

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item F-13
May 7, 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, Amos Rojas, Jr.

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Assistant City Attorney, Naomi Levi-Garcia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item F-13 [5:25 p.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission amending Resolution No. 2019-359 to expand the resident rate discounts offered to Coral Gables teachers who purchase an annual membership at the War Memorial Youth Center or Venetian Pool.
(Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

Mayor Lago: Item F-14, excuse me F-13. It's a simple resolution. I won't belabor the point. I think it's a great idea to offer our teachers some sort of discount rate for our teachers, obviously, that live in Coral Gables. We want to make sure that we – we had a teacher here who is my neighbor, she lives a block away from me. You're not going to get thousands of people coming to the Youth Center. Let's say if you're a teacher and you want to come and use these facilities, we'll give you a discount. I don't want to go crazy. This is simple.

Commissioner Fernandez: I'd be happy to second, if you would entertain an amendment to offer to teachers who work in Coral Gables. I think a lot of our teachers who are teaching at our current

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Discounts offered to Coral Gables teachers

schools may not be residents because they can't afford to live in our city, but they are servicing our residents.

Assistant City Attorney Levi-Garcia: Good afternoon. It does include teachers who work in Coral Gables. It actually expands upon a 2019 resolution that was limited to schools within Coral Gables, so this expands it to all schools within Coral Gables, public and private, and those schools which fall under the purview of the SCRC, which as you know, includes a few schools.

Mayor Lago: Don't get too crazy and then we end up with, I don't want to talk about pickleball, so let's not talk about pickleball, but what's happening with pickleball, its really happening with pickleball. I was on a call yesterday for an hour with a resident about pickleball, one hour. I welcome it, but their main concern is that we have people from outside Coral Gables here on the courts. So, I'm all for it, if you are servicing the kids and you work here in one of those schools, but you don't live here, or you're a teacher that lives here, we want to support you.

Commissioner Fernandez: I'll second as is then.

Assistant City Attorney Levi-Garcia: So just to clarify. The way the resolution is currently drafted, it does include some schools outside of Coral Gables. So, if you want to amend it, of course if it's the will of the Commission we can amend it.

Mayor Lago: I want to be careful. We can leave it the way it is now, but I want to be very careful because the last thing I want is to overload these facilities and then have people in the facilities say hey listen, it's not benefiting the residents first. But when you tell them that it's a teacher who is teaching in a Gables school, I think we can get more leeway with that because no one is going to say no to a teacher or like a firefighter, or a police officer. We've just got to be very careful with that. But I don't have a problem with it. I'll amend it anyway that you'd like.

Commissioner Fernandez: No. Leave it the way it is.

Mayor Lago: Okay.

Vice Mayor Anderson: We have a motion and a second.

Commissioner Fernandez: Yes

Commissioner Menendez: (Absent)

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes

Commissioner Castro: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes

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(Vote: 4-0)