

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item D-10
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)

Lourdes Cuzan

Agenda Item D-10 [9:29:45 a.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission of Coral Gables authorizing the donation of a gently used play structure, previously located at the War Memorial Youth Center to Santa Tecla La Libertad, El Salvador, Sister City of Coral Gables.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: D-10 is a Resolution of the City Commission of Coral Gables authorizing the donation of a gently used play structure, previously located at the War Memorial Youth Center to Santa Tecla La Libertad, El Salvador, our newest Sister City. When I took it around our City, the Youth Center, they were very, very impressed because they are trying to combat the Moras to combat the juvenile grounds, they have established great programs in education, entertainment, etc., for our little kids and not so little kids, and this would be a great donation for us to them to help them in that effort to combat juvenile delinquency, juvenile crime. I'll ask our City Manager why we have to get rid of this, he said that we have to modernize it, it was used, and we went out buying a new, different play structure, so this was totally superfluous and the money in the Sister City Foundation is being used to transport it so there won't be no expenditure of City funds. I think it's a wonderful thing we can do to combat juvenile crime and for our Sister City and I would like to have that approved separately, if possible.

Commissioner Keon: I think it's important to note that USAID is the one that will move this, is that right? - Isn't it USO that covers the cost of moving this and taking this to...?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Would you like to address that? We have the Chair of the International Affairs Coordinating Council here; would you like to address that?

Ms. Lourdes Cuzan: Happy New Year to all of you. Commissioner Keon, Mr. Rafael Gavarette here, he is our liaison to, I'm sorry, he has helped us in the past with donations and transportation of equipment to other of our Sister Cities and so he has taken on the responsibility of getting quotes for the transportation of the equipment and so forth. What specifically did you want to know?

Commissioner Keon: What was my understanding then in the past when we have donated things to other Sister Cities and I think it was in Antigua, I think we donated things, it was my understanding to Parks that it was through, I'll ask the Manager.

City Manager Iglesias: USA.

Commissioner Keon: USA – that covered the cost of the transportation and whatever else, so it's a nice donation for us and certainly is not a burden to do it.

Ms. Cuzan: The difference here is that those were considered humanitarian donations, whereas this is not considered a humanitarian donation. So, there are certain restrictions as Mr. Gavarette will explain when there was a fire engine that was donated to Guatemala. So that was a very different type of donation.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Commissioner there is a foundation that was established for these type of things in the International Affairs Coordinating Council and Mayor Cason established it and there would not be any City funds for this.

Commissioner Keon: Right.

Ms. Cuzan: So, there are no City funds involved with this transaction.

Vice Mayor Lago: But it's not USAID, so then it's this organization that was founded by Mayor Cason that would provide the necessary funds to deliver this play structure.

Ms. Cuzan: That is correct.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Right. Do I hear a motion?

Commissioner Keon: And, I just said it was a good thing for people didn't know that there are opportunities for us to be able to contribute and others that have the ability to cover the cost for doing that, so thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Do I hear a motion?

Vice Mayor Lago: So moved.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Second?

Commissioner Mena: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: All those in favor say aye.

All: Aye.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli; Opposed. Thank you very much – congratulations.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Lago: Great work. Thank you for your efforts.

[End: 9:34:02 a.m.]