



**CITY OF WEST MIAMI
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23RD, 2019
7:30 PM
COMMISSION CHAMBERS
901 S.W. 62ND AVENUE
WEST MIAMI, FLORIDA**

1. **INVOCATION.** Chief of Police Nelson Andreu gave the Invocation.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Chief of Police Nelson Andreu led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **ROLL CALL.** The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. Present were Mayor Eduardo H. Muhiña, Vice-Mayor Rhonda A. Rodriguez, Commissioner Candida Blanca, Commissioner Juan M. Blanes and Commissioner Luciano L. Suarez.

NOTE FOR THE RECORD: Present was Mr. Fausto Gomez, Gomez, Barker Associates, Inc., Legislative Consultant for the City of West Miami.

4. **CITIZEN PRESENTATIONS.** No presentations.

5. **OLD BUSINESS SPECIAL AGENDA ITEMS:**

A) **RESOLUTION, WITH ATTACHMENTS, OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEST MIAMI SETTING FORTH LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY REQUEST AND INSTRUCTING THE CITY LOBBYIST GOMEZ, BAKER AND ASSOCIATES TO ADVOCATE THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE FOR SUFFICIENT STATE FUNDS TO UPGRADE AND/OR REPLACE THE CITY'S SEVENTY (70) PLUS YEAR POTABLE DRINKING WATER, PIPING, DISTRIBUTIONS GRID SYSTEM THROUGH OUT THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.** Commissioner Suarez addressed the importance of procuring the funds to upgrade the West Miami water system. Mr. Fausto Gomez addressed the Commission and provided the highlights of legislative issues. Commissioner Blanes motioned to approve the Resolution. Commissioner Suarez made a friendly amendment to merge the resolutions contemplated on items 5 A) and 6 B) into one. A brief discussion led to items 6 A) and B).

6. **NEW BUSINESS SPECIAL AGENDA ITEMS:**

A) **DISCUSSION RE: LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2019-2020.** Mr. Fausto Gomez, Legislative Consultant, Gomez, Barker Associates, Inc. was present and provided the legislative highlights and priorities for the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year.



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- B) RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEST MIAMI SETTING FORTH THE 2019-2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES TO INCLUDE THE 6 MILLION DOLLARS FUNDING FOR THE CITY'S AGING POTABLE WATER SYSTEM, FRDAP GRANT APPLICATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 200,000.00 WITH MATCHING FUNDS FROM THE CITY, RECURRING FUNDS FOR WEST MIAMI COMMUNITY CENTER AND POLICE DEPARTMENT FUNDING; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.** A discussion took place in regards to the West Miami potable water system. The Acting City Manager expressed the City will need approximately 6 million dollars in funds to replace the service lines and 17 million dollars to replace the whole system. Vice-Mayor Rodriguez expressed the City has requested funds for the City's water system for a long time with no success. Mr. Gomez replied funds for that purpose have been requested but the Governor has vetoed the requests, Governors have different philosophies in regards to water issues. Mr. Gomez further recommended exploring the possibility of a loan program for the potable water system. Another recommendation issued by Mr. Gomez was to monitor any/all legislation in regards to Red Light Cameras. The City Attorney added the consideration of a safe harbor on Marijuana legislation by establishing a moratorium on approval and dispensaries.

Yolanda Aguilar, 6404 SW 12th Street, West Miami, FL (City Manager, currently retired until February 1st, 2019) recommended holding a workshop on the issue of the water system, that way all the facts can be presented and discussed.

Commissioner Suarez motioned to approve the merged Resolution with the recommendations. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Rodriguez. All voted in favor.

7. GOOD OF THE ORDER.

Commissioner Suarez made a request for a recognition to Arturo Cobo, an activist for democracy and founder of the "Hogar de Transito" in Key West. All voted in favor.

Mayor Muhiña thanked the Acting City Manager Juan Pena for his service. Also Mayor Muhiña expressed he was very glad for having such a wonderful team of dedicated employees and elected officials.

Commissioner Suarez made a request to bring the Acting City Manager Juan J. Pena to Tallahassee for Dade Days to meet with the legislators. Commissioner Blanes offered the funds of his office towards the trip where Mr. Pena can be of assistance in requesting the funds properly with his knowledge and experience. All voted in favor.



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ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business before the City Commission the meeting was declared adjourned at 8:38 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Annery Gonzalez", is written over a horizontal line.

ANNERY GONZALEZ, CMC
CITY CLERK