

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-5
February 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

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-5 [2:27:19 p.m.]

A Resolution supporting Senate Bill 78 and House Bill 169, requiring a Sea Level Impact Projection (Slip) Study published and approved by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection before state financed constructors may build certain structures in coastal areas. (Sponsored by Vice Mayor Lago).

City Attorney Ramos: G-5 is a Resolution supporting Senate Bill 78 and House Bill 169, requiring a Sea Level Impact Projection (Slip) Study published and approved by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection before state financed constructors may build certain structures in coastal areas.

Vice Mayor Lago: The reason why I put this on, again, taking advantage of the Sunshine, I wanted to make sure we had a conversation in reference to this. This was proffered by Senator Jose Javier Rodriguez and Representative Harry Fernandez, which are in our backyard. Pretty capable individuals who have been really on the Republican and Democratic side, been leading an effort to just hold accountability in regards to sea level rise and I think we as a community have, not only adopted it, but really pushed forward, because we see that we are ground zero in regards to sea

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level rise; and being in the construction and engineering industry, I want to make sure that we are just not building to build. Let be considerate because if we are in ground zero, let's take whatever necessary precautions, adopt whatever necessary standards, and if we are not adopting those standards, let's make sure that we do all the research so that we can reach a certain goal that, again, pays dividends in the future. The purpose of and if you had a chance to read the resolution, its pretty simple, just talks about accountability in regards to sea level rise dealing with NOAA statements, that 1.2 million Floridians are projected to live in the coastal areas by 2100. It talks about sustainability practices, understanding environmental impacts and concerns and just at the end of the day supporting these Bills 78 and House Bill 169 or similar legislation requiring sea level impact projected studies (slips), published and approved by the Department of Environmental Protection (EPA), before state finance constructions may be built in certain areas on the coastline. I also wanted to get your opinion on this Peter, in reference to what you thought.

City Manager Iglesias: I don't see an issue with regards – this is for state finance sponsored construction on the coastline and assuming there is something we should be looking...

Vice Mayor Lago: The last thing I want to do is, I want to add more regulation and more cost, but when I read about this, to me, my concern is we are investing so much money on the coast, we are a coastal community. Again...

City Manager Iglesias: Its not being addressed by the building code, as you know.

Vice Mayor Lago: That's a major concern.

City Manager Iglesias: Its not going to affect the private sector.

Vice Mayor Lago: Private entities.

City Manager Iglesias: But I do think its something we need to look at.

Vice Mayor Lago: But I think private entities should also heed this warning.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Do I hear a motion?

City Manager Iglesias: [Inaudible].

Commissioner Keon: I'll move it.

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Vice Mayor Lago: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright. Will you call the roll please.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes

Commissioner Mena: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes

(Vote: 4-0)

Commissioner Quesada: Absent

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you for your support.

[End: 2:30:09 p.m.]