

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-6
March 26, 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
Police Chief, Ed Hudak

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-6 [4:49:00 p.m.]

A discussion regarding special events and traffic management on Sunset Drive.
(Sponsored by Commissioner Keon)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Commissioner Keon.

Commissioner Keon: I put the item on just for discussion, because I had so many calls with regard to the closing of Sunset on Saturday afternoon.

Commissioner Mena: Hold on a second, I'm sorry. Guys we need everybody to quiet down. Please close the doors if you can. Sorry, I just want to hear you.

Commissioner Keon: You know I didn't go down Sunset at all on that Saturday, so I didn't know it was closed. I got a number of calls and some texts, from people with regard to it of being closed. I asked Chief Hudak why it was closed, and he told me that the people that were having the event

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certainly did what they were supposed to do. They applied for a permit, they were given a permit; and the conditions of the permit was that the street would be closed for two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon or something.

Chief Hudak: Correct.

Commissioner Keon: In essence it was closed for the whole day, and that's why the neighbors were very upset about it, because I think the 47 bus or the 42 bus, whatever the bus is that comes down Sunset was rerouted, the county bus was also rerouted back into the neighborhood. The busses were delayed, the times were off, and whatever. So, I asked was, going forward and I said, I don't want to know who it was that was on duty. I know they were all our Coral Gables police officers, I don't care who was on duty. I only want to make sure going forward that everyone complies with the permit that we enforce the permits that are given in the City and we don't allow that to happen ever again.

Chief Hudak: Correct. We take full responsibility in the police department. So just as a quick historical perspective. This was a private request from a private property owner. So, the usual use of public – going through Fred Couceyro was not applicable. It was approached to the police department. The stipulations that were agreed because of the deliveries on this private property was that we were going to – they paid for all the signage, they paid for the off-duty officers for the duration of the day. What was agreed to at my level was that we would keep one lane blocked and allow traffic to flow in both directions. The communication issue between me and what was agreed to what I ran by the City Manager, in that sense, did not happen because the officers that were working the off-duty have three rungs down. So, the signs and block on all day which was not what we agreed to. It is similar to what we've done in other areas of private property, whether it be weddings, things like that. This issue and the reason why it was diverted through the entire time, not just the two hours that was agreed to by the police department was our fault, and I take full responsibility for the communication going forward to make sure it doesn't happen. It will be in memorandum form, whatever is agreed to from my office and pushed out and everybody will have copies of that, along with the jobs for blue. So, this was definitely on us that it should not have been closed all day. We did not agree to that.

Commissioner Lago: Thank you Chief.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you very much. Thank you.

[End: 4:52:07 p.m.]

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