Councilwoman Roman: Okay, today is Tuesday, July 16th. The time now is 9:03 PM and this is the Public Affairs committee meeting. We already had a moment of silent meditation, a Pledge of allegiance. Clerk, may I get a roll call, please.

City Clerk Jacobi: Roll call, Chairperson Roman.

Councilwoman Roman: Here.

City Clerk Jacobi: Vice chair Cubillos.

Mayor Cubillos: Here.

City Clerk Jacobi: Member Nickerson.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Here.

Councilwoman Roman: Next, do I have a motion to approve the agenda as is or does anybody want to add anything?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Think a motion to approve the agenda as is.

Mayor Cubillos: I'll second.

Councilwoman Roman: Then next is the minutes. Our SAT meeting was canceled, so there aren't any minutes, so do I have approval to move forward.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: I make a motion to move forward without the minutes for the meeting that was canceled.

Mayor Cubillos: I second.

Councilwoman Roman: There's a first and second. Is there anyone in Good and Welfare that would like to come up now and say anything. Okay, no one, we'll move on to the G1, which is the track and report review. We'll do a brief review of the report and the events that are coming up. I have not updated the report with the actual expenses, I will do that this week and I will email that to the clerk. I'm still waiting on some of the expenses to be finalized for the events for me to receive them from the accounting department. As soon as I get those, that's when we'll update it, and that's when the actuals will go in and the clerk will get it.
Okay, so the first thing, we discussed briefly, I think, at our, I don't know if that was at the meetings or somewhere, the website. We're still doing some changes with the ADA and things like that. Anything you want to add, Christia?

Village Manager Alou: No, that just we're taking departments for this side [inaudible 00:02:07] our security.

Councilwoman Roman: Then the next item that we have with the updating of the website and we said we were going to hold off of that until we did the cybersecurity in ADA. Horace Mann, I haven't seen any requests for them needing the funds or anything.

Mayor Cubillos: Where do I start? With Horace Mann, we are in conversation because of septic to sewer with Horace Mann. So we're at lots of conversations with them with regards to that. To add to that on a positive note, so every year for the Miami-Dade League of Cities, the president gets to choose a school that they're going to give backpacks away. I'm going to be doing at a fellowship village end of August, but I've asked the board if they would donate monies to Horace Mann because they're a middle school instead of giving them backpacks, so we will be donating. The dollar amount hasn't been finalized.

Maybe a thousand, maybe 1,500, maybe 2,000. I had a brief conversation with the manager when this first came up and asked maybe if it's something that we wanted to match, and then earmark it for something that they are going to need at the school, whether it's room, whether it's computers or whatever the case may be. I will have a better idea of what the League is going to give or donate to the school. Along with, we're going to be given backpacks away at the village with Miller at the end of the month. I think that once we do that, I don't think they're going to be asking for everything for no Saturday breakfast or anything like that.

That's going to be, hopefully, what we can do. It's just whether or not the village wants to do a match.

Councilwoman Roman: We'll know about them in a month?

Mayor Cubillos: There's a board meeting coming up. I'll know before the board meeting because I have to ask the executive board. I think that's next Monday.

Councilwoman Roman: So it will be before the budget cuts.

Mayor Cubillos: Yes.
Councilwoman Roman: Because I think, like, for instance, I know that in my discretionary, I haven't really touched it yet, so it's definitely something I can consider when we're looking at the match.

Mayor Cubillos: All right, cool, thank you.

Councilwoman Roman: Okay, and 250 we can hold off. I'm still cold with that. Vice Mayor Nickerson.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Yes.

Councilwoman Roman: Do we have any updates in the welcome meeting?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: I do actually. I should have actually printed them out and brought them today. I have a sample, examples of different things that we could choose through to see what we want it to look like and be inside or whatever. I have that one on a jump drive. I went through and I have the images, so I'll print them out for the next meeting. I'll print them all out for covers for everybody in a little packet. I'll stick together all the different choices and stuff like that, and you can start to see things like, "Yes, I think it's been good, I think it's working" whatever. I reached out to waste management.

Mayor Cubillos: I was going to bring out public works and it slipped my mind.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: About the audit? Yes. I reached out to waste management about that just to kind of weight the gig. I was kind of playing phone tag with them. Jason Neal, we'll get right back to you, but this is nothing that Jason Neal does. You know the deal where you think like this because what I was trying to do was get them to donate stuff that we can click inside of the welcome pack I'll continue to do that.

Councilwoman Roman: He can help you.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: He can help. I've talked to him about other stuff. I called him about other stuff and he can help, but he's really busy, I don't want him to have to. I'll find another way. I have him assist me to find another way to getting the right person to do that. Like I said, I do have a whole bunch of examples of different things that can go into our jumpdrive. I should print it out and have that.
Councilwoman Roman: Maybe reach out to, it just skipped my mind.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: The waste program?

Village Manager Alou: The waste program?

Councilwoman Roman: Yes, the waste program.

Mayor Cubillos: No, Elena Tebasa, Coastal Waste Recycle.

Councilwoman Roman: Correct.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Waste recycle.

[crosstalk] There's so many different names.

Councilwoman Roman: Also waste recycle and this recycling information is so important to include in there. Since you are calling with her, I had asked her if we could get stickers for our containers for what's proper to recycle.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Yes, I remember we had like that that time. We should really get it. I got you, I'll do that also.

Councilwoman Roman: Yes, so we want to include that, that'll be great. Okay, excellent, thank you.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: I will next time then I'll have an opinion about that.

Councilwoman Roman: Next, okay, we'll see the packet for the next one. Okay, so the newsletter, we moved up the date to August 1st. If everyone can turn in their whatever it is that they're including October 1st. August 1st and October 1st will be the new due dates and I'll update the track and report. I think we have something from the police already. I saw something come through.

City Clerk Jacobi: Yes, they're here.
Village Manager Alou: I just want to also state that I mistakenly left the newsletter off of the proposed budget, but I already included in the next budget, which I will be sharing with you, but I do need to get [inaudible 00:08:09].

Councilwoman Roman: Yes, I'll look at the last two invoices, but I'll send them both to you.

Village Manager Alou: Okay.

City Attorney Powell: August 1st and October 1st?

Councilwoman Roman: August 1st and October 1st. Previous, we had August 26th and October 28th I think, so yes. Does that fall during the week? I don't even know.

City Attorney Powell: It's on Tuesday.

Mayor Cubillos: August 1st?

Councilwoman Roman: Yes.

City Attorney Powell: October 1st is a Tuesday.

Councilwoman Roman: Okay, and August 1st?

Mayor Cubillos: Is a Thursday.

Councilwoman Roman: Okay, perfect. All right, so we're good. Then we talked about the role models breakfast, I think we kept it in the budget for next new year. I need to finalize and input expenses for the Black History Month checks of place. I know that we didn't go into that much detail when we reviewed the budget in terms of the events, so this is probably a good time for the committee to discuss what that should look like. This was one that was not very well attended, so I open it up to you guys.

Mayor Cubillos: Wait, you're talking about the role models or you're talking about Senior Luncheon?

Councilwoman Roman: Senior Luncheon, which was the Black History luncheon this year.

Mayor Cubillos: For the last two years, we did in February.
Councilwoman Roman: Yes.

Mayor Cubillos: I kind of stated what my thoughts are with the El Portal Women's Club and the Public Affairs committee. Maribel is away and is back on the 20th, as matter of fact, and we're going to set a time to meet next week. Even with that, I think we need to still at least have a budget because it's not like that's going to happen overnight.

Because my thought process with the Public Affairs, it should be geared more to dealing with the affairs of the public and disseminating information that's related to the government, what we're doing, and even having a memorandum of use with Miami Shores to use our water facility, but that's a cost that should go under Public Affairs and the events would be otherwise. That's my two cents right now with the events. I think that we should keep most that are staple items. It's what the committee ones. There are some events that cost a lot of money and giving people so often, I'm not quite sure that's good use of the money.

For budgeting purposes, we could take a look at what you want to keep on and we agree on that and we keep them on.

Councilwoman Roman: We haven't done this in the past or maybe this is something you want to consider since we are in conversations with the Women's Club. It's mainly having a miscellaneous Public Affairs mind versus how we have the Senior Luncheon mind. Maybe not have the staples listed like the Fourth of July, the Easter, whatever we want those events to be, and then maybe miscellaneous, and keep the funds that we have budgeted, and then see where it goes and maybe try that for this year.

Mayor: Yes, because the goal is not to spend any money on events from the village. It should all be generated by sponsoring the village if done in conjunction with the department.

Councilwoman Roman: Are you okay with that, the miscellaneous?

Mayor: Yes.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: If I may, Madam Chair.

Councilwoman Roman: Go ahead.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: I only wanted to say we don't have like a Hispanic history heritage month.
Councilwoman Roman: It does exist.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: No, I'm saying we don't--

Mayor Cubillos: We don't celebrate it.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Yes, we don't have that. I don't know about you guys, but I think that either we do one of two things. Either we alternate years, one year we do the Black history, one year we do the Hispanic history. Or we want to do like the senior because also the Senior Luncheon, we just combine it with the Black History. Or we want to do a Senior Luncheon, we do that in a different month and we don't do a luncheon for either the Black History or the Hispanic history. I just don't think it's fair for us to do a Black History one and not having to do a Hispanic history one. Either I think that we should alternate the years.

For budget reasons, we should alternate the years, we give the money to one one year and one to another year or we just don't have them at all, and then we just do a Senior Luncheon for all of our seniors or something like that. Just do that on a different month. I don't know what you guys will decide.

Mayor: We thought we had a Hispanic Heritage. We had a Senior Luncheon in September because that's the month, and we did a service but it's been a long time though. At the end of the day, I really do believe that if the budget of Public Affairs in the time that I've been here, well, it's been the most, it's been like 65,000. That's the most money we spent, and then that was high. That could be raised. If that is raised, we can have all the luncheons we want and we'll have the manpower. It all boils down to time and money.

It really boils down to if we're going to be able to have that partnership and if that money is going to be raised, and if it is, then all events can happen, but I think it's great to have a Black History Month. I've not had a Hispanic Heritage on, I can't even believe how long. When I first started, we used to have a Senior Luncheon every other month, and now that we have a really great program that we'll talk more about on Saturday with regards to our seniors and how we're trying to be in more contact with them. Being in contact with them is also kind of feeding them and playing dominoes. That's really cool too or dress, whatever or Bridge they play, I'm sorry.

Councilwoman Roman: [inaudible 00:14:34]
Mayor: It all boils down to money and it all boils down to help. I think if we can come up with a partnership, it's all a partnership where there's a concerted effort to them. I think we can do all that and I think we should.

Councilwoman Roman: I think the next question then I would ask then is, what are our staples? What do we want to say we are taking them on regardless?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Fourth of July.

Mayor: We have to do Arbor Day with Christia because they're having transfers.

Councilwoman Roman: So we have to do Arbor Day?

Mayor: That's part of this.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: You mean in order, you want to do it in chronological order? My bad, that was what I was just thinking.

Mayor: Yes, Arbor Day, Fourth of July, and Easter have been really the staples. Everything else has been interjected by one of us. I'm definitely going to do Operation Village Clean-up, we're definitely going to do that. We just had a meeting about backpack give away National Night Out. Some of those things have been at no cost to the city and that's why they really haven't been on here.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: 5K is definitely in the staple.

Mayor: 5K has been with us since 2009.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: But they're on staples. [chuckles]

Mayor: Little River.

Councilwoman Roman: Little River is clean up we participate in, it's not something we actually do. Christia, do you want to add something?

Village Manager Alou: I just wanted to mention about the Little River and some of these that require clean up. We do have to do something for state requirement and that is satisfied with Little River clean up before we do another thing.
Councilwoman Roman: Okay, got it.

Village Manager Alou: We have to do something about the clean-up. It's good that it's organized and that we're doing it with others.

Councilwoman Roman: Okay, so we want to keep the Little River clean-up. Operation Village Clean-up in the past, the focus was from the police department. I do believe that that's a great event. It's nice to get up there and clean the village and we want to get up there, so we'll keep that. I think we did a great job last year with keeping things that were needed. We did have to cancel the Easter event due to not having the resources to put it together and not within the time frame. I think when we have the plans and when I write out what we'll do for each event, I think that will be helpful.

Mayor, I know that you chaired the Easter event for many years, so give me the details for those, what took place so that we can start putting it down and really create a file of what's happened to each of these events. League of Cities, we said we were going to go ahead and keep that in the budget for next year. Now, I think it's important for us to go. I don't know if we don't need to be at that plot or whatever sponsorship level. I say sponsorship level, but what should I say? I think it's a need and it needs to stay.

Mayor: I think if you sustain it at bronze for right now and if anything else should come, if anybody else is in the mood about this capacity, but bronze is the minimum. I'm not saying that it's never going to go up bronze because bronze used to be 2,500, it may go up eventually to 3,500. I don't foresee that happening for the next fiscal year or at least I haven't heard that, but bronze is 3,000, that's the minimum.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Madam Chair, if I may.

Councilwoman Roman: Yes.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Mayor Cubillos, when you're no longer the president, can't you still-

Mayor: I'm still in the board, I'm the vice president.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: You're still on the board. If she's a part of it to that respect, I think that we should try to donate at a higher level than other individuals are donating to where they don't have anybody on the board, do you know what I mean?
Mayor: I think you all know I come from a place where if I can get monies raised legally and ethically, I always will. We had the opportunity where we had a developer that bought a table and it was filled by residents. If there's a cost difference and we were at the table and you all wanted to silver next year and the difference is 2,000, we could cross that bridge. I just think for purposes of what we're going to be asking for, as it is, we're going to be including the newsletter which is something we've never done. The manager asked me how is that paid and I told her I pay it. She's like, "Why?" I'm like, "When you're running for mayor, some things come with it."

You assume responsibility that you want things to be better and I don't ask questions. I do it because it used to be black and white and the color looked better. It's part of being a leader and I'm okay with that and it's the role you assume, so I have no problem with that. I appreciate her putting it on part of the budget. If it doesn't get approval, I'm still going to do it anyway. It's something that I think that the residents love, and even though some of them may not entirely love. I want everybody to be a part it. Everybody should have a message in there. The committee that you chair, you should be reporting on it. That's why it's there anyway.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: I think they should do it. The League of Cities is a very large organization. For us to have El Portal being one of the smallest villages in the entire county, for us to have an individual sitting on the board of some large organization, to be one of those individuals, it's not like a 20 board or 30 board, you know what I mean, we should have part in that while she's there on the board. So I think we should try to maintain a sponsorship level that has been there. If one of us is up there, we should have pride in that. I think we should try and maintain.

Councilwoman Roman: I don't disagree with you. I do think that we should probably keep it where we are right now. As the mayor mentioned, we have discretionary funds, we have ways to raise money, so maybe that's something that when it's coming up, then we can cross that bridge when we get there and decide, but we can start with at least this budget report now. I don't think I have it here, but maybe Miami Shores gala, I do believe that that's important as they are our neighbors, and it's important for us to be there. The annual 5K, we'll be updating the newsletter, making sure these sponsors are all listed, that the pictures are there, that its highlighted.

We'll get that and we'll get all the actual-- Like I mentioned at the budget meeting, that's why I'm here. What meeting was that? I think at El portal, it was like $300 based on the numbers that I have, so we'll get that finalized. Fourth of July, I think we've stayed pretty much in line,
but again, I have to get the final numbers. The backpack give away, mayor, you're doing that with the cities.

**Mayor:** There's two. I've always done them with the police department, the manager, and the chief, and I actually just met on National Night Out. What we did a couple of years ago in an effort to be a little more efficient and streamlined, we combined the backpack giveaway and National Night Out. We reviewed with the chief a couple of days ago, I don't even remember when, about last year because compared to the year before, we got an extraordinarily large amount of kids last year. Sandy Owens, you weren’t there last year, were you, at the backpack giveaway? You missed it. You were out of town, right?

**Sandy Owen:** No, I was there.

**Mayor:** Okay, I thought you missed last year's. I explained to the chief things that we could maybe do differently because of the volume of kids that we got, and he feels confident with the plan that he's going to put in place that we'll control as far as just what happened with the flow. He's in agreeance to keep it both together, then National Night Out and the backpack giveaway, so that's going to be the first Tuesday in August, but that’s separate from the League of Cities. That's El Portal little one.

**Councilwoman Roman:** That’s our next event, the backpack giveaway.

**Mayor Cubillos:** There’s a question mark as to money spent, but last year, Craig With Associates donated money, most of the money, which is probably why there isn't a dollar amount there. I want to say, I can’t remember, which is why things are lined out of the budget. They donated last year.

**Councilwoman Roman:** Okay, but we should still know what we spent and what they donated. We should also have a sponsorship ask list so that we know how much we need to raise for each event. The state of the village, we already mentioned, it's the 4th of Tuesday in August so that would be our second event coming up.

**Mayor Cubillos:** I’m working on Ameris Bank to be the sponsor.

**Councilwoman Roman:** Awesome. Our next one is a big discussion.

**Mayor Cubillos:** For Halloween.
Councilwoman Roman: Its Halloween and Edgar at Fourth of July begged me to, let's have something. He just stated that in his opinion, it's one of the best events and fun. Not attendance because we do know that when we did it on the 87th in the last few years, so there were a lot of people that came from outside of the village and that's we ran out of candy so quickly so much. I love Halloween too, you know what, it's up to you. I say let's print it up for discussion. These events take a lot of work. We don't have a partner right now to take on the responsibilities of putting it together, and so I can't commit to doing everything right now because I have a pretty busy schedule, so I'll leave it open.

Mayor Cubillos: We didn’t have it last year. I do believe that Halloween parties should happen this year. We've done different variations of the Halloween event. Not counting last year, the last three years we did it on the street of 87th Street, but how that started was because there was a party here at town hall. What we did was because back then, there was construction going on, so 87th Street was closed and North East 2nd Avenue was closed There used to be barricades, so I purchased a banner and it said, "El Portal block party," but what it really was, well, they started trick or treating from Ms. Claudia's Village Academy, and then we all walked together and the party ended here.

That’s how it was initially for years. Then we got an extraordinary amount of kids, so then the committee, I don't remember who the players were in the committee, they were like, "How about we close off the street to combine with the police department to be able to ensure that they can control that?" Then that's when we had the streets closed off probably about, I want to say 15, 16, 17, and then before that, it was the other way. So I really think we need to do something. I do believe that there needs to be help because setting it up, one year I had Forestman kids, one year it was the clerk and I.

We were putting tables all the way up and down, and the Women's Club, they all have kids, so they can't really commit. It’s a top holiday because everybody has kids, and if you’re not a kid, well, you’re still a kid because you want to dress up. It's one of those holidays, but we do need to do something. Other cities require the residents to have wristbands. We really need the help of the police officers. If you don't live in El Portal, you can buy a box. We want to incorporate that this year, next year, I don't know. We need to have something. We can make it smaller. I think I tried that in the 17th.

I was like, "Okay, let’s not have it all in 87th Street because that was excessive, lets close like North East 3rd Avenue to North East 4th Avenue" because that's a block. Then a lot of residents, I'll tell you, Terry Sanchez was phenomenal, Curt and Lee are fantastic, Jill and Catherine are fantastic. Because I remember Terry Sanchez, she hunted me down last year to
find out why aren't we doing it. Maybe really reach out to Terry, Courtney, and Lee and maybe there'll be a committee. Maybe they want to help out and so that they can have a sub-committee and they realize what it all entails.

So we sit down with mayor and governor and we do something bigger and better for 25th of this year. I feel confident that Ken, Johnny, Curt, Courtney, Anna, and Fernando, and Terry Sanchez. Terry Sanchez has donated over 700 cupcakes for years, three years.

**Councilwoman Roman:** [inaudible 00:29:02]

**Mayor Cubillos:** We contact them through a sub-committee. I'm confident that they'll be like, "Yes, this is great." Then we sent them letters. We get a letter and we sent them letters, so if you've been excited to close 3rd to 4th Avenue, and then we sent a letter to every person that lives there and let them know so they could put a table out as well, you definitely want to sit down with the chief and the manager because that's one event that the police officers need to be there and it's for public safety.

**Councilwoman Roman:** Vice mayor, do you want to add.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Yes, I think that's perfect, Madam Chair. I think blocking off one block, it would be perfect as far as being able to do these events if we're going to do them because if we block off more than that, then teenagers who always are thinking about how to be mischievous, they'll go to up to like 89th, come across, sneak in the back, do you know what I mean? They'll try to sneak in other ways. If we just have a police officer at two ends, we block off just one block, we give good results to the both ends, and there's no way people will sneak in the backyard or sneaky stuff like that. I think that'd be perfect.

**Councilwoman Roman:** I think what should take place is that we contact those residents to see if they want to create a sub-committee. Then the committee should meet with ideas as to maybe locations or where to have it. I think we should change the locations and not make it 87th because that's where we've been having it and that's where we can get good traffic.

**Village Manager Alou:** Maybe Sherwood Forest.

**Councilwoman Roman:** My idea was either Sherwood Forest so that we take it to the westside.
Vice Mayor Nickerson: I think we should change it up. Every year, we can change it up. We got 87th.

Mayor Cubillos: Change the street so they don't know where we're going.

[laughter]

Councilwoman Roman: Even we don't know where we're going.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Yes, I think that'd be perfect. Next, we meet in Sherwood Forest, and then we can go [crosstalk].

Mayor Cubillos: To 91st Street.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: [laughs] I think we should then think of new blocks and just every year, we change it up, so different people will get a new experience.

Mayor Cubillos: [inaudible 00:31:07]

Councilwoman Roman: It takes a lot to turn around and figure it out. Okay, so, mayor, you can get those contacts.

Mayor Cubillos: I will send it to Ms. Clerk, Ms. Yenise.

Councilwoman Roman: Okay, and then the net one is, so we do have August. I just want to go again what we've got coming up. National Night Out, so the police chief and the manager have all that. State of the village, mayor, you have that. Halloween, well, that'll be a teamwork. Then turkey giveaways.

Mayor Cubillos: See my smile?

Councilwoman Roman: Yes.

Mayor Cubillos: Because I had to tell you all something and if you didn't like me, you're going to like me now, I think. The turkeys have always been given to us by the Miami-Dade League of Cities, and we have to go get them in Miami Gardens. Yes, we're not going to have to do that this year because they're going to be here. They're going to be stationed in El Portal. I'm working with Sam to get it on there. They usually go to Miami Beach for that whole area, but for the northeast quarter, they're all going to have to come to El Portal.
Vice Mayor Nickerson: Yes, that's great.

Mayor Cubillos: I hope that you all will be there once we have the dates solidified. It's an opportunity. The whole big thing will be here. I am looking at horseman but hopefully, when Richard comes to survey the area with Walmart and all the other people, they're going to see if the area of a sanctuary is sufficient or it'll be on the westside. They'll be here for the two hours, we don't have to go anywhere. No public work strut, no police escorting us to go race. All police officers can be here. I do have to meet with you and the chief because when they leave here, they may need police escorts in that location to speed them through.

Other cities will do that, that's the only thing that we may have to do if they don't get accompanied by the city that they'll leave, but for two hours, they're going to be in El Portal. Residents can actually go, we can give our tickets and the residents can go there.

Councilwoman Roman: Great, okay. The next item is the Christmas. We don't necessarily need to have that discussion today, but I ask you please start thinking about it, and if you have ideas, please email me.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: We'll email the card.

Mayor Cubillos: Email the card. For the council, you have the card, but, manager, if you have anything that you'd like to see done, and then we can discuss in September as a committee what we should be doing for Christmas.

Village Manager Alou: May I just throw this out there?

Councilwoman Roman: Yes.

Mayor Cubillos: I really love with actually the lighting and the big one at the front. I love when the kids came in and put in an ornament. It's charming. We did it a couple of years. I thought that was really nice. I don't know of anybody else, but I miss food truck night. I think it's nice to have food trucks that night and have Santa come. I'm trying to work us some snow. It's the way to end the year and I love the trees. I love the tree lighting. If you all can pick a color, whatever that color may be. When I look at the pictures and I see the kids putting ornaments on the tree, to me, it's one of the best ones.

We can think along those lines, and get the kids some snow, and get the fire, the police officers and the truck, and Santa Claus coming down, and just snow, hopefully, some cold weather.
Councilwoman Roman: Right now we have the date of December 13. It's the date for that. That would be the second Friday.

Mayor Cubillos: Hold on, let me get it to the surface. What was that?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Friday.

Councilwoman Roman: Friday the 13th. December 13th.

Mayor Cubillos: No, we can't do that. How about December 6th?

Councilwoman Roman: We could do December 6th.

Mayor Cubillos: That way we can actually enjoy it. Most people put up their decorations right after thanksgiving. That's what they're doing on Black Friday or whatever the case may be, so how about December 6th?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: People are already invested in the Fourth of July.

Councilwoman Roman: Yes, perfect, that's fine.

Mayor Cubillos: It's your birthday weekend, it's my anniversary weekend. Sacrifices are made, that's okay. I'll light a tree.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Let me help with the tree.

Mayor Cubillos: Yes.

Councilwoman Roman: Okay, so do we want to change to December 6th?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Yes.

Mayor Cubillos: December 6th is fine. Yes, because it gets too cozy. We can do it on a Wednesday. It doesn't have to be Friday. No one said it'll have to be Friday. December is a holiday month, no one really works in December. I'm just kidding. It could be December 3rd.

Councilwoman Roman: The kids have school. How late do we go? It gets dark early.
Mayor Cubillos: It gets dark early, so why don't we do it 6:00 to 8:00 or 5:30 to 7:30. Light the tree, eat.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Madam Chair.

Councilwoman Roman: Yes.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: What date does the train come at night?

Mayor Cubillos: Late.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Late.

Mayor Cubillos: Yes. That's why we've done it so late because it coincides with FEC train. I know.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: That makes sense.

Mayor Cubillos: Google it. It's already up. That's why we've always done them late.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Madam Chair, if I may.

Councilwoman Roman: Yes.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: I was also going to say if we could get on, by any chance, within the budget, if we're going to do something for Christmas with the budget to be able to afford lights so that we can put lights either out and into this hall. We could put lights even in the palm trees or 4th Avenue. We could put lights so that when we're driving from Miami Shore--

Councilwoman Roman: I think I overheard somebody talking about a sponsor for that.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Really?

Mayor Cubillos: It's a lot of money.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Yes, it's a lot of money.
Mayor Cubillos: It's a lot of money. I don't know if you all remember. There was a resident because we didn't really do much last year. We just did the, I think the woman's got a small party.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: The gentleman.

Mayor Cubillos: The gentleman came here and spoke. He was very upset that we didn't do anything for Christmas. I've already contacted him. I'll be like, "It's that time, sir. You want to be a part of Christmas, this is what it takes." He lives at that house at 88th street. Do you know where Oscar used to live? That big house.

Councilwoman Roman: Yes.

Mayor Cubillos: It's at the blue mini-mansion?

Councilwoman Roman: Yes.

Mayor Cubillos: That's where he lives.

Councilwoman Roman: Okay. All right, so let us know.

Mayor Cubillos: I will let you know.

Councilwoman Roman: If he contacts you.

Mayor Cubillos: It's like, "It's that time of the year."

Councilwoman Roman: What did we say about stages? We want to make sure that our staff and everybody is aware.

Mayor Cubillos: I'm flexible the first week in December, I just can't the first Thursday because the Miami-Dade League of Cities is having a holiday social which you all will be aware of in the next 38 or so on that Thursday. We've never had a holiday social and we're having a holiday this year. It's on that first Thursday.

Councilwoman Roman: We want to go with maybe Tuesdays because that's been our thing too to have the things on Tuesdays. On Tuesday, December 3rd.
Mayor Cubillos: I see other municipalities doing it on days that are not Fridays. Friday comes along and then parents may not want to do anything. Yes, we can also propose it to the council and see what they say. I don't have any problem with December 3rd.

Councilwoman Roman: Tuesday, December 3rd.

Mayor Cubillos: Now we can predict where to go right now.

Councilwoman Roman: Okay, so date is set. All right, next is townhall and premonition sessions. They see that the mayor's having something this Saturday. Any other town halls there? Do we have plans?

Mayor Cubillos: No, that one derived out of just something I read and DPO sponsored it. Disaster Preparedness sponsored it. They told me that yesterday.

Village Manager Alou: Chairwoman.

Councilwoman Roman: Yes.

Village Manager Alou: I know we're having another comp plan workshop for the community. I just want to put it on record, we did get a big attendance on the last one. We have one coming on September 7th. We really need community members to come out to weigh in on our compensation plan.

Councilwoman Roman: Yes, I'm sorry, I'm going to be out of town again.

Mayor Cubillos: That's one of the reasons why I moved up the date on the newsletter. Do you want to tell them now about the Placibia? We're going to put on the record. We met with Placibia, I don't even remember. Placibia was giving the manager a hard time about presentations. He says, "TVs are so cheap." I was like, "We take donations." They're giving us two for our city hall, but, Ms. Clerk, there's something I want to return. They want two podiums. We're going to have two podiums, which we've been looking at so that when there's presentations and the clerk and the manager go to the Miami-Dade County furniture store to get these podiums.

There's going to be two podiums so when there's dialogue between two individuals, we don't have to share the speaker, which looks a little peculiar. Then there's going to be, I think it's a 65 inch which is going to go right there, and then one for the council is going to be right there.
Councilwoman Roman: Excellent.

Village Manager Alou: I'm going to say we have to have the podium [crosstalk].

Mayor Cubillos: They want podiums.

Councilwoman Roman: Okay, well, how much does a podium cost?

Village Manager Alou: About $1,200.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: No, a new one was better, right?

Village Manager Alou: Yes, because when I got it, but you have to be on top of that.

Mayor Cubillos: You have to be on top of it.

Village Manager Alou: Mr. D was really good about buying.

Mayor Cubillos: Yes, we'll have to go check it out.

Village Manager Alou: We'll check it out.

Councilwoman Roman: Take a look and see because we have expressionally clauses, there's not a lot of money.

Mayor Cubillos: You just said the Forestman can have it. No, I'm just kidding. Let's take a look at the podiums. I'll go with you guys if you want. Go, I know you two have gone.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: I think me and Roman are on the same page, me and Roman. I think our mind frame is like the cost of the TV is about the out, you know what I mean by exit each other out. The cost of the TV and the podium.

Mayor Cubillos: We'd have to get both.

Village Manager Alou: Yes.

Mayor Cubillos: Before they change their mind, we saw them again this morning.
Councilwoman Roman: We're matching.

Village Manager Alou: We're matching funds.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Yes, we're matching.

Mayor Cubillos: We've got to match the grant. The donation.

Councilwoman Roman: Okay, good. All right, and then the town hall information and that's it. Anybody else want to add anything?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Yes, Madam chair if I may. A couple of things and you guys, you can handle it however you want to in the future going forward. One thing is Councilperson Mathis wanted to say [inaudible 00:42:39].

Councilwoman Roman: That's right, yes.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: In some way, I don't know, the art fair. Maybe we could in the future. I just think it was a great event.

Councilwoman Roman: Looking at the founder.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Yes. I just put it out there just for memory purposes. Just to keep it in our mind.

Councilwoman Roman: That's an event that is close to my heart, clearly, for obvious reasons.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Just put it out there just so we don't forget about it.

Councilwoman Roman: Events like that take a lot and we had a partner that helped, but they take a lot of work, especially when you don't have a committee, and they're expensive. The turnout was not great. When I was there that day, the last time we had it, I said we need to reinvent it, and we need to figure out. When we first did the art fair, there weren't really that many cities doing art fairs except for [unintelligible 00:44:01], but then it seems like everybody else started doing art fairs again. Go ahead.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: No, if I may, Madam Chair. Maybe have you ever thought about talking to Miami Shore just as far as doing a background. Mini villages type of art fair. Maybe shutting down like North East segment.
Councilwoman Roman: The last time we had the art fair, I wanted to shut down North East 2nd. That's where I wanted it.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Maybe have like Miami Shores involved because especially if you go down, they have all those little cafes and stuff and stores.

Mayor Cubillos: The art fair's phenomenal, but there's so much competition everywhere. The last art fair that we had, I don't want to say a mistake, but we it two nights because Friday night was packed, and then Saturday it wasn't. Did we have it Sunday too? I don't remember. It's just so much competition.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: We don't have to.

Mayor Cubillos: I agree, one of those, but I always thought the 5K would be that. You'd have to really think of what's super creative out there because everywhere you go, there's a market.

Councilwoman Roman: I think the 5K has a lot of potential. With my experience with events and in chairing the 5K for the first time, I think there's a lot of room for improvement there, and ways that we can grow it. First of all, it wasn't really promoted outside of El Portal before, whereas this year, we used the website that runners could just search. Runners are trying to qualify for races, and they're constantly looking for small races that they can run in. That's one of the ways that we can get that to grow. I don't know about the art fair. What I like about the art fair was that it was very much of a community. It was about showcasing.

We have a lot of different types of artists within our community. It was about showcasing local art, and especially in El Portal, and the diversity of El Portal. I think there is room for an event that showcases the diversity of El Portal that can include the arts and maybe a spinoff from the art fair, but that's going to take a lot as well.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Like I said, I just wanted just so we don't forget about it.

Councilwoman Roman: It's not forgotten. I don't think anybody's forgotten about it. I think depending on how it goes for the Women's Club, then maybe there'll be more time for us to then plan that type of event. You want to add anything, mayor?

Mayor Cubillos: Yes, do I feel it? I'm going to close on saying, I said it before, we've got to do things right to be right. If we keep adding more without ironing out what we're doing here, it's just more work on us and we just can't do that. I think that we need to really do what we
had and do it right to know what right looks like. Because let me tell you something, another missed opportunity event is the Fourth of July. The Fourth of July anywhere else and any other municipality is a huge event. There's a big stage, there's a band. Another thing that we don't do is Veteran's Day. There's a lot, but I think with our current list of events, I think Fourth of July is a missed opportunity as a truly big American family event.

Councilwoman Roman: That includes everybody.

Mayor Cubillos: I'm going to add to the 5K that I've already started promoting internally with the League. It's going to be my last month as president. I've already made it aware to most of them that their presence are going to have to be here because they got invited the last hour, but I was busy this past May, but anyway. Those are two truly opportunities that we can really showcase. Like I kid around to the mayor of Miami, I said, "Listen, you say you've never been to El Portal? Hey, guess what, you can see it in under 30 minutes if you just ran for 5K." He laughed, but he couldn't make it.

That's my thing, you really can showcase the 5K and you really can showcase El Portal with the Fourth of July. I'm going to close on saying that when the Fourth of July was over, Facebook has one fantastic feature and it reminds you what you were doing two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight years ago. What came up on July 5th when I was home was where we were at July 5th in 2011 with all the police officers then, with the entire community on the fields of course. Ty was probably all of about maybe three years old. I looked at those pictures and I'm thinking things were simpler then, and it was really great. There must've been 20 police officers there at that event.

All behind the barbecue. Actually, no, that's not true because we had Knee Cuts, or whatever his name was, at the barbecue. All the faces here, just a little older, was there. There was five tents, four bounce houses, snow cone machine. You had just got elected. Daisy Black was there, I was there, Councilperson Mathis was there. You look at the pictures, that needs to be relived because there's a missed opportunity with the Fourth of July, and it's already a staple existing event that everybody knows it's Fourth of July. Let's get our staple events done right in conjunction and collaboration with all of us together. That's it, I have nothing else to add.

Councilwoman Roman: All right, with that, do I have a motion to adjourn?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: I'll motion to adjourn.

Mayor Cubillos: I'll second.
Councilwoman Roman: All in favor.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Aye.

Councilwoman Roman: Any nay?

Mayor Cubillos: No.

Councilwoman Roman: Okay, meeting adjourns at 9:53 PM.

Mayor Cubillos: I think the AC agree with you.