

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC)
Sister Cities Committee

Zoom Meeting of September 21, 2020

Members:	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Commissioners
Lourdes Cuzán	E	P	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	-	-	-	Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli
Claudio Pastor	P	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	P	-	-	-	Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Alma Kadragic	P	P	X	X	X	X	X	X	P	-	-	-	Comm. Patricia Keon
Gabriel Garay	P	P	X	X	X	X	X	X	E	-	-	-	Comm. Jorge L. Fors, Jr.
Volker Anding	P	P	X	X	X	X	X	X	P	-	-	-	Comm. Michael Mena
Alejandra Collarte	P	E	X	X	X	X	X	X	P	-	-	-	Peter Iglesias, City Manager
Rafael Gavarrete	E	P	X	X	X	X	X	X	P	-	-	-	Council-at-Large Appointment

Country Appointed Liaisons:

Cartagena, Colombia – Ms. Cuzán
Aix-en-Provence, France – Mr. Anding
Antigua, Guatemala – Mr. Gavarrete
Santa Tecla, El Salvador – Mr. Gavarrete
Quito, Ecuador – Mr. Garay
Sevilla, Spain- Ms. Cuzán
San Isidro, Argentina- Ms. Collarte
Venice, Italy – Mr. Pastor
San Jose, Costa Rica -

A = Absent

P = Present

E = Excused

UA = Unexcused Absence

Staff in Attendance:

Beba Luzarraga, Assistant to the Mayor & Secretary, IACC
Jessenia Monge-Fletes, Intern, Mayor's office

Guests:

Leticia Perez, Coral Gables Economic Development Department
Deirdre Nero, Vice Chair, Global Business Committee, Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce
Erica Simons, Director of Programs & Events, Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce

Vice Chair, Volker Anding called the meeting via zoom to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was present

Mr. Anding opened the meeting and welcomed the members and guests listed above in attendance. Introductions followed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Committee members reviewed the minutes of the IACC meeting of February 10, 2020. Ms. Kadragic made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Collarte seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved.

Committee members reviewed the minutes of the IACC special meeting to approve Venice, Italy as a new Sister City on September 4, 2020. Ms. Kadragic made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Collarte seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE:

No new update on Aix-en-Provence.

LA ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA:

Mr. Gavarrete reported that he spoke with the newly appointed Mayor of La Antigua, Guatemala, Victor Hugo del Pozo, who mentioned that this month their City Hall was reopened with limited capacity in an effort to reactivate the economy. Mr. Pastor asked if the country was still under travel restrictions. Mr. Gavarrete explained that, as of last week, the airport was opened for international visits.

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA:

No new update on Cartagena, Colombia.

SANTA TECLA, EL SALVADOR:

No new update on Santa Tecla, El Salvador.

QUITO, ECUADOR:

No new update on Quito, Ecuador.

SEVILLA, SPAIN:

No new update on Sevilla, Spain.

SAN ISIDRO, ARGENTINA:

Per Ms. Collarte there is no update on San Isidro, Argentina given that the country has been under mandatory lockdown for over six months.

VENICE, ITALY:

Mr. Pastor expressed his gratitude to the committee for their unanimous support the partnership agreement between Venice, Italy and the City of Coral Gables during the special meeting which took place via zoom on September 4. The City Commission unanimously approved the motion during their regular commission meeting of September 8, 2020. Mr. Pastor will invite the Consul General of Italy to participate in our next scheduled meeting on October 19th. A confirmation is pending.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Collarte informed the board members that the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce (GMCC) Consular and Trade Representatives committee is hosting a webinar on November 12th at 10 a.m. to introduce Mr.

Marcus Boyle the new Regional Director for the U.S. Department of State, Office of Foreign Missions. She added that Jonathan Ward, the recently appointed Director of the International Trade Consortium of Miami Dade County, was invited to attend and will be presenting together with Mr. Boyle. Additionally, Mr. Nabil Achkar, Secretary of the Consular Corps of Miami has been confirmed to say a few words at the beginning of the Webinar. As Vice Chair of the Consular and Trade Representative Committee of the GMCC, Ms. Collarte extended an invitation to Ms. Cuzan to be able to introduce the Coral Gables International Affairs Coordinating Council.

The “Flags on Ponce” Program was discussed. Board members approved the participation of the City of Coral Gables to allocate funds in the amount of \$1,200 for our Sister Cities flags.

Ms. Kadragic suggested generating a list of countries without travel restrictions/open borders. A conversation ensued and it was agreed that at this time, of constant change, it would be difficult to generate such a list.

UPDATES:

Ms. Kadragic continues her search for a Sister City partnership and is considering Poland or Turkey.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beba Luzarraga
Secretary, International Affairs Coordinating Council
And Jessenia Monge-Fletes
Intern, Mayor’s Office