

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item D-1
December 11, 2018
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 Frank Quesada**

City Staff

**City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Police Chief, Ed Hudak**

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item D-1 [0:00:00 p.m.]

A Resolution authorizing an expenditure in the amount of \$55,000 from Federal Forfeited Asset Fund (F.A.F.) moneys, for law enforcement equipment; the acquisition of the BolaWrap and associated equipment, for utilization by the Coral Gables Police Department.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Go ahead, Chief.

Police Chief Hudak: Commissioners, as a part of our information from the Police Department, I want to break down and explain to you -- even though it's a small amount on the consent agenda

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-- which way we're going as far as making officers safer, as well as being able to ensure the safety of those that we arrest.

City Attorney Ramos: If I might read the item into the agenda really quick, into the...

Police Chief Hudak: Absolutely, Madam City Attorney.

City Attorney Ramos: A resolution authorizing an expenditure in the amount of \$55,000 from Federal Forfeited Asset Fund (F.A.F.) moneys, for law enforcement equipment; the acquisition of the BolaWrap and associated equipment, for utilization by the Coral Gables Police Department. Go ahead.

Police Chief Hudak: Thank you. I actually witnessed and have used this and I believe it's probably the next generation of our non-lethal apprehension efforts. We -- this is being funded through the F.A.F., which is not tax dollars. It's actually our seized assets. There's another item on -- that's going to go along with this to take us, you know, eight years down the line on electronic control devices. The device itself -- and I'm not going to use it here -- but it's -- this is it. And it is the latest technology.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Why don't you use it here? Would you want a volunteer?

Police Chief Hudak: No, no, no, no. Believe me, the Manager and I discussed if we'd be allowed to.

Commissioner Keon: Oh, go ahead.

Police Chief Hudak: It's...

Commissioner Keon: Why not?

Police Chief Hudak: Well, let me show you how it works. We did a video just in case this came up, so if 77 would roll the video, this is to kind of see the ability of what this device does. The BolaWrap is charged with a 9mm blank, as you can see here. It shoots out two barbed balls and it'll wrap somebody around the side so they cannot lift their arms away from the side. Officers will tell you that hands kill. If somebody refuses to take their hands out of their pocket on the commands of an officer or we think they're going to run away, we simply deploy this around. As the -- and these are some of our officers that have tried it down to shooting themselves. It is probably cutting-edge technology. We will be the first in the State of Florida to actually deploy this. So, these are some of our training officers. As you do with training officers, you give them a toy and they shoot themselves with it. So, we believe this is probably going to save us lives. This is not going to replace our electronic control devices. As you see, this is pretty much the device. Once it's cocked, they have -- and this is a first generation. There's a laser on the side that actually shows where it's going to go. That laser is going to turn into a line where the rope actually goes. And then once it's fire, it's charged -- it sounds like a gun going off. It's effective from 10 to 20 feet away. The first deployment's going to be with the SWAT team, as well as the supervisors. This is not going to replace any of our electronic control devices. We're starting off with ten of them in the field and we'll continue to go back. The cartridge itself looks something like this, similar to what our taser cartridges look like now. These are not reusable, but we'll begin to implement those once we evaluate the success of it. I do believe this is probably a safer option for both those who we have to arrest, the people around there, as well as the officers. So, we are excited about it. We're excited to be the first in the police departments in the area that are also looking at it. And I believe we're going to see a lot of these in the future. So, that's what we have in front of you today. I just wanted you all to understand sometimes it's easier just to say we need \$50,000 for the BolaWrap and what is it. So, I believe this is going to help us to continue to do our safe job and keep our community safer.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you, Chief. Very, very effective.

Commissioner Keon: Does each cartridge have just one shot?

Police Chief Hudak: Yes. There are serial numbers on them, so the package itself will be called -- will be on the supervisor's belt -- gun belt as such. There's an extra cartridge. And also, because the line is made of Kevlar, which is the fabric that the bulletproof vests are made of, there's a cutting device as well to cut them free after we have them in handcuffs. So, right now, what happens is if we have someone with special needs or mentally challenged or high on some kind of medicines, our options right now are to tase -- to deploy the tasers. Again, the critical incidents between officers and those in custody if we tell you to take your hands out of your pocket, take your hands out of your pocket because officers know hands kill and they refuse to do it, this would almost be the safe alternative. If two people are running from the SWAT team or something like that, it can be deployed around the legs to trip them up to give us that ability to apprehend an individual. So...

Commissioner Keon: How close do you have to be to somebody?

Police Chief Hudak: Between 10 and 15 feet. The maximum -- they want us no closer than 10 feet, according to the manufacturer only because it gives a full-blown -- and I would show you the barbs, but I'd have to shoot this one and I don't want to do that. But the barbs on the end are actually barbed balls, and once they wrap around, they grab onto the clothes. Some of the officers actually practiced with shorts, so it does stop whether you're wearing clothes or not. The reason why this came about was really from the Midwest where jackets -- maybe it's cold. The jackets today -- but the taser was ineffective because it wasn't making contact. So, this was their alternative to that. So, as you can see from the video, it is loud. I mean, it's like a bullet going off, so, once again, it enforces the officers, obviously, you know, hands on and you can see in slow motion how it just wraps around. We've even tried it with two people arguing and they can wrap around both legs and that doesn't come off very easily. It has to be taken off. So, we believe this is the next generation.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you, Chief. Thank you very much. Very impressive. Good work.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you, Chief.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And now, Mayor's comments.

City Attorney Ramos: I think we need a motion.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We have a time certain, 9:30, presentation by members...

City Attorney Ramos: Sir, we need a motion on D-1.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: What?

City Attorney Ramos: A motion on D-1.

Vice Mayor Lago: So moved.

Commissioner Keon: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright, all those in favor, say "aye."

The Commission (Collectively): Aye.