

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-2
February 12, 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
Assistant Public Works Director, Jessica Keller

Public Speaker(s)

Leo Bueno, Coral Gables Resident

Agenda Item G-2 [11:54:28 a.m.]

Status update on signage by staff.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: G-2 – Status update on signage by staff. And we have somebody that wishes to speak on this. Give us a status update.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Good morning, Jessica Keller, Assistant Public Works Director. I have a very short update. Since our last Commission meeting, we have removed additional 45 signs that are city-owned and we are currently finalizing the contract language with our vendor for the citywide right-of-way inventory.

Vice Mayor Lago: Madam can you do me a favor? I requested at the last Commission meeting that we address the signage that has invaded Doctors Hospital. Every five feet they have a no parking sign, all that grass has been destroyed because of the construction and across the street in the town homes, also on Campesano. Can we make sure that we address those signs, a lot of

them are tilted, a lot of them are probably 15-20 years old. They really serve no purpose. I don't see anyone parking there.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: Yes. Actually not here still, but we are coordinating a meeting to discuss how to address those signs. And also, did want to take one moment to thank Mr. Leo Bueno who e-mailed.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Is he here?

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: He is an example of a very helpful resident.

Vice Mayor Lago: Mr. Bueno is right there.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: He keeps us...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: You want to speak? Come here be recognized.

Assistant Public Works Director Keller: He keeps us very busy, but he's extremely helpful. He spends a lot of time reporting signs to us and we are removing the signs that are appropriate.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you sir.

Mr. Bueno: I am Leo Bueno. I have spoken with Commissioner Lago and I'm the guy who sends you those annoying e-mails, but just want to thank you Ms. Keller and Ms. Dina Bell. Apparently there are ways to address this issue with plants that make our City look pretty, but gets rid of signs, and I was not aware that we had a program in place. I just found out from Ms. Bell. I urge you to consider expanding that approach. I'm not familiar with this, but has to do with informing residents. Instead of putting up the sign, hey put some foliage and Ms. Bell can apparently, she will be able to explain to you how it works. But in any case, thank you, I don't want to waste anymore of your time. Thank you Ms. Keller.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you Mr. Bueno. You are doing a very good job being aware of this.

Mr. Bueno: Oh, one last thing. Can you provide some guidance to Public Works? I don't think it's sufficient for Commissioner Lago to be driving around town spotting bad signs. I think most of the signs are bad. You have a sign that says "no dumping," come on. In any case, keep working on it. This is not the end of it.

Vice Mayor Lago: Mr. Bueno, I just wanted to give you a little praise. I met with him, what about a year-and-a-half ago?

Mr. Bueno: Oh, about two years ago.

Vice Mayor Lago: About two years ago. He came kind of frustrated about a bunch of different signs that were going on. So I told him, listen, put together a list of signs, send them to the City and we'll deal with it. The City is doing the best that it can. I think we will try to do even a little better. And I ask you to continue doing what you are doing. I did and I know Commissioner Mena also did, I planted foliage on my swale, so now nobody can even park there. I had a sign there before that was removed by my landscapers when they came. So, it is possible to continue to beautify the City and with residents like yourself, again, you make our job easier because you are doing a lot of leg work for us. So I appreciate it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much.

Mr. Bueno: I'll keep doing it, you know...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you sir.

[End: 11:58:10 a.m.]