encourage the Commission, if it's going to open the opportunity to get more petitions, to open it for the whole, because I do think even when you look at some of the numbers on that northwest quadrant, the top left box was only 49 percent no, 51 percent yes. And actually, the ballots didn't go out in September. The ballots went out in October. When the ballots went out, we had a problem. We only received one per household, even if there are five registered voters in the household. We came back to the City and that was corrected. You know, there's Thanksgiving. For example, I know on my block some families didn't get their children to vote, because the

children were away at college and it was a little bit difficult to get the ballots back from those students. So, I would encourage the City to open it up to more petitions and I really would encourage the City to do the entire High Pines and Ponce-Davis. Let's look at the policy reasons why you're considering this. You want to have some regular shaped boundaries for the City. On the County side, the County will not want a small doughnut of 30 blocks or 40 blocks surrounded by South Miami, Coral Gables, and perhaps, Pinecrest. It will affect the delivery of services, which again, is one of the issues that we have here. I was very surprised when we actually went out canvassing door to door that some of the reticence that we had expected we did not receive. And some of the questions we did receive were ones that the City Manager helped us address very easily, and it's matters that I've spoken about with all of you, which is the issue regarding the type of container for recycling and whether or not people can take out their trash the night before as opposed to having workers come into their homes. So, I think as we've been discussing that and the discussion that you had earlier about Little Gables is, as we are able to inform the people better about these -- and you know, we have an ad hoc committee of about six or seven folks between Ponce-Davis and High Pines, who are very willing to work cooperatively with the City and with your advisors in reaching out to the rest of the population. But, I really do encourage the City to give us more time to bring in more petitions and for the entire of High Pines and Ponce-Davis.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Commissioner Quesada: So...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I'm sorry.

Commissioner Quesada: Yeah, just a few -- a quick thought. I think most of us want to see this happen up here. But the way I see it, I mean, it's really in your neighborhood's hands, and I see this like a political campaign to get out there and press the flesh and knock on doors and educate

people. I guess what I'm looking at is -- I'm assuming you guys have knocked on some doors, your group?

Mr. De Varona: We've knocked on some doors. We did it principally the weekend before Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Quesada: What's the principal objection for this northwest corner? What are you hearing? Why do they have no interest, in your opinion, from what you've heard?

Unidentified Speaker: Victor.

Commissioner Quesada: Because the way I see it, you know, having lived outside the City and in the City, when you realize the amenities you get being a part of the City -- first, just police and fire alone makes all the sense in the world. But what are you guys hearing?

Mr. De Varona: He's more from High Pines and I'm more from Ponce-Davis, so he can tell you what he encountered.

Anthony De Yurre: Yeah. Anthony De Yurre, 7518 Southwest 55th Avenue. I can tell you that having walked all these blocks on the High Pines side, that it's something that's an outlier in regards to those multifamily areas. Really, if you take out -- I think it was NW 3 and NW 4, you get 57 or 58 percent in favor, which is basically a U that goes around that entire multifamily area. And so, there are some folks -- and we've seen a difference between the meetings that have been held at the location on 72nd, at the (INAUDIBLE) location, and then at the church location here, and it's two different subsets. And the folks that -- at the location that we've had, the (INAUDIBLE), they've concentrated on the multifamily folks to try to get them riled up to get a no vote together and basically telling them that they should be in fear that the fees and costs are going to go up. They're going to pay a lot more money, because the folks in these multifamily buildings are on a much more fixed income. And, I can tell you because I've been there and I've

spoken to the people and that's exactly what they've told me. They've said, oh, somebody else visited me and told me that Coral Gables is going to raise my taxes and that now I have to pay -- on top of the increased taxes, I have to pay a separate garbage bill and it's going to go up exponentially. And so, it's a matter of misinformation that we're dealing with on the residents' side. And the people that have been on that side of the -- opposite us on that campaign have concentrated on the multifamily area, because they know that they can hit a lot of votes very quickly. But, we've been dealing with the neighborhood holistically, between High Pines and Ponce-Davis. So, that's why you see the results that you do. I can tell you from -- I guess you can still call it anecdotal evidence, but from my personal communication with the folks in the neighborhood, and that's what they've hammered them with. They've hammered them with that it's going to become exponentially more expensive when, in reality, its \$200 per ever hundred thousand and the appraised value of those multifamily units is...

Commissioner Quesada: Can we...

Mr. De Yurre: Very low.

Commissioner Quesada: Let me -- you just brought an idea to mind. Madam City Manager, can I have you put something together with staff, and here's my idea. I want to have a website -- on our website, I want to have a link or a page that discusses the comparison between Miami-Dade County, what the current services are there as compared to Coral Gables. But, I want it to be almost like a pdf so if they want to use it and pass it out, they could print it out and pass it out, or they can direct -- when they're walking door to door, they can direct to that website. It's got to be something simple like CoralGables.com/Ponce-Davis-HighPines. And on that, I would like to see comparisons, you know, police response times from Miami-Dade County to Coral Gables; ambulance response times, the comparisons on the, you know -- on a \$100,000 home, what the tax difference is so there's a true apples to apples comparison. I don't think it should be terribly dense, but some of the few main highlights, points that we've heard and maybe we can discuss about it a little bit as well. Something so that we can direct people, so that we can control the

misinformation or direct them to a location directly from the City so it's a credible source showing what the true information is.

Mr. De Varona: And if I may...

Commissioner Quesada: I think that would be helpful.

Mr. De Varona: Sorry, but one of the problems that we had is when the Mayor of Pinecrest addressed that particular group, he used some wrong data to indicate that Coral Gables had like the second-highest or third-highest millage rate in the entire County. He happened to be looking at the wrong column, but he made the statement, so people bought it lock, stock and barrel.

Commissioner Quesada: Yeah, so we can control that if there's a site on our website showing the direct source and -- I mean, we've got to give some credibility to the data.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Mr. De Yurre: If I -- I'm sorry, Mr. Mayor. You wanted to speak.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: No, go ahead.

Mr. De Yurre: No, if I can add. We would very much like to assist the City of Coral Gables in this process. We have been out and canvassed many, many homes and we can give you, with very explicit detail, the concerns of the residents that we should be addressing for them in the pdf. And, then we can go out there and we can get you the 20 percent petitions that we need. I feel very confident that we can. It's just a matter of -- I think that we also had the difficulties of the hurricane. And, on top of the hurricane -- I will tell you that many, many households, I would say at least 50 percent of the ones that I went to visit, when there was a -- and it was very odd -- but the male in the household received the ballot initially, but the female in the household,

the wife or the children did not receive a ballot. And so, we've communicated with Naomi on that here at the City to try to correct that, but I don't know how ultimately that played out, because a lot of people were actually upset -- and rightfully so -- in the household, especially most of the wives that why is my husband the only one getting a ballot -- and you can imagine -- the only one getting a ballot in the household and does my vote not count and it is just the husband "head of household" that runs the show and makes the decisions for everybody. And so, I can tell you from knocking on doors myself and RJ's and Joe Sumberg, who is also here in support of the annexation, we had that difficulty as well. I am very confident that if we get the support of the City, that we can get you the 20 percent that you need, and then we can communicate with the County in regards to what they're willing to do or not do. Because, apart from that multifamily that was hit hard by the no voters and scaring them with the tactics of the increased fees, its 57, 58 percent in favor of this annexation.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright. Thank you very much.

Mr. De Yurre: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Keon: Can I ask a question of the multifamily buildings? Are they rental apartments or are they condos?

Mr. De Yurre: They're a mix of both.

Vice Mayor Keon: Okay.

Mr. De Yurre: But of the people that we met, even in the condos, a lot of them are renters.

Unidentified Speaker: Yeah, correct.

Mr. De Yurre: I don't really know how that plays out into how the City put the vote out.

Vice Mayor Keon: Well, it's all the same.

Commissioner Lago: Voters. It's voters.

Commissioner Mena: It's registered voters.

Vice Mayor Keon: It just gives you a better idea...

Mr. De Yurre: So, whether they're renters or not...

Vice Mayor Keon: Of whether or not they're actual homeowners or...

Commissioner Mena: The owner -- the landlord doesn't get a vote.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay, anything else?

Commissioner Lago: So, moving forward, what are we...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

Commissioner Lago: What's our next step?

Mr. De Yurre: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much.

Mr. De Varona: Thank you.

Commissioner Mena: I think our -- I mean, my opinion is the goal should still be to get the whole area just because, otherwise, you're still leaving an enclave. I think...

Commissioner Quesada: I thought the County doesn't allow you to break that up.

Commissioner Mena: That's what I think. We don't know that.

Commissioner Lago: I agree with you.

Vice Mayor Keon: We don't know that.

Commissioner Mena: Mr. Iler said he's asked that question.

City Attorney Ramos: But we're waiting to hear back, right?

Vice Mayor Keon: Yeah. Suarez has said that he, as the Commissioner of the area, is willing to do that, but it's whether, you know, the County itself, as an institution of government...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Well, why don't we explore that?

Vice Mayor Keon: Is willing to do that. So, I mean, I think we can -- once we get...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Right.

Vice Mayor Keon: That back -- but, I think if, you know, we are allowed to break it up, I think we should move forward with...

Commissioner Lago: I agree with you.

Vice Mayor Keon: What we can do.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I agree.

Commissioner Lago: But, shouldn't we also -- but I would, obviously, like to have the whole piece.

Vice Mayor Keon: I'd like the whole piece.

Commissioner Lago: The whole piece.

Vice Mayor Keon: But, I don't think...

Commissioner Lago: But, are we going...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Of course.

Commissioner Lago: To move forward with the...

Vice Mayor Keon: It should stop us from moving forward.

Commissioner Lago: Are we going to move forward with micro targeting now in reference to the ballots that weren't returned? Are we going to do that right now? Is that the effort?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I think we should do that, yes.

Commissioner Mena: What's the alternative?

Commissioner Lago: No, that's...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Commissioner Lago: I just want -- I want to get it on the record, so we move forward.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Commissioner Lago: So, Madam City Manager...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We explore how to do it the best way.

Commissioner Lago: Let's do some micro targeting...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Commissioner Lago: And you know, deal -- find the individuals that didn't vote for one reason or another.

Commissioner Quesada: The City Manager just showed me -- I agree with that a hundred percent. But, the City Manager just showed me a pdf that basically addresses all the points that I was looking for. So, before your group leaves today, can you please take a look -- I'll walk outside right after this vote and I'll show you where to find it. Tell us what's missing or how it can be adapted based on your experiences as well.

Commissioner Lago: There isn't a vote now, right?

Commissioner Quesada: Okay.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: No, we don't have one.

Commissioner Lago: This is just a discussion.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

Commissioner Lago: So, we'll get our next update at the next Commission meeting, I guess?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

Commissioner Lago: Or the following?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Mena: And I'd just like to ask Naomi and Mr. Iler if you could get these numbers back to us, but the main number I need to see is how it compares to the 20 percent we need.

Mr. Iler: Okay.

Commissioner Mena: How many votes are we short in the given area?

Commissioner Lago: Vote threshold.

Mr. Iler: We can have that...

Commissioner Lago: The vote threshold to...

Commissioner Mena: Yeah.

Mr. Iler: We can have that...

City Commission Meeting

December 5, 2017

Agenda Item J-3 - Discussion regarding the status of the High Pines/Ponce-Davis annexation process.

Commissioner Lago: Get that 20 percent.

Commissioner Mena: Not yes versus no, but we need X amount of votes and we're at Y.

Unidentified Speaker: We can have that for you very quickly.

Vice Mayor Keon: You have that in Ponce-Davis, don't you?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Government Affairs Manager Levi-Garcia: You want it for each of the shaded...

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

Government Affairs Manager Levi-Garcia: Areas. We can do that.

Commissioner Mena: Yeah, the same thing you've already prepared, but add that figure to all...

Government Affairs Manager Levi-Garcia: Sure.

Mr. Iler: We can add that in, very easy.

Commissioner Lago: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Keon: But, if you can -- can you -- you want it in these quadrants? Is that how you want it, or do you want it in the bigger blocked area?

Commissioner Mena: Both.

Vice Mayor Keon: Yeah.

Mr. Iler: We can do both.

Vice Mayor Keon: I'd like to see it in that area that's defined as Ponce-Davis, which is 80th to 88th, Red to 47th -- I mean, (INAUDIBLE).

Mr. Iler: Okay.

Government Affairs Manager Levi-Garcia: We'll do it for all the areas.

Mr. Iler: We'll do it for all the areas.

Mr. Iler: Plus the little subareas.

Vice Mayor Keon: Right, but that is, you know...

Unidentified Speaker: Okay.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Keon: But combine this area too as one area.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much.