

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting**  
**Agenda Item H-1**  
**January 23, 2024**  
**City Commission Chambers**  
**405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

**City Commission**

**Mayor Vince Lago**  
**Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson**  
**Commissioner Melissa Castro**  
**Commissioner Ariel Fernandez**  
**Commissioner Kirk Menendez**

**City Staff**

**City Attorney, Cristina Suárez**  
**City Manager, Peter Iglesias**  
**City Clerk, Billy Urquia**  
**Public Works Director, Hermes Diaz**

**Public Speaker(s)**

**Maria Cruz**  
**Alex Acosta, FPL**  
**Adys Corello, FPL**  
**Gladys Reyes, FPL**  
**Hector Maestre, FPL**

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Agenda Item H-1 [10:38 a.m.]

Presentation on City lighting

Mayor Lago: Moving onto item H-1.

Public Works Director Diaz: Good morning, Hermes Diaz, Public Works Director. We're going to go over a presentation for citywide lighting inventory and we also have FPL who's here to open up to questions. The City of Coral Gables right-of-way lighting inventory includes approximately 3,100 lights of varying types and illumination. This includes approximately, and I'm using round numbers, about 600 that are owned and maintained by the city. We pay FPL for electricity and approximately 2,500 lights that are owned and maintained by FPL. The city-owned streetlights

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and circuits are maintained by – we have a single electrician and our General Service Division, and we have a competitively procured electrical contractor. FPL owns and maintains streetlights and circuits that pay for the city through various rate structures, depending on the type of pole and fixture, and just for reference, in Fiscal Year 2023, the city had paid FPL approximately \$800,000 for electricity and maintenance of right-of-way streetlights. This inventory, they didn't feel like it was necessarily part of the discussion, there are some additional lights around the city, including those on county and state roads. There are also some lights that are maintained by HOAs, developers, in some minor instances, and also a few that are attached to historical structures. I did not include that in the presentation because I didn't feel that it was really part of the discussion we wanted to have, but I just wanted to let you know that there are some additional lights beyond what's being shown here. The next thing I have is a map and the reason I wanted to include this map, but I know that it's a little bit blurry, but every color is a different type of pole and fixture, because we already have quite a variety of streetlights around the city. More specifically now, we have something called a premium lighting history, which I think, it kind of gets to the meat of the discussion. The City of Coral Gables entered into several premium lighting agreements with FPL, which is also known as PL-1, sometime between 1990 and 2019, and that was for a total of 411 lights citywide. Out of these 411 lights, that included 140 of the fiberglass silver lights, which are listed below, and that agreement was a term of 20 years. In 1998, there were 86 lights around the North and South Greenway Drive corridor. In 2000, 19 lights along Harlano and Wood. In 2001, 32 lights along San Amaro and Camposano. In 2002, there were three lights on San Lorenzo, which is just east of Ponce de Leon Boulevard, for a total of 140. And these are the lights that have been in the process of being replaced over the last few months or so. Under the terms of the original agreement, after 20 years, the city has the option to enter into a new agreement with FPL that was to include the estimated replacement cost of the existing lights. The silver lights are no longer available on FPL's catalogue as of June of 2022. We executed agreements with FPL for the replacement of the existing lights at the above location with the black wash and concrete poles, which are 39 watts and 3,000 Kelvin. The three on San Lorenzo are still pending and the entire block has pretty much been redeveloped, the rest of the lights are already black, so we figured that will won't be necessarily, I think it will make sense to just make those match what's already there, but those are the only three that still we haven't executed an agreement for. The alternative from entering into this agreement with FPL on the catalogue with the black lights or green for that matter, because that was the only other option that's available was for the city to just remove the FPL lights altogether for us to install whichever light was to our liking, at our expense. We estimated that that cost for the 140 lights would be about \$2.6 million dollars and we would also be responsible for all the maintenance and replacement moving forward, as opposed to \$1.1 million dollars in payments to FPL over the following 20 years for the Washington lights and fixtures. And a thing of note is that one of the notable things is that FLP circuits are now, we work on different codes. FPL works under the National Electrical Safety Code, while we work under the National Electrical Code. So, we cannot necessarily use, even if FPL was willing to give it to us, FPL's structure for us to keep our lights, we have to bring it up to the code that we are required to follow. So, that's the summary of FPL poles around the city. We already have 294 of those concrete Washington poles throughout the city. Approximately 74 on Greenway have been converted already. We halted that at the direction of the Commission on December 12<sup>th</sup>. We have about 90 of those similar poles in Gables Estates, those were double poles. That's about six green Victorian poles located in the 1,000 Block of Hardee. It's about 55 concrete octagonal, there will be photos

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that will follow, so you get to see that. 55 concrete octagonal with a teardrop fixture. We have 1,203 concrete post mounted, and we have a total, including the 140 that are under the PL-1 agreement that are the ones that are in the process of being replaced, of 531 silver fiberglass, beyond. There is no agreement that has been executed to replace those. And then we also have about 283 poles that are wood mounted; and these are some photos that follow. These are the concrete Washington, again about 294 throughout the city. Similar pole, just a double fixture on Gables Estates; very similar but green on Hardee Road. I'm not sure how it came to be, to be honest with you, they've been there for quite a while. These are the 55 mostly you see them on the Central Business District and the Design and Innovation District. We have 1,203 poles that are concrete post mounted, and they are either cobra heads or contemporary. These are the fiberglass silver. These are the wood mounted poles that you find around the city. We also have approximately 600 city-owned poles; 284 are aluminum which will follow with a photo there. They are aluminum which is, some of them are very similar to the fiberglass that you see in the pictures that are common; 56 poles, concrete poles; 4 metal decorative. I know they are different types, double fixture, metal decorative; 171 contemporary poles at the Islands of Coco Plum and the 81 Silver Lights, the White Way Lights which 22 have been installed already for a total of 81, once we complete that project; and the 280 poles through the city. These are the two types of metal poles that you see, approximately 284 of them. You see that type of pole in Old Cutler Bay, about 56 of them. You see those around the roundabout on Segovia on Coral Way. These are installed around the Douglas Road Entrance. There are four of us that's our responsibility and there are several more that the developer is responsible for across the street. These are the type of poles that you see at Islands of Coco Plum or Coco Plum Phase II. These are the beautiful White Way Lights that we're very proud of. For comparison purposes, the fiberglass pole is approximately ten-foot mounting height; 70 Watts high pressure sodium and they are about 2,200 Kelvin of temperature. The Washington black poles, they are concrete poles, 15-foot mounting height, they come with 39 Watts LED, they are 3,000 Kelvin. And then obviously, the White Way Lights which depending on whether it's a copy of the original or restoration, they are either cast iron or aluminum, approximately 14-foot mounting height, those have a 68-Watt LED, 2,700 Kelvin. So, to just go over some estimates just so we can finish, and I mentioned some of this previously. The replacement of the 140 fiberglass streetlight poles and fixtures with the black LED, the total payments to FPL over the following 20 years in today's money, you're looking at about \$1.1 million, that includes electricity and maintenance. If we were to take over those lights and we have to do the infrastructure and install them, we estimate that there would be a cost of \$2.6 million dollars, and we'll be responsible for electricity and maintenance moving forward. In addition to that, because the agreement has already been executed for those contracts, based on our conversations with FPL, there will be an additional \$620,000, that number is approximate, to rescind the previously executed agreement and for FPL to dispose of the 137 lights that my understanding that they already purchased. So, it would be not only the expense of us installing infrastructure and putting in whichever light we want to install, but we have to pay FPL to rescind the agreements that have already been executed. In addition to that, there is something that I'll like to bring to your attention. The 140 total silver lights, these are the ones on the PL-1 agreement that we have, a contractual obligation to do something about and replace, an additional 516 fiberglass FPL poles that are high pressure sodium, high pressure sodium fixtures are becoming obsolete, FPL will no longer be carrying them. So, in our conversations with them, as those fixtures get damaged, the only solution they've given us would be to replace them with a black fixture top,

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which you see in that photo. That's actually the lights on Lorenzo, which is scheduled to be replaced, so that won't be sticking around too long, but that will be what FPL has told us will happen moving forward, unless we decide to replace the lights altogether with city-owned and maintained lights. We estimate that that would cost about \$9.8 million dollars, or we proceed with replacing those lights with what's available on the FPL catalogue, which we estimate will cost about \$4.2 million in total payments to FPL over the next 20 years, and there will be approximately about \$181,000 in upfront costs for the removal. So, I wanted to bring this to your attention, because even though the ones that we're talking about is 140, we do have that issue moving forward with the lack of availability of the high-pressure sodium and that's going to become a problem for the remainder of these lights moving forward. This finishes my presentation. FPL is here, we're more than happy to take any questions.

Mayor Lago: Thank you, Hermes. Don't move. First off, Mr. Clerk, do we have any public comment?

City Clerk Urquia: Yes, Mr. Mayor, we have a member of the public requesting to speak on the item, Maria Cruz.

Ms. Cruz: Mrs. Maria Cruz, 1447 Miller Road. Once again, the city in its infinite wisdom decided to do something without talking to the neighbors, without talking to the residents. When I saw the first black pole in our area on San Amaro, I called Hermes, Mr. Diaz. He told me the only option they had was to select from the catalogue. I do not understand how people that represent our community that know how we feel would agree to cut a deal to make an agreement to be limited to what they have in the catalogue. You know we're known for fighting; we're known for saying not here. That may be good in Miami, but not here, but in this case, I guess Florida Power and Light is very powerful and I guess the people that make decisions figure that they couldn't fight, but you know the least they could have done is talk to the residents. That's the least they could have done. We talked to the residents about dog parks, wonderful, I think it's a good idea. We talk to residents now about sidewalks, bike paths, you know what, we're going to be looking at those awful black poles way past the time I pass on, because I'm going to be 78. So, for many years the people that live in our area and frankly, I don't care, if anybody that lives there tells you, there's nothing wrong with it. They haven't looked at them. First of all, they are very high, they hide in the trees. Number two, they are ugly. They don't fit the look of our city. Why are we involved with this. You know, I love to hear, oh, you know, the money, the money, the money. We have money when we want money. Okay. So, this is not acceptable. I'm sorry, whoever made the decision did not think that they needed to talk to the neighbors, and they should have, and I'm sorry, you know what, most people are not here today, because of the item, city lighting. You know, if it had said, black poles versus silver poles, you would have had a crowd here. Okay. So, sorry, that does not fit in our area. We do not want it, and you know what, we do surveys for everything. Why didn't we survey the neighbors. Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk Urquia: That's it, Mr. Mayor.

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Mayor Lago: Okay. Mr. Diaz, we have FPL here with us today.

Public Works Director Diaz: Yes.

Mayor Lago: Okay. Would you mind coming up. First off, welcome and thank you for being here. How are you sir?

Mr. Acosta: I'm doing well, Mr. Mayor. Alex Acosta, Florida Power and Light Company, 4200 West Flagler Street.

Ms. Corello: Adys Corello, Florida Power and Light, with offices at 4200 West Flagler Street, External Affairs. Good morning, Mr. Mayor, members of the Commission.

Ms. Reyes: Gladys Reyes, 6001 Village Boulevard, Office Streetlight Representative.

Mayor Lago: Good morning.

All: Good morning.

Mr. Maestre: Hector Maestre, 4200 West Flagler Street, Customer Advisor for FPL.

Mayor Lago: Thank you.

Ms. Corello: You have the whole team.

Mayor Lago: Yes. Thank you for being here bringing the entire team. As you can tell, the City of Coral Gables is proudly a little different than other municipalities. Our signature on many fronts is our historic preservation, our beauty. We spend a little bit more to send a clear statement and to uphold a certain level of standard here. Can you go into a little bit of detail in regard to where we are today. What are our options? I know that Hermes reviewed them. They are extensive, the numbers are massive numbers in regard to cost. You're talking about almost \$10 million dollars, because it's not only just replacement, it's also maintenance, and it's also removal, as per our contract in regard to what's been installed. Can you give us a little bit more color in regard to what options we have at our disposal?

Ms. Corello: Absolutely. So, thank you for having us here and giving us the opportunity to speak. So, several years ago, we went to the Public Service Commission and had a new tariff, the LT-1 tariff developed where they started offering for standard for FPL. About 2017, I believe that some contracts that we had for lighting in the City of Coral Gables expired, and we met with the city for several years trying to get those contracts renewed. It's not part of our offering. We had a list of offerings and we met with the city, we discussed it, and basically that was what was selected, right, as part of our offerings. We no longer offer those silver poles. We have to have a standard, because we serve over 150 municipal governments throughout Florida, and we want to have a standard for everything for our offerings, because if there's a problem with a hurricane, if there's any issues, we want to have inventory to replace those lights. So, we cannot offer a particular light for any

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particular city. So, we're trying, even though we had those silver lights years ago, it's no longer an offering. It's part of LED tariff, passed by the Public Service Commission and unfortunately, it's just not an offering. We have about eight poles, they are concrete and fiberglass, I believe, right, but we don't have any silver lights on there. I don't know if I answered your questions. You want to add anything.

Mayor Lago: I just want to add more to my question, if I may. Number one, have any exceptions been made for any of those 150 municipalities that you service, any exceptions, no matter if it's gone legal, no matter if they've made requests. Have there been exceptions that have been made?

Ms. Corello: No, there's no exception that has been made.

Mayor Lago: So that's number one; number two, can you give a little bit more explanation in regard to the Public Service Commission, because again, my understanding and I imagine for those on the Commission that have a little bit more depth knowledge of the Public Service Commission, it's pretty much one way or the highway in regard to the way things work there. They address the issues, tariffs, and it's a sweeping change across the board and that certain cities don't get certain benefits and other cities get certain – it's across the State of Florida, correct.

Ms. Corello: Correct.

Mayor Lago: Can you give me a little bit more of an explanation in regard to that.

Ms. Corello: So, I'll let Alex talk about it, he's our streetlight person.

Mayor Lago: How are you, Mr. Acosta, how are you doing? Thank you for being here.

Mr. Acosta: Manager. So, the exception that you're referring to is, there are no exceptions. In 2017, the decision was made to no longer include the silver poles as an offering, that's because we had one customer...

Mayor Lago: And I apologize for interrupting, I'm sorry, but I just wanted to make sure I put this on the record, my colleagues had the same question. Who made that decision, no more silver poles. This is the manual that we're going to offer the 150 municipalities, and this is what you, you, the employees of FPL, have to offer entities like Coral Gables.

Mr. Acosta: FPL made the decision to no longer offer the silver poles because we had one customer out of the over 150 local government entities that we serve, we had one customer that has the silver poles, that's the City of Coral Gables. We have those silver poles as a response to the City of Coral Gables. We expected there to be additional services, but there were not. The City of Coral Gables hadn't ordered in some many years the silver poles, so it did not fit within the model to continue those silver poles, because at that point it's a custom-built system that we would need to maintain and restore our streetlights. So, I can appreciate how the number of silver poles is substantial to the City of Coral Gables and I do understand that. FPL has over 700,000 streetlights, and again,

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one of our customers has the silver poles, and we have to have the inventory on hand to address restoration and maintenance items, that makes the most sense for all of our rate payers.

Mayor Lago: Madam Vice Mayor, you have a question.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I was going to if you were done ask a few additional questions.

Mayor Lago: Please.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I noticed that the poles that you're offering have a 3,000 Kelvin rated bulb in them. Can they accept a lower rated Kelvin bulb?

Mr. Acosta: So, our catalogue currently, Madam Vice Mayor, includes 3,000 and 4,000 Kelvin units. We don't offer any LED fixtures with less Kelvin than 3,000.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, you have it on a level that most of us can understand, is it a bulb that screws in?

Mr. Acosta: So, the high-pressure sodium is an amber unit, its 2,200 Kelvin, the 3,000 is that softer white, the 4,000 is a brighter white, a 5,000 Kelvin which we do not offer is say a hospital white.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, is it a screw bulb, is it a prong bulb, what kind of bulb is it?

Mr. Acosta: It's not necessarily a bulb. It's a fixture. The LED unit is built into the housing mechanism of that fixture.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Okay. So, you just can't pop in and out different bulbs.

Mr. Acosta: No.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Okay. The height of the poles – only at 15 feet, or you have some shorter ones?

Mr. Acosta: We do. We have poles from, I don't want to misspeak, so let me pull up the catalogue. We have poles from ten feet mounting height, all the way to 35 feet mounting height.

Public Works Director Diaz: Just want to clarify though that those ten-foot poles are not decorative. They are more like a standard pole. The decorative pole options only come in 15, mounting height I want to say.

Mr. Acosta: Correct. There is an additional one that's mounting height of 14 feet 6 inches.

Public Works Director Diaz: They have lower poles, but they are just typical square, concrete, they are not particularly...

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Vice Mayor Anderson: They don't have a base on them, you know comes out like this.

Public Works Director Diaz: Correct.

Vice Mayor Anderson: They are just straight.

Mr. Acosta: Right. The ten-foot mounting height one is a straight standard, black, fiberglass unit. The lowest decorative unit is a 14-foot, 6-inch and that's a black Washington concrete pole. It also comes in black or green, it's available.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Possibility that you are going to offer a shorter pole, because 15 feet doesn't fit on some applications, shorten the mold.

Mr. Acosta: That's currently what's available in our catalogue.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Okay. Alright. That's all the questions I have at this time.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner.

Commissioner Castro: First of all, thank you all for taking the time to come here. I was talking to Adys outside for a second and I was asking, is there any pole that resembles or at least comes close to the silver ones in your catalogue?

Mr. Acosta: So, FPL doesn't make recommendations on our catalogue, but if I was to you know, take a guess, I would say the black or green Washington concrete pole, which is a decorative unit that has a 14-foot mounting height that's probably as close from what I can gather.

Commissioner Castro: Washington green Washington, that's what you said.

Ms. Corello: That's the current offering we have now.

Mr. Acosta: Yes. The black or green Washington concrete pole, it is a 14-foot, 6-inch mounting height unit.

Public Works Director Diaz: And if I may, those are the poles that have been installed recently.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Your presentation has it down as 15 feet.

Public Works Director Diaz: They're actually 15-foot, not 14 and-a-half, as per the manufacturer's specs.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Alright. Do we have a picture of the green one?

Public Works Director Diaz: They haven't been installed anywhere. I don't know. Do you have a green?

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Vice Mayor Anderson: Do you have a green picture?

All: [Inaudible]

Commissioner Castro: Which one is it. What number?

Mr. Acosta: Number five.

Vice Mayor Anderson: The one that says 18 and-a-half feet?

Public Works Director Diaz: No. The shorter one – 14 and-a-half.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Alright. So, maybe we can see a color version of that.

Public Works Director Diaz: We haven't installed any green in the city.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Maybe FPL has a picture of it somewhere.

Mr. Acosta: Yes. I don't have it readily available, but yes.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Can you email it to us also.

Mr. Acosta: Absolutely.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Okay. Email is wonderful.

Mayor Lago: May I ask you a quick question Hermes, Mr. Diaz.

Public Works Director Diaz: Yes.

Mayor Lago: So, if we were to go the route of paying for the removal of all the poles, buying our own poles, doing all that. What happens if a hurricane comes?

Public Works Director Diaz: We'll be responsible for buying them or replacing them.

Mayor Lago: Buying them or replacing them, and the whole thing. How about the conduit and all the underground work that was done via directional boring. Will FPL allow us to keep that undergrounding or...

Public Works Director Diaz: No, they'll remove it.

Mayor Lago: So, all the undergrounding is removed too.

Public Works Director Diaz: Yes.  
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Mayor Lago: And we have to run the underground which is part of the \$10 million.

Public Works Director Diaz: And even if they didn't do that, having to convert it to a different code, like for example, my understanding is that their code allows them to use smaller wires, which means that we may need bigger conduits, so even if they were to say, you know what, I don't care about my infrastructure, we'll probably have to replace if not all of it, a good chunk of that regardless, depending on...

Mayor Lago: Okay.

City Manager Iglesias: Again Mayor, we're under the National Electrical Code.

Mayor Lago: And they are under a different.

City Manager Iglesias: And they are under a National Electrical Safety Code as a utility.

Mayor Lago: I understand that. I understand that.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, we couldn't use it. We couldn't use it even if we wanted to use it.

Public Works Director Diaz: Probably not. Most likely not, so yes.

Commissioner Castro: I think we should steer for an option that resembles at least a little more the silver poles. I think residents would be a little more satisfied with that option.

Mayor Lago: With that comment, do you offer something that is similar in contrast or in color to the silver poles that we currently have existing, that are fiberglass and are not historic. I want to lay that to rest, because we have Option A or Option B, there's no in between right now. So, do you have anything that is similar to what we have currently here at the city?

Mr. Acosta: I believe that pole number five is the black octagonal, the Black Washington unit that closely represents it. We, again, cannot make recommendations on our catalogue. What I can reference is our experience with over 150 local government entities where the focus is on uniformity.

Mayor Lago: And I respect that. I understand that there were decisions that were made above your pay grade at the Commission, and I understand that. I'm just trying to find out when we have to answer to staff, we say listen, these are the options that were provided to us and its either Option A, number five, Washington style, or Option B. Spend close to \$10 million dollars and revamp the lighting system and take control of the lighting system on our dime, and if a hurricane were to hit us, God willing it wasn't the case, we would be potentially, Mr. Manager, would you say how long without lights here in the city.

City Manager Iglesias: We are not in the pole business.  
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Mayor Lago: I know, but I'm just saying if we don't have the equipment.

City Manager Iglesias: It would be difficult to actually replace hundreds of thousands of poles. This is also a decorative tariff, it's not the cheapest tariff, we are going to a high-end pole, probably the highest pole that FPL provides, so we're not going to a cobra head or something that's much cheaper. So, this is the decorative standards that we are paying extra for this, and certainly, if we start losing poles then we would have to come back after a hurricane we'll be responsible for replacement of all that system and all the damage of all the system, or if a car hits a pole, we would be responsible for replacing that pole instead of FPL.

Commissioner Castro: How much would it cost us if we chose Option 5, the green one, and removed the existing black ones?

Public Works Director Diaz: So, we're talking only about the 140 poles that we have agreements for right now. The ones that have been replaced mostly with a few leftovers, you're looking about \$2.6 million dollars between the new poles, and making some assumptions about the type of pole that we'll install. We could choose the more expensive pole, we could choose the cheaper pole and they'll be some viability, not speaking...sometimes the devil is in the details, but in addition to that, there's about \$620,000 to rescind the agreement that we have with FPL, because they are now going to remove and dispose of the infrastructure, plus the 137 poles they've already purchased. So, you're looking about \$2.6 million dollars, plus \$620,000, you're looking at about \$3.2 million dollars, give or take, in total just for the 140. If we want to then tackle the high-pressure sodium, the remainder, 500 and change, high pressure sodium that currently there is no agreement for. You're looking at around \$10 million dollars for the city to replace and take over, generally speaking.

Mayor Lago: Commissioner Fernandez.

Commissioner Fernandez: The reason that I asked for the process to stop, and my colleagues supported the measure, we do have a lot of concerns from residents about these new poles. One, as the Vice Mayor mentioned, was the height and the lighting that it's giving off. It is too bright. It's going into people's homes now because it is a taller pole. We have a lot of our tree canopy that's being affected by these poles because they are too tall, and I echo the comments that were made by Commissioner Castro and the Vice Mayor, the happy medium would be a pole, maybe similar to this one that can be silver and about four feet shorter, similar to what we have now. I don't think it's a big ask, because I think – it's just about creating a new mold and a pole that's a little bit shorter and it's a different coloring when they are creating it. We're not talking about the reinvention of the wheel, because I think the design of the pole is not an ugly design. I think the coloring is part of the issue and the request isn't for the entire city and that's the reason we did not stop the installation throughout the city. We just stopped it in the places where we currently have the silver poles. I think the poles have been working on some of the neighborhoods where they didn't have lighting before and it is helping, but in the residential neighborhoods in North Gables where the homes are closer to the street, and closer to these poles, these poles are starting to become intrusive into their homes with the lighting that they are emitting into people's homes because of

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the height; and again, if you drive down Greenway, you will see how a lot of these poles are in our trees. So, it's a matter of time when one wind is going to blow and it's going to knock that pole down, damage that pole, and we as a city cannot support FPL coming out and saying, well, now we have to cut the branches of this tree and hat racket, because it's affecting the pole, because now we're talking about millions of dollars in replacing our tree canopy which is, especially in that area, has been around since this city was founded. So, the question is, is there a process, an application process, a process where we can work maybe with other municipalities who are in a similar need to bring a request to FPL for something that is similar to Option No. 5, but at a lower scale and with a different Kelvin rating of probably 2,700, 2,200, between there.

Ms. Corello: So, Commissioner, let me address this in a different way. So, our company has made a business decision not to offer any silver poles. I don't know if there is a vehicle to be able to, I guess, I don't know, talk to our company, but I think we have made a decision, it's a business decision that was made, and we've taken this to the highest levels of our leadership when the issue first came up, and basically that is the offerings that we have, that's what we offer. You could as a city put whatever pole you like, but as a company we have to stick with what was approved by the Public Service Commission. So, to answer your question, there are no silver poles and there are no other options, aside from what is – there's ten poles there, so something, we're hoping something will work. As far as the, I understand the tree canopy issue and we have been speaking to the Manager and Hermes about this and we have come up with a plan to basically shift the poles a little bit to one side to not interfere with the areas where the tree canopy cannot be trimmed. So, there's some areas where it's like, I guess, really snug in there, and we have been in discussions to move it a little bit to either one side or the other, along where our conduit is to address that issue. I don't know what else to...

Commissioner Fernandez: Another question that maybe it's just a little outside the box. Some of these Options 1 and 2 seem to be just a standard concrete pole. Is that something that we can maybe create a fixture that goes around it, a masking around it that will change the design of the exterior? It's still your pole, it would just be a fixture that goes around it just to continue with a design that we as a community want.

Mayor Lago: I think the question applies to warranty also, warranty of the fixture. So if there was something that was done to change the look of the actual fixture and soften it in one form or another, will that violate the warranty in turn potentially affecting us in the future in one form or another, because those light fixtures, like you said, are housed in the fixture, the light that's housed in the fixture that all comes together as one piece, I'm pretty sure our fixtures that are meant to last 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 years, as LED lights are, they are not changed that regularly, correct.

Mr. Acosta: Correct. A high-pressure sodium typically lasts three years where an LED last ten years.

Mayor Lago: So, if modifications are made to the pole and to the fixture, would that void the warranty or affect the city in any way?

Mr. Acosta: So, we are not in a position to reconfigure the fixtures that are provided or available in the market space from the manufacturing companies, and again, we have some 700,000 light fixtures within our inventory, and the City of Coral Gables is the only entity that has the silver poles and that's the decision. We're here to service as a good partner and in order to do so, we have to be able to provide the marketplace with the best available fixture and pole cost. As we add to that inventory our costs increase. So, we're trying to maintain the cost. We have commoditized our inventory and that's what has allowed us to provide the best service for our customers, and we did try this previously with the silver poles, and again, we only, we just have one customer that we provided that for. So, we're not in a position to revisit that at this time.

Commissioner Fernandez: Maybe I didn't explain myself. Let's say we move forward with the installation of the simplest pole that you have, with a light fixture which has Kelvin level 2,700, 2,500, is there a possibility for us as a city to mask that pole with an artistic encasement of the pole from the light fixture down.

Ms. Corello: Like a cover or painting it.

Commissioner Fernandez: Like a cover. Something that will make the pole look better.

Commissioner Menendez: Can we decorate it?

Commissioner Fernandez: Right, in silver.

Ms. Corello: We've never been asked this question before.

Commissioner Fernandez: I figured. I like to think outside the box.

Mayor Lago: Are you talking about like a sheet or you're talking about, what type of artistic – you have to give a little bit of guidance so that they can come back with something.

Commissioner Fernandez: It would be something that will make it look like the current poles that we have.

Mr. Acosta: That would impact...

Mayor Lago: Like a wrap.

Mr. Acosta: That would impact the wind mitigation. I don't see how that makes sense from a liability standpoint, but we don't have the specific answer. I haven't been asked that before.

Commissioner Fernandez: Can you get back to me on that.

Mr. Acosta: But we can certainly.

Commissioner Fernandez: I'm just trying to find a solution that works. If we are paying more for these premium poles, maybe we can get a pole that's not as expensive, but we can find something that can make the pole look more like what we currently have and have a pole that's less, because you have a pole here that's ten feet, so that would obviously kind of fix the problem that we have in height and we also have the concern of the amount of light that's being emitted from these poles. So, we can find a solution maybe with what you're offering and something that we can do as a city to kind of put our heads together and kind of find a solution.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I'm going to dovetail you just for a moment, because we don't have a picture of the green pole. The White Way Lights were greenish. Have you looked at a picture of our historic White Way Lights.

Ms. Corello: Yes.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Okay. Do you know if the green color on the Washington pole is similar? Sort of like a seafoam green, if I was going to guess.

Mr. Acosta: Ours is more of a forest green.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, it's a dark green.

Mr. Acosta: It's a dark green.

Commissioner Fernandez: Similar to the chairs?

Mr. Acosta: A little bit darker.

Ms. Corello: Probably darker.

Commissioner Castro: Would the warranty expire if we painted them white or silver, I'm sorry, silver?

Ms. Corello: I'm sorry.

Commissioner Castro: If we were to paint, have we ever considered painting them, is that even an option?

City Manager Iglesias: Commissioner, the poles they are proposing, the concrete is actually the color of the pole, they are not painted, they have special aggregate and color. So, the color is integral and that gives it longevity.

Commissioner Castro: Option 5 is concrete?

City Manager Iglesias: The concrete poles that we're using, the color is within the concrete.

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Mr. Acosta: Correct.

Mayor Lago: And it limits fading and a lot of other things that happen.

Mr. Acosta: Correct. Option 5 is concrete.

Commissioner Fernandez: Option 5 is the one we have, that they are putting in, the black ones.

Ms. Corello: I forgot to mention just to address the interference of the light in the homes. We do offer shields which, when Hermes told us a constituent is complaining about the light intruding in their home, we've gone out and put shields, and we can do that, so we just need to be notified where the homes that are having these issues and we'll address them.

Mr. Acosta: And there is no additional charge for replacing shields on our units.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Do we have a picture of the shields.

Ms. Corello: I didn't bring one.

Vice Mayor Anderson: If we wanted to change...

Mr. Acosta: For the post-op you don't see the shield. You see the shields on the roadway units which are the cobra heads.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes. So that's more of an industrial shield.

Mr. Acosta: Those are for the main thoroughfares, but the residents would be the post-op units which you don't really see the shields there, but it does help with the light pollution associated with it.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Okay. Other than the shields, is there a way to put a sleeve in there that kind of makes it a little more amber up in the head?

Mr. Acosta: No. The Kelvin is 3,000 Kelvin. We're not in a position to add a film to our units to reduce the Kelvin.

Commissioner Menendez: Quick question. I know we're working very hard to find solutions. It's a balancing act and I appreciate everybody's involvement and open-mindedness in terms of what we can do. General question because I want to expand the question. So understandably, we're the only city with the silver poles, so you haven't encountered that, but have you encountered anything similar to our situation with any other city, county or town – not silver poles, but where a city has their unique design that you no longer provide, because we seem to be asking the question silver poles, but does another city have maybe decorative that you don't provide and they are encountering the same dilemma.

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Mr. Acosta: Not that I'm aware of. Since 2017, we have introduced the LT-1 program which is an LED offering, so we have been in front of over 150 municipalities that have done the conversion from high-pressure sodium to LED. So, I'm responsible for the LED, LT-1 program, and I have not encountered this.

Commissioner Menendez: Because in travelling the state, Naples and other cities have their downtown area and you can see they have a certain style or design, and I would imagine that the light poles also are reflective of the style of their main boulevard, and I figured if you are moving away from certain poles maybe they are encountering the same dilemma.

Mr. Acosta: That's a great question and that's my reference to the discussion earlier is what I have seen is that municipalities are moving towards uniformity. So, I can appreciate that City of Coral Gables was established in 1925, just like FPL, right, so there's many different types of streetlights, but the cities that are similar to you are moving towards uniformity and identifying a unit that's within our catalogue that makes sense and implement it citywide, so basically having two types of lights, a residential and a commercial unit, and that assist with the efficiency and implementation and maintenance of this system.

Commissioner Menendez: Okay. Go ahead, I'm sorry.

Ms. Corello: No, just to add. So maybe those lights in Naples and other cities could be city-owned lights, so they just use energy only from FPL, but they can procure their own light, whatever light they want, and they can put it. So, if you see something different, it's not necessarily an FPL light.

Commissioner Menendez: Okay. And my only other question is, would be for Hermes, Mr. Diaz, the number that you showed on the slide which I think was like \$9 million dollars.

Public Works Director Diaz: \$9.8.

Commissioner Menendez: \$9.8, that would cover the entire city?

Public Works Director Diaz: No. The \$9.8 – so there's about \$2.6 million dollars plus the 620 for the 140, then we have an additional 516, which that would be \$9.8. So, in total you're looking about \$13 to \$14 million dollars roughly for the silver lights only. We have a plethora of other lights around which I showed that.

Commissioner Menendez: Because in an effort, I mean we're all trying to find the right combination for this "Rubix Cube" and I think – this was brought to my attention, at least when I first heard it from the residents when the light poles were changing in specific areas in the city. The ones that I would say are historic areas, historic in nature, like the Granada Golf Course, that's when I noticed it, hit a nerve understandably. And I think along the lines with Commissioner Fernandez was saying, can we focus on preserving the silver poles and the traditional lights that we have in certain areas, not necessarily the whole city, but try to maintain preserve the historic nature and feel of certain areas, is that a way we can slice up the city in a way that we sort of accomplish it without obviously.

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Public Works Director Diaz: So, the option would be for us to take over the circuit and at that point, obviously subject to funds, we have to make it available for us to put whatever light is decided upon for that specific area. That's the only option that we've been given. So, if that's the direction the Commission wants to go, we need to then come up with a plan, a design, a project, and fund it.

Commissioner Menendez: Because I'm thinking the areas that are most visible and I understand that the neighbors in the North Gables because the smaller property lots, the houses are closer together, the streets are narrow, so any change if it's not well adjusted or considered impacts, you know their ability to have peace in their property, their home, but around the golf course, certain promenades, certain major boulevards, maybe we can focus on those to preserve the historic lights, if obviously the times have changed and FPL is going in a different direction. I'm looking for a balance.

Public Works Director Diaz: That would be up to the Commission. If the Commission wants the directors to find an alternative.

Commissioner Menendez: Yes.

Public Works Director Diaz: To install and maintain and paid for by the city, we will have to...

Commissioner Menendez: I'm just trying to find a way to sort of...

Public Works Director Diaz: We will have to pay for that project through our Capital Program.

Commissioner Menendez: Its just an idea and I throw it out there, and we have a lot of good ideas, so I just add one more.

Mayor Lago: So why don't we do the following. We've heard from FPL, and you sent all this information, writing to the Manager, everything is well detailed. The Commission can have a Sunshine meeting and conversation with staff, so we can find a path moving forward with the directive that we've been provided by FPL, and we can have further discussions in regard to public input and have further discussions in regard to where do we want to move forward, where we are willing to allocate money. Obviously, there's not millions of dollars available in the coffers to address this issue at the current moment, so we'd have to potentially budget for anything moving forward and what are the options at hand, and I think the Commission is not going to resolve it here today. We have to continue having conversations and see what is the will of the Commission moving forward.

Commissioner Fernandez: I think we've already instructed for Historic Preservation and Landmarks Advisory to have a joint meeting to give us instructions, so I'd say, let's schedule that Sunshine meeting after we get the direction or the advice from those two boards.

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Mayor Lago: Mr. Manager.

Commissioner Fernandez: And what I would say is for the time being, let's not continue to replace the silver poles until there is a resolution on that issue. I think the black ones, the ones in the new areas, I think that's, let's get them installed and make sure there is lighting.

Public Works Director Diaz: There's only twelve roughly on Greenway, everything else is already done by the time that the Commission place that order and we can probably proceed with the ones on San Lorenzo, which I don't think that will be controversial.

Mayor Lago: Okay. I don't have an issue with it. Does the Commission have an issue with finishing San Lorenzo? It already has existing black lights on the street. Commission.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I haven't heard any complaints from San Lorenzo.

Mayor Lago: My concerns have only come from Mayor Slesnick's neighbors on Greenway, they're the only issues that I've received commentary on, and its all been positive commentary about, obviously the historic nature of the lights, which we ended up, obviously informing that its not historic, just a look here in the city. Let's see how we can find a solution after having a conversation here. So, San Lorenzo we move forward, the will of the Commission.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I think we need to...

Commissioner Fernandez: There are no silver lights there, right.

Mayor Lago: That's what I said. There are no silver lights.

Public Works Director Diaz: The three old ones, they don't really match the neighborhood anymore.

Commissioner Fernandez: Right. The resolution we had made was just to stop the silver lights in the North Gables, San Lorenzo wouldn't apply.

Mayor Lago: That's fine.

City Manager Iglesias: Silver lights in North Gables.

Mayor Lago: Alright. Thank you very much. Thank you, FPL, for being here. I appreciate you. Thank you, Hermes, the Manager.