

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting**  
**Agenda Item C-1**  
**January 8, 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 Frank Quesada**

**City Staff**

**City Manager, Peter Iglesias**  
**City Attorney, Miriam Ramos**  
**City Clerk, Billy Urquia**

**Public Speaker(s)**

**Juan Carlos Bermudez**

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Agenda Item C-1 [9:05 a.m.]

Personal appearance by Mayor of Doral, Juan Carlos Bermudez.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And it is my distinct privilege to call on Commissioner -- I'm sorry, Mayor of Doral, Juan Carlos Bermudez, who is here with us. And, the purpose of this appearance and this invitation in which gracefully accepted was for us to communicate with communities around us, similar communities to ours to discuss common opportunities, common problems, common challenges to see if we can learn from each other. I had the pleasure last month or two months ago of going to Doral for dinner. Is it 53<sup>rd</sup> and 87<sup>th</sup>, is it? What a wonderful, wonderful, wonderful thing they have done with that new community. And by us establishing this dialogue,

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not only with the Mayor, but police or development or whatever it is, we can learn from them and possibly they can learn from us, hopefully. And I look forward and I'm very grateful, Mayor Bermudez, for your accepting to come here and address us. And, maybe we can learn and maybe we can make this a productive interchange of ideas.

Juan Carlos Bermudez: Well, thank you, Mayor. First of all, thank you. Thanks to the Vice Mayor, the Commissioners, your City staff, the Clerk, the City Attorney, the Police Chief, known a long time. I bug him with University of Miami football questions, so it's always tough. But the -- first of all, Mayor, thank you. And this did -- I want to thank you personally because about a month and a half ago, the Doral Contemporary Art Museum, which is a startup that began about a year ago with some wonderful individuals that wanted to bring a contemporary art museum had its first ever really joint event with Coral Gables Art Museum. And, we had an opportunity to talk at that time and discuss the fact that we've learned a lot from Coral Gables and, certainly, we all stand to learn a lot from each other. One of the things that's -- the good thing sometimes -- and even some of the bad ones, believe it or not -- I won't call them bad. Traffic is bad, right, bad all over Dade County, as Vice Mayor Lago knows where we sit on the TPO. There's more and more probably complicated or -- I don't want to call it not fruitful, but certainly, more complicated and onerous process in sitting on the Transportation Planning Organization. But having said that, I do want to thank the Mayor for having hosted us that day here in Coral Gables. There's a lot of things that we have modeled ourselves on in Coral Gables, having been the founding Mayor and not expecting to come back, but coming back and now seeing some of the fruits of some of the things that we've done, a downtown overlay district that's been modeled in large part -- I already mentioned the contemporary art museum, and even some of the issues, like parking and traffic. So, I think the idea that Mayor Valdes-Fauli has brought up, which is to work together not only amongst ourselves, Doral and Coral Gables, but other cities that are similar is something that the Miami-Dade County League of Cities has tried to do, but in some instances, have not been carried out effectively. So, thank you for the opportunity to be here. And certainly, we -- you know, one thing I will say -- and those of you who've known me a long time know that, with all due respect to my friends at the County, many

who are very good friends and I love -- municipalities need to work together on issues that impact us and we cannot do that if we are picked off on minor issues by the County. Whether it's something like annexation, which I know you're working on and we've been working on with our three sister cities for the last 14 years, we need to make sure -- or an issue like traffic, whether it's US-1 or 87<sup>th</sup> Avenue or the continuous discussions with MDX and other entities. We need to make sure that municipalities communicate with each other and band together and work together to solve some of these problems and represent a united entity when we deal even with our good friends at the County. So, I hope that you keep that in mind as we move forward. And, I'm here certainly to let you know that we're interested in working closer with you. And once again, I want to thank the Mayor because he took the initiative to -- on that day to say, hey, there's a lot of things that I see happening now that I went out to -- and the Mayor, like many other people, you know, haven't had a chance to go west of the Palmetto in some instances. It is a different world today. And in speaking, ironically being at this wonderful building that you have and this wonderful art museum that you have and being a new city that is modeling itself in large part on projects like that one, you know, we learned that there's probably a lot more in common than we imagine and a lot more that we can do to work together to be more effective, either ourselves as two cities or even with other municipalities. So, thank you. And if you've got any questions, I'll be more than happy to answer them.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I would like to have -- our Chief of Police is here and maybe we can give you a small presentation, as the beginning of our interchange, of what we're doing and maybe...

Commissioner Quesada: I will tell you, you know, we have been doing an interchange -- well, first of all, Mr. Mayor, great to see you. We've known each other a long time. You know, we've actually stolen some ideas from you.

Mr. Bermudez: That's okay. As long as it's good ones, it's always good.

Commissioner Quesada: Good ones. No, your website actually gave us the idea for transparent government online, that portal. Someone found out about it. Was it -- yeah, Commissioner Lago or Vice Mayor Lago. And, we decided to do our own variation and we recently won an award for it, which really, we should probably give that away to you guys because you gave us the idea. So, unknowingly, you guys have been helping us as well. So, I think this is a great idea for you to be here. And obviously, any time we can help you as well, I think it just makes so much sense, because you guys have a thriving downtown and a big residential community, which our two cities are uniquely similar in that sense.

Mr. Bermudez: Well, thank you. I was aware of that. I think you and I had spoken about that before. And I thank you because I think that that's something that, in a tough time for all -- first of all, all of you give up your time as public servants and it's a tough time for anybody in office today, as we know. And, I think your website is an example of showing your residents that, you know, open and transparent government is what really government is in most instances, not some of these sad stories that we see on the national news constantly.

Commissioner Quesada: Yeah, absolutely.

Vice Mayor Lago: But just like -- like what Vice Mayor Quesada -- if I may, Mayor, just quickly address that, what he mentioned in regards to the portal. We're always looking for an opportunity to be as transparent as possible. And when I found the website, I started digging through the website, you know. I wanted to first commend you for implementing the website. I know that it was during a transition when you became mayor and you saw an opportunity to, again, be as clear and transparent with your constituency after, you know, some time of maybe that not happening. You brought that to the table, and that's been one of your main points. So, we are emulating you on that fact in an effort to be as transparent as possible. One of the big issues that we face every single day -- and I don't know if I can say pleasure, but it is a pleasure to be with you on the TPO, but we struggle trying to find -- that cities like Doral and the City of Coral Gables, that we're inundated with traffic and there isn't an actual answer to this. We

continue to grow, even pushing more and more into areas that we shouldn't be pushing through urban sprawl and we have situations where we, as a body, the TPO is trying to find solutions for transportation across this large and vast Miami-Dade County. But, it's a pleasure to serve with you on the TPO. And I'm actually excited. I was wondering why you were coming when I found out that you were going to be on the agenda.

Mr. Bermudez: You probably thought I was coming to try to get out of a ticket, right?

Vice Mayor Lago: No, no. You know better than that. So, I just wanted to say thank you again for being here. You know, I know you're very busy in your practice so...

Mr. Bermudez: Thank you, Vice Mayor. And I wanted to add that I say that jokingly, but my law practice is in Coral Gables, so everybody take that the right way. It's not necessarily -- it's just a joke. But my law practice is in Coral Gables, so I spend a lot of time here anyway.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Wonderful.

Mr. Bermudez: And certainly, as Commissioner Quesada said, there's a lot of ideas that many times we get from you and I get them just by driving around.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Chief, you want to say a few words and then tell us some of the challenges?

Police Chief Hudak: Well, I think -- good morning, Commissioners and Mayor.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We have a very innovative approach to safety and maybe you can...

Police Chief Hudak: And we have. Our innovation between us and the City of Doral goes all the way back to their current police chief. Hernan Organvidez actually started as a police

explorer here in Coral Gables after a long, very successful career in the Miami-Dade Police Department. As the Mayor spoke, the relationship between the 27-plus municipalities and their local governments and police departments are very synergetic in the fact that we do talk. It was years ago under the Mayor's guidance that the City of Doral built their new police department. So, as we embark this week on the groundbreaking for ours, there are certain things that I learned back again from Chief Ricky Gomez about what we need to look and make sure is in our building. Very similarly, even though we were kind of here first in Coral Gables, Doral is really and has always been kind of reached out to us on what we do. Because of our relationships, they do have very similar type crime patterns than we -- that -- as we do here. Our detectives are very intertwined, if you will, on cases. We recently had a serial robbery individual that had struck here, Broward. And again, it's a testament to the Doral Police Department's reaching out and being involved. As I've said all along to anyone who'll listen, the tragic events that can happen in any community can happen here as well. And it's a testament to the Mayor, to the Police Chief and the Doral Police Department on how they responded probably six, eight months ago to the Trump Doral when an individual who was mentally disturbed took out gunfire and shot at their officers and was taken into custody alive by very heroic deeds of both the Doral Police Department. To that end, we have been working with their police department from a tactical standpoint. And again, as the Mayor touched on, we also do this with Miami Springs, Doral, Virginia Gardens about providing tactical assistance with our SWAT teams as well as one way. Probably one of the biggest ways that we're going to integrate with everyone is something that this Commission approved for the use of FAF monies was our NC-4 technology platform. This platform's really going to break down all the barriers of us with all the stars and bars on and have the officers talk to one other immediately while they're out on the street on what we see in our crime trends and patterns. Because as much as we all have jurisdictional boundaries, the criminals don't know that. So, as we see people that prey on shoplifting and things like that in Doral, we pretty much come across the same individuals here and it's very important that we have this open line of communication. So, we have a very good partnership with the City of Doral already. I believe in talking to their police chief we're going to continue as we have been over the years since Mayor Bermudez was there. We're learning what we're looking for in our

new building from what they had in their police department building. And, we also kind of really bring in what camaraderie we need to have to keep everybody safe, because the criminal elements don't necessarily live in Doral. They don't necessarily live in Coral Gables. So, our police strategies are very much aligned and we have a great partnership and we will continue to work hand in hand. As late -- as early as this week -- this morning, I believe it was, Chief Organvidez swore in five new public safety aides for Doral, so again, the model that we've started here is being -- and it's not just here, Miami Beach where people -- you know, if I works, we're not going to change it. We'll just adapt to it, and we're very proud to be working with them as well.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you, Chief. And I'd like to make a presentation and I'm going to go over there and I need...

Commissioner Keon: While you're doing that, Mayor, we met with your recreation department some time back when we were working on inclusion and programs for children with disabilities and you really were a model. And, your recreation department came and met with us and spoke with us. And, I know you have really been the one site where the Special Olympics are really held for kids and children in this community. And hopefully, we're going to be able to bring some of that to Coral Gables too. So, on many fronts, you have much to be proud of in Doral.

Mr. Bermudez: Thank you. And, it's a great program that we've had and -- from people all over the County. So, I know that you -- this Commission has taken the steps to move in that direction and I think it's wonderful, because I think it's a community that needs -- it's one of the ones that you feel the best about in government when you see success.

Commissioner Keon: But you did it first and you did it very well.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Mayor, would you like -- can you come up here for a second?

Mr. Bermudez: Sure.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I have a surprise for you. I want to give you the key to our city in recognition of what you've done in the past and as a hope that we cooperate in the future, the City of Doral and the City of Coral Gables, for our mutual advantages.

Mr. Bermudez: Thank you, Mayor.

(APPLAUSE)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Can we have our picture taken?

Mr. Bermudez: Thank you very much. And I was only joking about the tickets, alright? Thank you very much. I didn't expect that, but very nice.

Vice Mayor Lago: You're welcome, sir.

Mr. Bermudez: And again, I promise not to use it to get out of tickets even though there -- I have a good friend here, a Doral resident who grew up in Coral Gables, so even J. R. Steinbar (phonetic) -- I want to recognize him, because he does a great job with the Junior Orange Bowl. And, he heard that his -- I don't know if he's here because he's my friend or because, as the Mayor of Doral, he wants to get out of a ticket in Doral, but I thank him for being here too. Thank you very much. And that's quite an honor, Mayor. I didn't expect that. And we will continue to work with you and I look forward to, in particular, on things like our Doral Contemporary Art Museum to learn and on the policing side, as Chief Hudak said to continue to work with you and learn from each other. Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Mayor, we have John Allen, who's the director of our museum here. I don't know if you've met.



Mr. Bermudez: Yeah, I did. I know John.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah. He's here and...

Mr. Bermudez: I hadn't seen him this morning. But, John was very -- on that day he was very kind to introduce both of us. And also, I hadn't seen John in a while. He has Doral ties too, so it's good to -- for us, it's very exciting. The reason why I mention the art museum, to be honest with you, is, you know, a city with a history like this, when we have that event and we see that we are, you know -- our curator is someone that's been the curator for Miami-Dade College. We have an opportunity to really do something special and it makes no sense for us to reinvent the wheel. It's best to learn from the best. And I think when it comes to many things; Coral Gables is the best in Miami-Dade County. So, it was a very exciting time for us and we look forward to continuing to work with you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Mr. Bermudez: Thank you very much.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you, Mayor.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you for being here.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you for coming.