

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item D-6
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)

Speaker
Stephanie

Agenda Item D-6 [9:34:50 a.m.]

A Resolution authorizing Make a Wish Southern Florida to sell alcoholic beverages at the parking lot located on 1159 Sunset Drive and San Ignacio Avenue from Red Road to Yumuri Street on Saturday, March 9, 2019, from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m., during the Wings for Wishes event to benefit the Make a Wish South Florida subject to Florida Department of Professional Regulation Requirements.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And now D-6.

Vice Mayor Lago: Perfect – thank you Mayor, I’ll be brief. I’ll like to call on our partners from the Make a Wish Foundation, along with Wings for Wishes. This is a great organization that I’ve had the pleasure of being involved with, for probably about three or four years now, and you had your first year and I wasn’t involved with. I know these individuals who started Wings for Wishes, we met at the gym and we happen to work out with each other, probably three times a week, we should work out more, but we are doing the best that we can on that front. Wings for Wishes has been, in my opinion, probably one of the most well run charities in South Florida and

the Make a Wish Foundation will back that claim up. What this organization has been able to do since 2015 and they gave us a simple presentation was raise \$22,000 in their first year and last year in 2018 will raise \$200,000. In a day and age where we are very concerned about how these charities are spending their monies, I'm very proud to be associated with Wings for Wishes, because they give 100 percent of their proceeds go to Make a Wish Foundation, let me make that very clear. So, people who are interested in getting involved in this organization feel safe, feel secure knowing that every single dollar we raise goes to Make a Wish Foundation. They are going to tell you a little bit about the wishes that they've granted which are a lot, but I want to talk a little bit about what happened to us two years ago. Commissioner Quesada – we were robbed, we were robbed, but its fine. I'm not going to take it out on you today, because we are here for the charity but I'm going to bring it up. I know I brought this up last year, I'm going to continue to bring it up. We weren't able to get a team together and I would like to challenge – we were robbed, we were robbed, because...

Commissioner Quesada: There is no way anyone ate those wings faster than we did, yet we did not make the finals.

Vice Mayor Lago: So I want to blame it on Vice Mayor Quesada, he won't accept the blame. We are just going to go we were robbed, that's a different story. I'm going to challenge, I think Commissioner Quesada is in, if I may.

Commissioner Quesada: A hundred percent.

Vice Mayor Lago: My company is going to sponsor this, our team, I would like to ask Commissioner Keon, Mena or the Mayor to get involved and join us on this effort. So we were robbed that's behind us, it really isn't behind us, but it is what it is.

Commissioner Quesada: We should challenge the City of Doral since they were just here.

Vice Mayor Lago: We should challenge the City of Doral.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I'm sorry, but could you give us a little explanation.

Commissioner Quesada: It was an eating contest. How fast can you eat 12 wings per person?

Vice Mayor Lago: That's a great segway for Wings and Wishes to tell us a little bit about the charity.

Speaker: [Inaudible]...charity event with all the proceeds going to Make a Wish and we do a wing eating competition. Teams of four eat 50 wings for the fastest amount of time.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: 50?

Speaker: Five-zero – 50 wings in a team. So, when you hear that they were robbed that's because they didn't eat it in the fastest amount of time, right.

Vice Mayor Lago: No, no, no. We dispute that.

Speaker: So it is a really fun event. Its family-friendly, it is here in the City of Coral Gables. I work in the City of Coral Gables, my co-founder does as well. We have been very fortunate that the City has provided for us and our families and giving back in the community and hosting an event like this is really the least we can do. Like Vice Mayor Lago said, last year alone the event raised \$200,000. Our sponsors pick up any expenses; our expenses are extremely lean. Anyone we talk to asks us how we do it and its very simple. If you want to participate, you give money or you give in-kind contributions; and the community has gotten behind us and it's been a tremendous success.

Vice Mayor Lago: For example, talk a little bit about Sports Grill, sorry Mayor, Sports Grill donates all the food. I say we but I mean they do all the work, but it's an incredible amount of effort that goes into this.

Speaker: I stand with two members of Make a Wish who really do the heavy lifting. We are out in the community shaking hands and raising money.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Tell us what you do with the money, as opposed to how you raise the money.

Speaker: Yes. So, the money goes 100 percent to granting wishes for children.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Give us examples.

Speaker: Stephanie you want to talk about a couple wishes.

Stephanie: Sure – absolutely. Hello, thank you everybody. My name is Stephanie, Developing Coordinator with Make a Wish Southern Florida. Our sole mission is to grant life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. So with your help, since the inception of this event in 2015, we've raised over \$332,000. I'm not going to cry, but that goes towards granting wishes of 66 children in our local communities, most of which that are here in the City of Doral and the City of Coral Gables. We've done sports wishes, we've done celebrity wishes, we've done Disney wishes, so it's just a tremendous amount of support that the City has shown us to be able

to grant the wishes for those children, I'm going to cry every time I talk about Make A Wish...thank you.

Commissioner Quesada: What is, just for those that don't know, I guess what are the requirements for a child to be able to be eligible to receive a wish.

Stephanie: So glad you asked, sorry...The child has to be between the ages of two and-a-half and referred before their 18th birthday, never having received a wish before from another wish-granting organization and have a critical illness.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much, that's wonderful.

Vice Mayor Lago: I'd also just want to briefly say thank you to our Police Department and our Fire Department, if you'd like to enjoy some good music, we are going to have the Police and Fire Department, they have a band.

Speaker: In Blue performed two years ago, it was a hit.

Vice Mayor Lago: It was a hit. It was a hit.

Speaker: They are up there with their uniforms, they are all rocking out, a crowd favorite. So its very community-oriented.

Vice Mayor Lago: Family-friendly.

Speaker: Very family-friendly. We have a whole section just for kids, bounce houses, face painting, cotton candy.

Commissioner Quesada: And, it's a great time unless you get robbed by...(laughter).

Vice Mayor Lago: So the reason why I pulled this out, obviously we are going to approve on consent like we do every single year, but I wanted to make sure we are doing as much publicity as possible and I want to make sure, again, this is not a City authorized charity, but everything that we can do, Wings for Wishes has shown that they are a great partner with Make a Wish and they've been responsible to the City. So we are grateful to have you here in the City, because what you do not only is a great benefit to Make a Wish to Make a Wish, but it's a great benefit to the City, because you shine a very good light on us, so thank you.

Commissioner Quesada: Is everyone OK if we do like an e-mail blast to our or we use the advertisement that we have in the Herald to publicize it?

Vice Mayor Lago: Whatever the Manager feels comfortable with I'm fine.

Commissioner Quesada: OK. Who should they be in touch with?

Commissioner Keon: What time is the event?

Commissioner Quesada: OK. Someone to reach out to you, so that we can... I think we have 14,000 e-mails on our City list and we have an ad in the Herald in the Neighbors section, so we'll work something out to get you some more publicity.

Speaker: Excellent.

Vice Mayor Lago: Commissioner Keon had a quick question.

Commissioner Keon: I just saw it, the time is from 12 to 4 (p.m.) on a Saturday afternoon, March 9th.

Vice Mayor Lago: And also the location is impeccable, because there is really, the ability for complaints is really reduced because of the location of the event.

Speaker: We get all the businesses in the area to participate, they come, it's just a really nice community time.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much.

City Attorney Ramos: Commissioner Quesada it would be helpful if you added to the motion for staff to include it in with our Herald ad.

Commissioner Quesada: So amended.

Vice Mayor Lago: Second.

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

All: Aye.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Opposed. Thank you very much. Wonderful presentation.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you.

[End: 9:42:55 a.m.]