



**Village of El Portal
Regular Commission Council
Date: 3/23/21
Meeting Start: 7:06 PM
Meeting End: 11:12PM
Meeting Length: 04:07:05**

Mayor Nickerson: Good evening everybody. Good to see everybody here. The regular council meeting for Tuesday, March 23rd, 2021 is called to order at 7:06 PM. Right now, we'll have a moment of silent meditation and pledge of allegiance.

All: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much. Madam Clerk, may I please have a roll call?

Village Clerk Jacobi: Roll call, Mayor Nickerson.

Mayor Nickerson: Here.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Vice Mayor Urbom.

Vice Mayor Urbom: Present.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Councilperson Pirela.

Councilperson Pirela: Here.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Councilperson Ward.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Here.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Councilperson Martin.

Councilperson Martin: Present.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Also present for the record, Yenise Jacobi, village clerk; Christia Alou, village manager; Chief Magnusson and also via Zoom Interim Attorney Geller.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much. Madam clerk, I appreciate that. Approval of the agenda is next, you guys. This is the part right here where if anybody has anything you want to add or subtract in the agenda this is your time to do so. I do have one addition. Does anybody else has an addition before I--? Good. The one addition I have is actually part of H3. H3, it says MDCLC dinner update.

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I want to put that like slash Miami Shores gala update. We'll talk about the Miami-Dade League of Cities dinner and the Miami Shores gala all under H3. From here no more additions or deletions. May I please have a motion to approve the agenda with the change?

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: I'll move.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much, motion moved by Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward. May I please have a second?

Vice Mayor Urbom: I will second.

Mayor Nickerson: Second by Vice Mayor Urbom. All in favor say, aye.

All: Aye.

Mayor Nickerson: All opposed say, nay. Hearing no, nays, moving on to approval of the minutes. We have approval of two different minutes. We're going to go with E1 first. That's the approval of the minutes for February 23rd, 2021. That's the special council meeting that was the one where you guys got sworn in. Do I have a motion to approve the minutes for the special council meeting?

Councilperson Lightfoot- Ward: So, moved.

Mayor Nickerson: Moved by Councilperson Lightfoot- Ward. Do I have a second?

Vice Mayor Urbom: I'll second.

Mayor Nickerson: Second by Vice Mayor Urbom. All in favor for approval of the special council meeting minutes for February 23rd, 2021 say, aye.

All: Aye.

Mayor Nickerson: All opposed say, nay. Those minutes are approved, thank you very much. Moving on E2, approval of the minutes for February 23rd, 2021. This is the regular council meeting. If I have no questions, do I have a motion to approve the regular council meeting minutes?

Councilperson Lightfoot- Ward: So, moved.

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Mayor Nickerson: Moved by Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward. Do I have a second?

Councilperson Pirela: I'll second.

Mayor Nickerson: Second by Councilperson Pirela. Any further questions? Okay, hearing none. All in favor say, aye.

All: Aye.

Mayor Nickerson: All opposed say, nay. Thank you very much. We're moving on, you guys, right now to acknowledgment of visitors and or special presentations. The first one is Women's History Month, if I could please have Vice Mayor Urbom and Councilperson Pirela join me at the podium, please.

How's everybody doing? Good to see everybody here. I just want to quickly say for Women's History Month that not only we duly recognize women internationally, and women locally here within Miami-Dade County, and here within El Portal, but I just want to say that we had women throughout the history of El Portal that have made El Portal what it is, from past elected officials to current elected officials and past managers to current managers, past clerks to current clerks.

The way I had this in my mind I hopefully it will come true next year for Women's History Month because I want to have it eventually to where I can bring back all the women from El Portal's past from Berthie Patterson, Mayor Cubillos, Commissioner Edmonson, everybody here along with the Women's Club who's very important.

Being that things are getting better when it comes to COVID and stuff like that, but being that we're just coming out of here, we're not back to where we want to be yet. To have all those individuals in the hall all together will still be irresponsible at this particular time, but hopefully, for next year it will be better, but I do want to recognize the women of El Portal that we do have here right now currently. The first one that I do want to recognize is our village clerk and welcome back officially. We never said that on the record, but Ms. Yenise Jacobi, come on up.

[applause]

Village Clerk Jacobi: Thank you. Thank you all.

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[applause]

Mayor Nickerson: Please.

Village Clerk Jacobi: I'm glad to be back and I'm glad to join where like I said before is an extended piece of my family. I spend more time here than I do with my own family, and I'm very grateful and thankful for each one of you and for the roles you each play. Like I said it's a team and without a team, you don't have much. I like how everybody not only here, but also the residents they're much more like family. They're very united and I appreciate the opportunity to work here. Thank you so much.

[applause]

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much. I appreciate this. I'm going to have Vice Mayor Urbom his wife is part of the Women's Club. Like I said the Women's Club is very important in El Portal and definitely next year I definitely want to have the Women's Club here, but Vice Mayor Urbom said he wanted to present the village manager with her orchid. That's the pink orchid that's there. We're going to have Vice Mayor Urbom present the village manager with her orchid.

[applause]

Vice Mayor Urbom: Manager Alou, thank you sincerely for all the work that you do. I truly just want to say, thank you.

Village Manager Alou: Thank you very much.

[applause]

Village Manager Alou: I didn't prepare any word, but I will say that El Portal has been a fantastic opportunity for me individually. In my career I know that a lot of women have not been in this position for in fact what I do know is that some interim village manager who was a woman. Who is now the mayor of Miami Shores, but that other women have not been given this position here in El Portal.

I'm proud to represent El Portal and be the manager and do the work of the village with our very diverse council. I thank you all for giving me the opportunity and also for working with

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me and being respectful and professional with me at every time. Thank you so much and I look forward to doing more, bigger and better things with El Portal. Thank you.

[applause]

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much. We're going to bring down our two new council members at the same time, but we will be presenting their orchids separately. Councilperson Pirela and myself will go get the last two orchids for Councilperson Martin and Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward. You two will come down here for this, please.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Thank you so much. This is probably the first time anyone has ever done this in the village and made it very personal. I'm here because I stand on the shoulders of people like Daisy Black and Audrey Edmonson. I appreciate that this is my time and my hour again here on the village council. I thank you very much.

Those of you that have been throwing out glad you're back, glad you're back, for our viewing public, thank you so much. It continues to humble me knowing that you

still love me but you're expecting great things. I appreciate that. Thank you so much, mayor.

[applause]

Councilperson Martin: Thank you so much, gentlemen. This is very sweet and unexpected, I love flowers. It is my pleasure to serve in El Portal. I continue to just try my best to make the women who came before me proud. Also, to encourage women that look like me to take leadership roles. I keep pushing it to the next level until it is not so unique to be a female city manager or councilwoman in any village. Hopefully, we're doing that, and we continue to encourage others out there to take a lead.

[applause]

Mayor Nickerson: Myself, Vice Mayor Urbom, and Councilperson Pirela really just want to thank you all for everything that you guys do on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. I know a lot of times all the hard work that you guys put in goes without the acknowledgment a lot of times, but we do acknowledge it and we do see it.

We really do appreciate you all. You guys bear with us one moment. I do want to get a picture of just the four lovely women that we have here at El Portal, the four of them

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together. I do want to get a picture of the four of you guys together, holding your orchids. Just hold your orchids for the picture.

[background conversation]

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much to all of you. We really appreciate it. Right now, you were going to move on to the next awards. We're going to call up our chief, Chief Magnusson come on up my brother. Appreciate it.

Chief Magnusson: Good evening everybody.

Woman: Good evening.

Chief Magnusson: Good evening everybody. I'll start off by saying how blessed I feel I am to have the police department that I have. We have full-timers, and we have some part-time non-compensatory officers. For lack of a better word, albeit the phrase is incorrect, but we call them reserves. There's really not much difference as you're going to see tonight on two people that I get to honor for two separate things.

They're two reserve officers, but I say with this point that their normal full-time jobs are to be very proud of. They do an outstanding job in their everyday life. They come here and they give to the village no different than the uniform and badge I wear. They go out and do the job and they get things done. I'm going to explain in a minute just what took place to one such officer back on February 28th.

I say this because before I got it, I heard there was a whole slew of reserve officers. I can say under my stead, I'm very proud and I knock wood that nobody's left since I've been here. Whatever was there before dwindled out long before I got here. I say that because these officers, and it's not a large, large number bring it each day, every day, every night, and they go a step beyond. One such officer is Officer Angel Otero. If you want to step forward, Sir.

[applause]

Chief Magnusson: Now, I'm going to read the nomination. Usually, I get the nominations and I approve them or refuse them. Things like this I don't refuse. I was in a position where I learned what he's done the next day when I came to work, and I nominated him. I put the paper down, turned it back over, and approved it. I said, "That's good. I want to approve it." You're going to see in a minute why it was approved.

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He gets dispatched to a location. I'm not going to put out the exact location. It was of 88th street. He entered a house there where there was an elderly woman lying face-up on the floor. He got a medical call. A lot of times we get these medical calls because we are dispatched from the field, we're never at a station and get dispatched like the fire department. From one central location, our response time can be quicker. Now, we certainly don't have the wherewithal like the fire department to do the job they do.

We try but it would be tough going. They do an outstanding job. By getting there first sometimes can make all the difference in the world, and in this time it did. Without hesitation, he starts doing his ABCs, checking for breathing, respiration, et cetera, airway. She didn't have a pulse or respiration, so he immediately started doing chest compressions on her and working very vigorously as he was taught to do.

After 30 compressions, the unresponsive woman takes a big gulp all of a sudden. She starts breathing on her own again. Rescue gets there. They transport her over to Mount Sinai, but the woman survived. Had he not been there, I'm pretty certain she would not have survived. In this job, there's a lot to be thankful for. There's a lot we do. There's a lot expected of us. At the end of the day and moving on in your career, to be able to say you save someone's life, that's something that's going to stay with you the rest of your life.

If you're having a bad day, you walk up a little straighter when you realize what you did. I can't thank you enough. I'm sure she can't thank you enough. The residents of El Portal can't thank you enough, and because of that, you're being honored with the Life Saving Ribbon which will go on your uniform, not now necessarily, when you get home. With that, I want to congratulate you and say great job Officer Otero and thank you very much.

[applause] [silence]

Village Manager Alou: If we could mayor and the council please [unintelligible 00:18:31]

Chief Magnusson: In the second recognition here, as I put it in this

memorandum. It was Booker T. Washington who said, "Those who are happy are those who do the most for others." In that sense, officer Harrison, also a part-time officer, stepped up and went above, beyond the duty for his brethren in the police, men, and women that wear the badge. In his full-time gig, he's the head of security at North Shore Hospital. Comes out here, works very hard as an officer all the time, a person you can rely on without hesitation.

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While the COVID was going on certainly in the onset and when the vaccines first came out, in consultation with his CEO there, there was leftover vaccines and there was a plan put in place to make sure if officers wanted it, the two vaccine regimen, "Let's see what we can do." Obviously, Officer Harrison comes over to El Portal. Unfortunately, I think you're looking at the three that volunteered for it.

Hopefully, more and more will as COVID Spokesperson for the Miami-Dade Association of Chiefs, I'm certainly pushing that. He didn't stop there. He reached out to Biscayne Park, he reached out to North Miami, he reached out to Miami Shores. Those that want to get vaccinated were able to. It says a lot about the man, about how he stepped forward not just to help us, but the other agencies in the area.

That was right at the onset of the vaccine. Maybe more and more people will want to receive it now. I can only hope but that said something, and it's very much appreciated. I know we speak for our families as well. In the interim, I had a plaque made out for you. What's beautiful about this plaque is it doesn't have a badge on it. It has the Medical.

I figured out it's good enough. It says, "Special plaque serves as a testament to Officer Thomas Harrison, his selflessness, passion, and sense of resolve during the 2020-2021 COVID Pandemic as he worked tirelessly getting law enforcement professionals vaccinated and subsequently safeguarded. Chief David Magnusson, the El Portal Police Department, March 23rd, 2021.

Officer Harrison: I appreciate it, thank you.

[applause]

[background conversation]

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much, guys. Thank you very much council, madam manager, madam clerk. Thank you very much, chief. I appreciate it, and the families who are here, thank you very much, everybody. Wonderful things. Next, we have Good and Welfare. This is the time right here if anybody wants to talk about anything that's on the agenda, you can come on, you have three minutes to do so.

Just say your name and address for the record. You can grab the mic and the floor is yours. Anything on the agenda. We have another Good and Welfare at the end, where you guys can talk about anything at all. We have after each agenda, as we do at each agenda item, you

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guys have a chance to come on and talk at that particular time also. This is the time for Good and Welfare. Say your name and address for the record.

Vice Mayor Urbom: Anders Urbom, 460 Northeast, 89 Street. For Women's History Month, I just want to say. I have three older sisters, I have a mother, I have two daughters, I have a wife. Being raised in a house with three older sisters, it was very normal to have women as authority figures. It just was the way I was brought up. When I get out of the house and get out of the world, I was honestly shocked, truly shocked. I thought the old sexist jokes were funny because that's, "Oh, man, that's house it's used to be?"

Then I got into the world and I was like, "Oh, no, what's going on here?" I just want to say that at least one male on this planet recognizes that it is unacceptable, the State of Affairs for women who walk out their front door on this planet and that absolutely includes, United States of America and it certainly includes Miami. I just want to say, thank you to all women out there especially mothers, especially women in positions of authority.

We couldn't do this without women, and any man who says otherwise is a fool. Just in support of Women's History Month, I just want to say thank you to every single woman who has ever lived and is currently living now and who will ever live. That's it.

[applause]

Mayor Nickerson: Perfectly said, Vice Mayor. Perfectly said. I concur with everything that you said, Vice Mayor. Perfectly Said. Perfectly Stated. Anybody else from Good and Welfare you guys? This is about the agenda itself. As I said, we're going to have another Good and Welfare at the end and we guys will be able to talk on for each agenda item also.

Moving along, I see nobody else for Good and Welfare. How is it going on in Zoom? We're good. Thumbs up. We're going to H1, you guys. H1, Uses of El Portal Village Parks. We continuously get individuals who want to open up the tot lot. Last time or in our committee meeting we discussed and last time we discussed it also, but we discussed getting quotes because if we open up, we have to actually clean it.

We discussed that and so therefore we have quotes that we had in our agenda packets. That's what we have to look at. I'll turn it over to the village manager and see if she wants to say anything at all. If not, then we can just jump into the quotes and we can go to what you guys think and what you guys want to do.

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Village Manager Alou: Actually, I don't have anything to add. I did provide you all a memo with the quotes over the course of this week just so you could see what is out there. We have a range of prices. They're all pretty high considering we have not budgeted this, and we have a lot of other priorities.

I understand that health and fitness in our children, having somewhere safe to play is a priority, but this is only for the sanitization. We'd still need a monitor, someone to be in the park to limit the amount of people in the park and everyone happy. There's a lot of considerations that also have a financial implication on the village. I hope you will consider that as you look at these proposals.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much, madam manager. We would have to consider you guys on what we would do or is there concern about social distancing if the park is open? That's something else.

If the park is open, do we want to look at the possibility of so many children in the park at one time, and are we going to monitor that? That would be something else that we will have to consider if we're going to go that route. As far as the quotes itself for the cleaning, when I was looking over them, I noticed that-- I'll turn it over to the council in a second.

Let me just start this off. I noticed that Jani-King was \$3,000 a month, and they did speak about how they have insurance. Sanitize King was \$2,800 a month. I didn't see them say anything about insurance on their quote. SRM Sanitize, they stated how they do the best bio-clean and that was \$23,800 a month. I didn't see anything about insurance. Clean & Clear Cleaning was \$4,500 a month to clean and they did say that they have insurance. I'm starting off like that. Vice Mayor Urbom, the floor is yours.

Vice Mayor Urbom: I'm opening up my phone so I can start my timer. I will keep it to three minutes. I will do my best.

Mayor Nickerson: You don't have to abide by that.

[crosstalk]

Vice Mayor Urbom: No, I do. Listen, if you let me go, I'll go for a week. Here we go. I'm going to go back to the beginning of COVID. I worked in food service for 25 years and on top of that, if anyone knows of something called the food manager certification, I used to teach that course. It's a six-hour course, five-year certification. I updated that curriculum to

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follow the FDA food code and there are many portions of that exam but one of them is sanitation.

Over the years, working with-- I have to apologize to people sometimes because I don't remember when I met them because I've met hundreds of thousands of people in my life, literally. In all of that, over the years, you have co-workers who gets sick all the time, you have co-workers who never get sick. The co-workers who get sick all the time are the ones who stay out until five, six in the morning, are the ones who drink more than the others, are the ones who eat a poor diet than the others. You watch this, you see it.

COVID hit and I was thinking, "Okay," understanding what I know about virus and bacteria, I was thinking, "All they got to do is bring the banks to the table and say timeout for 60 days, make a plan," and on the other side of that 60 days, there's a plan. Then you can put time in back in and it's not going to cost us \$6 trillion to get out of it. It will cost a lot less because you have a plan. That never happened. It never came into fruition and we're still in that now.

My concern with all of this, bringing it back to the tot lot, is that at the beginning, I was thinking, "There's got to be a way to open the tot lot. I got four kids. I live two blocks away. I'm the single person in this village who wants that tot lot to open more than anybody else, I'm sure." In all of that, we learn what the cost is going to be, we learn what the liability is, we learn what the reality of all of that is, and I quickly realized, "Okay, this is not going to be an option for us."

Even that one gate, one way in, one way out, is an issue. Do we open up the double gates for the trucks to come in? Do we open that up? That only solves a little bit of the distancing. We still have the sanitation issue to deal with. I remember at the beginning of this thing, Maria Bartiromo on Fox Business, six months into it, this is six months into it.

She says, "Isn't there something we can inject in this people so they can get back to work?" I listen to her with my own ears say that in live air one day and I'm sitting there thinking, "I'm one of those people. You don't even care what you're going to put in me, you just want something inside of me so I can go back to work for you to say there's good news with the stock market? That's insane."

In all of this, we are not at the finish line yet mostly because we didn't have a plan from the beginning. We can't change the past. We still are working through a plan, but I don't see us at the finish line yet. My concern is that if we don't be diligent-- That's my time. If we don't be diligent in that and stick it out to the finish, then regrets will start to creep in.

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The logistics of this is one thing, the liability is another. With everything that I'm looking at, I-- Yes, we can throw money at this problem, right? We can throw money at the problem. Yes, we can do that but is that a wise thing to do? I don't know how comfortable I'm going to be if we'd follow the protocols. Forget money, just the protocols. Do I want my children playing on equipment that has had harsh chemicals on it that kills 99.9% of living organisms?

By the way, a virus is not a living organism, that's why it's hard to handle. There's different rules for bacteria than virus. They are something entirely different. Without understanding all of that, for me, I think let's get to the finish line. Let's get all the way to the finish line and do it properly. Yes, we can cut corners and yes, we can throw money at it, but I don't think that's a wise thing to do. I'll leave it at that.

The quotes on these estimates for what it's going to take monetarily and chemically because we're talking-- For me, it's not just the money in this matter, it's those chemicals as well. What is it going to take? Somebody injecting me with something that is a bit more convenient for them that I do that.

With the small kids and everything else, I would be reluctant even if we did open because I'm sitting there thinking, "How long has it been since the chemicals got laid down on the equipment?" Then I'll try to gauge that. On top of that, you're going to have a rush for the tot lot, and we will not be able to accomplish social distancing. My two cents, there you go.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much, Vice Mayor Urbom. Councilperson Pirela?

Councilperson Pirela: I think Vice Mayor Anders actually covered everything [chuckles] that I was-- Pretty much in all our minds. I don't think it's wise right now to do it. That's all I can say.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much, Councilperson Pirela. Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward?

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Ditto with Councilor Urbom. Let's put this issue to rest tonight and follow the national protocol for the safety of our children. That is what this really is about. It's not about whether or not we can pay for it, it's not about, let's just have the children-- Thank you very much.

Village Clerk Jacobi: You're welcome.

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Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: We either have the children in the playground. That's not what this is about. This is about, "Let's follow the protocol." We're all uncomfortable with the national protocol right now. Children learn discipline from their parents. Although we enjoy the park with them, they are not to be unsupervised, and so we are at-risk our own self. Thank you, Urbom, for staying on the time limit and making the point quite clear. I agree.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much, Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward. Councilperson Martin?

Councilperson Martin: I'm on the same page as everyone else. I also want it to be noted that when we look at those figures, those \$3,000 a month, that is not the entire cost associated with this just so that the residents are clear on that. There would need to be someone out there to enforce whatever social distancing rules that are present on that playground, and we don't have the cost in front of us now, so we can't correctly estimate that.

I don't want the residents to look at that 3,000 and be like, "Hey, that would be the solution to the problem," because it wouldn't. I definitely don't want to give the residents or any parent out their false sense of security as far as what we could realistically do to ensure the safety of both themselves and their children, so I do agree on this point that this is probably something we should just stick to our guns with. We are nearing the end, but we are not at the end, so let's just finish strong and once this is all over, we will have the biggest blowout at the tot lot.

Mayor Nickerson: Absolutely. Once this is all over, we will have a party, a re-opening party, at the tot lot. What about that? We'll do something like that. Before we move on, I do want to see if we have any residents on Zoom, if we can now bring them. Okay, you can bring her in. Ms. Emmons, just say your name and address for the record as she comes in.

Virginia Emmons: Hello, this is Virginia Emmons, 8665 Northeast Miami Port. Can you hear me?

Mayor Nickerson: Yes, thank you very much. Good to see you or good to hear you. Go ahead, Ms. Emmons.

Virginia: Thanks for having us and thanks for revisiting this item. I know that I've spoken with a lot of residents who are in a similar situation as I find myself in. I'm a parent of two children in El Portal, and I'm also the director of a learning center. I have been deeply touched by the pandemic and

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continue to be cautious and want to be mindful that I fully agree that we don't want to throw money at an issue.

However, there are very few things that El Portal has to offer for families with young children, and one of the reasons why I established residency in El Portal is because it is a family community. One of the areas that we do have access to is the tot lot, and I believe it is the safest option for our residents because what's happening now is our residents are being forced to look outside of El Portal for solutions to exercise and entertain and be with their families.

I believe, with these proper measures and possibly new quotes, that we could really find a way to at least open the tot lot. If we don't want to spend \$3,000 to have it open every single day five days a week, can we start with the weekends? Can we start with some compromise so that we can begin to learn and trust?

In terms of the monitoring, I think parents have the ability to monitor their children and I think putting the burden on an outside person to have to supervise and police our families is sending a message to our residents, saying that, "You're not a responsible citizen." I think we have to trust our citizens to be responsible for their own actions as they have been for most of the pandemic.

I just really, really want you to think that this isn't an all-or-nothing situation. There needs to be some level of compromise so that we can-- As we source some semblance for our family and our experiences here in El Portal. Thank you, I appreciate you listening to me. Also, I have one last question or inquiries.

When you look at the CDC guidelines as to park regulations, they're actually indicating that sanitizing with chemicals is not what the recommendation is. I also want to add that I've been to and looked at other parks throughout the county, and there's never monitors. I can't be certain about the sanitization, but it appears to me as that most every other park in the entire county is open with the exception of El Portal. I think there must be something we can do. I'll end there, thank you.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much, Ms. Emmons. I appreciate it. The only one of all the cleaning services that gave a daily option was SRM Sanitize, and they gave an option of \$850 a day. The others didn't. It was four altogether. One gave a daily option, two were just monthly options, and one gave a month and weekly option.

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What we could is, I mean we have to move it to the next council meeting, but what we could do is we could ask the manager to try to find quotes or call these individuals back and see what a daily option would be and come back to the council next month with just daily options of quotes, and then try to do it two days a week, which would be the weekends. Vice Mayor?

Vice Mayor Urbom: Quickly on those points. One, we're up against the design problem also with the tot lot specifically. The design of that little pocket park of the tot lot is quite different than most other little pocket parks primarily because it's surrounded by the gate, and so there is just one entrance and exit. Again, we could open up the double gates that we used to have the trucks come through, so there's that.

In terms of policing and not trusting people or trusting people to do what they're doing-- My mom was a hoaxer and she thought this thing was a hoax until she got it. Half of the country has absolutely not participated whatsoever in any of these protocols. We've all witnessed that as we go to the grocery store. We've all witnessed that as we go to other places. Especially near the finish line, everybody's antsy, everybody is crawling out of their skin to get out and do things.

For me, throughout my life, I have witnessed time and time again, this group mentality that-- I liken it to almost like a, I don't know, high school cool kid clique almost. I don't know, maybe it's a privilege thing where some people just think there will be no consequences. I feel very strongly that, look, for people who think that China did this to us and then won't put a mask on, that to me is insane. That's totally insane.

If you think China did this to us, how would you not be in a hazmat suit? If you believe that, then you believe we're at war, biologically, with another country. Where is your hazmat suit? How are you going to tell me China did this to us and then you won't put a mask on? This is what we dealt with for a year, the split of, should we care, or should we not care?

Sitting in this and holding the responsibility of liability of the village and what's going to-- The way I see it is I have no choice but to follow what the guidelines are in the design of the park, the cost of what we have to do, the personnel needed. Can we open up a couple days a week? Yes, but then you get everybody coming out at the exact same time. That's almost the opposite of what can be--

Look, I witnessed my industry disappear. I was a bartender for years, waiter, restaurant manager. I watched everything I love in this world come to a stop and disappear. I have

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friends who will never recover from this, I have a friend who died from this, and so I just feel very strongly that it is human to want to be together again, but we must react to the reality of the situation. If we can't do that with 100% safety in this scenario, we can't move forward, and that's where I'm sitting right now.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you. Anybody else from the council?

Virginia: Was I given an opportunity? Could I follow up with that?

Mayor Nickerson: I was asking anybody from the council.

Virginia: I don't know, I'm sorry. I was unmuted, so I didn't know if I should say something else.

Mayor Nickerson: No, no problem, no problem. Anybody else from the council?

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Yes, I want to call for order. Mr. Mayor, I'd like to call for a vote.

Mayor Nickerson: I understand that, Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward, but our discussion is not done yet.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: That's why I'm calling for order.

Mayor Nickerson: I understand that, but the chair's the one that makes the decision and I'm deciding to keep the discussion moving.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Call for order, in all due respect is simply saying, "Let us stick to the issue." It's been a round-robin already. We've already made a decision. Basically, we just have to formalized it. I asked to call for the order, I didn't ask for a call for a motion until call for order. The order is we go ahead on opportunity. We could keep this up all night and that is not my intent for serving here.

Mayor Nickerson: I understand that. I understand that. Again, the chair decides with that procedure, and I'm staying with the discussion. We do have a motion to call for order, which means to stop the discussion. Do I have a second for call for order? Fails from no second, and the chair decides. I did not want to do a second because I did want to give an opportunity

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to do a yay or nay vote. Anybody else from the council have anything else that they want to say?

Councilperson Martin: It's just a small thing. I get where Councilor Lightfoot-Ward is coming from which is, "I really don't want to send this back to the manager to get daily quotes. If the decision of the body is that this is not something we want to go forward with." I feel like that in and of itself would be wasteful and somewhat disingenuous. The second thing is it would really be helpful if we would have a complete idea of what the cost would be as far as the manpower to monitor the park as well so that we could have that concrete bottom line figure. Those were the only two things.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much, Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward. Anybody else from the council?

Councilperson Pirela: Yes, and also with the cleaning. We're talking about \$800 a day or something like that and it's just twice a day. How many times do those children go up and down or how many children come to the-- I think it defeats the purpose. Having to clean the park at seven in the morning, and then once in the afternoon, it's not even enough. I think we should stick to the regulations

and what we have till the parks are actually safe to open or we get to the finish line like everybody has been saying.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much, Councilperson Pirela. Ms. Emmons?

Emmons: It's clear to me that you've all made up your mind, so I don't need to belabor the point. I would just really urge you to try, at least in some sense, to think of a compromise in here. I also even want this pandemic to be over, but also then being very cautious. I believe there's a compromise in here. What I'm already hearing happening is we're going to kick this down the curb for another month and there must be something that we could do, so I would urge you all to consider trying or at least experimenting with something before then.

I think Urbom's opinion about having to use two gates, that's again saying that responsible adults can't navigate one person coming in and one person going out at the same time. Miami Shores Tot Lot is open. I don't necessarily want to use that as an example because that place is a little bit overrun. The tot lot in El Portal has never been that crowded. For years, there's only been a few people there at a time any time I've ever gone, so if you're living under this

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illusion that El Portal Tot Lot is going to be suddenly have 40 kids in it, I think that's a gross overestimation of how that place is being utilized.

I'm just really sincerely asking you to think of some type of compromise and not keep pushing this down the curb or down the street because we're going to be years before we open if we're waiting for this to be over because it's going to be a few more years.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much, Ms. Emmons. I've said to you guys when we first started this-- Do we have anybody else on Zoom?

Speaker: [inaudible 00:52:27]

Mayor Nickerson: If anybody wants to speak, put your hands up, please. While they're doing that, you guys, like I said, I think that if we want to make one last-ditch effort, I think the only compromise that would be left is that, because, like I said, only one of the four companies gave their daily rate and we could ask the village manager to see if the others will offer a daily rate and see if the others offer. For example, the one that gave their daily rate is \$850 a day but their monthly rate was \$23,800 a month, so we do have a couple of individuals who have just monthly rates of 3,000.

We don't know maybe they'll offer a daily rate if we call them and say, "Hey, can you work with us? Can you give us a daily rate?" since their monthly rate was way less than the 850 daily rate individual. SRM Sanitize was \$850 a day, Jani-King was \$3,000 a month, Sanitize King was \$2,800 a month, Clean & Clear Cleaning was \$4,500 a month. Therefore, the only option I see left if it's a compromise position to try to meet a residence like Ms. Emmons in the middle is to see if we can have a daily rate for the other companies if they will offer us a daily rate. If that's the case, then there will be that. Madam Manager?

Village Manager Alou: Mayor, thank you. The cleaning is not something you can do à la carte, it has to be done every few hours, so that's not going to change. I think the hourly that you were more consumed with would be the who's going to monitor and how we're going to enforce that. This is going to have to be done, so even if it's a daily rate, it still got to be seven days a week, 365 days until this pandemic is over.

Mayor Nickerson: If it's only open on Saturdays and Sundays.

Village Manager Alou: You need to clean it every few hours.

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Mayor Nickerson: Why do you have to clean it on the days where it's not even open? It would be the same thing as what's going on now.

Village Manager Alou: For just doing that, I can't imagine we're just going to have someone come and clean. You have to maintain it; you know what I'm saying? You have to keep doing it.

Mayor Nickerson: I understand what you're saying.

Village Manager Alou: So, to then do a complete sanitization, it's a start-up. Otherwise, it has to be done every few hours, but I understand that other municipalities have their parks open. I can't judge them, they're different. They have public works departments and people on staff to work weekends and evenings. I wouldn't judge us against those because we have one person and no public works department, so we would also have to employ a staffer. Presently, we have a public works staffer who makes \$15 an hour. If we want to hire somebody extra to come and work the evening hours, that's another consideration just to give you an idea of what that would cost.

I'm giving you these numbers because I want you to really think about it. I differ to your wisdom and what you see fit to do for the parks, but I do want us to have a good idea about what this really is going to cost because coming in and cleaning on Saturday only may not be the option.

Mayor Nickerson: Understood. Do we have anybody else?

Speaker: Oh, yes, Bethany is ready to go.

Mayor Nickerson: Okay, is she going to bring--

Speaker: Yes, she's here.

Mayor Nickerson: Just say your name and address for the record, please. Bethany, please say your name and address for the record. The floor is yours.

Bethany Ruth: Bethany Ruth, 661 Northeast 86th Street.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you, go ahead.

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Bethany: This tot lot issue, it's bothering me because I am a mother of three and I actually am driving all over Miami and going to all different parks. I like the park, what do you call it? I don't know, X park. I've been to all of them and honestly, I don't see anybody monitoring. I bring my kids, I sanitize their hands when we leave, I bring wipes, I'm on top of it, so I feel like everybody should also be doing that. Let's say you don't do the sanitizing, I think everyone can bring their own cleaning supplies, masks. I don't think we need to pay all this money to have it sanitized. I think, honestly, that's a little bit ridiculous.

I don't know if other parks in Miami are doing that. I don't see anyone there. I've literally been from The Grove, everywhere, to all these parks because you guys are closed. I don't know, I don't think that's right.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you, I appreciate that.

Bethany: I agree with every single thing Virginia said. Do we have to go with a sanitizing company? Is there any other option we can go with?

Mayor Nickerson: We have to go with a company that's a sanitize company that is approved for this type of cleaning, so we looked into that. That was one of the first things that the manager looked into when we were doing this, but like I said, I gave the option that I had in mind. Let me do this, let me hear everybody else, and then we go through my final thoughts and the council's final thoughts, but I do understand what you're saying.

Bethany: Do you guys know of any other parks in Miami are doing the sanitation after hours? Because I've never seen any park sanitizing.

Mayor Nickerson: What I will say to that, though, I'll say that, they're supposed to be doing the sanitation. Now, if another park is doing it or not doing it, I can't speak on that because I'm not there, but at the same time, we have to be responsible for our community. If they want to be irresponsible, I can't help that, unfortunately, but I just want to do things as responsible as possible for our community and our residents.

Bethany: Okay.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you.

Bethany: Thank you.

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Mayor Nickerson: Adam Old, is that Adam Old? Mr. Old just say your name and address for the record.

Adam Old: Adam Old, 140 Northeast 86th Street. I agree with your position of the board that this is important to take it seriously. I've been taking it very seriously this whole time. I think I've been waiting for the day when I can go out and eat at a restaurant again. I was lucky enough to get my vaccine. Recently, Miami-Dade County is vaccinating anyone under 50, and if you have a note from a doctor or a doctor's prescription, or even if a doctor has recommended that you get vaccinated, you can get vaccinated now, so I suggest that everyone do that. In terms of the parks, I do think that this idea of paying \$23,000 a month to sanitize the park every two hours is not a good idea.

When you look at the infection rates for indoors versus outdoors, there's far, far, far higher indoors because it's spread via aerosol, and as these aerosols disperse in the breeze and the wind outside in the sun, it becomes less infective. I think what you want to think about is, are you encouraging people to go to their friend's house and hang out at their friend's house inside versus going outdoors to a park where it's much, much safer? It's not even in one of the top 20 places that people are getting infected. The most commonplace that you're getting infected is at a family member's house or at a friend's house.

I think I would just keep that in mind and as the vaccines are made more available to adults of all ages, I think it's probably worth taking a second look at this. There's a lot of studies that have been done on parks since this disease started. Thanks.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much, Mr. Old, appreciate it.

Speaker: We have one more, Ms. Sandra.

Mayor Nickerson: One more, Sandra? Is it Ms. Valencia?

Speaker: Yes.

Mayor Nickerson: Okay. Just let me know when you're ready. She's ready?

Speaker: She's coming in right now.

Mayor Nickerson: Okay.

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[silence]

Sandra Valencia: Test. Hello.

Mayor Nickerson: Hello. Will you please say your name and address for the record, please?

Sandra: Yes, 8633 Northeast Miami Court. I'm in total agreement especially with what Virginia Edmund said earlier on. I haven't seen any tot lot closed at this point since probably January this year. The first couple of tot lots that started opening in the areas were back in November 2020 and all state parks are open, and let me tell you, I don't see anybody cleaning every two hours. I don't see anybody sanitizing every two hours. I went to the Olinda Park, yes, I rented a bike, actually, I rented a kayak, too, and the bike people, well, they tried to sanitize the, what is it called? Jesus, the riding wheel, whatever it is, wherever you have the brakes and stuff.

Yes, they sanitize it, they sprayed it up because they are there giving the bikes away and whatnot, but at the end of the day, I don't see anywhere, I haven't seen anywhere that they're sanitizing every two hours an outdoor site. I'm in agreement with Adam Old when he mentions that the rates of infection are way higher in an indoor space than in an outdoor space, so that we need to think and take into consideration. It feels like bringing something back to our community. All our community kids have to go all the way to Miami Shores is the closest or going to Morningside or somewhere else that's even in North Miami or I don't know where to.

As Bethany Ruth was saying, she has three kids that she needs to entertain every day after school and even during school when her olders are in school she has a toddler. There's nowhere for her to go around in this area to spend some time in a nice playground for her kid, but just Miami Shores Tot Lot, and I don't think it's fair for our community. If everybody else is capable, even state parks are capable of doing it, I don't understand why can we not? Definitely paying \$3,000 a month for cleaning or sanitizing something is ridiculous, it's absolutely ridiculous, absolutely ridiculous.

That is my opinion and I am supporting for families and although I have a daughter that doesn't go to playgrounds anymore, I am in absolute support with all my residents and all the neighbors that have toddlers and young children in this community. We need that tot lot open back again. Thank you.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you, Ms. Valencia, I appreciate that.

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Speaker: There's one more.

Mayor Nickerson: No problem. Yes, while they're doing that, do you want to come up and talk about the--

Julie Ganacolinger: Sure. May I?

Mayor Nickerson: Yes, come on while they're doing that. Just say your name and address for the record.

Julie: Hi, my name is Julie Ganacolinger, 8650 Northeast Miami Court. When we first moved to El Portal, people always said, "Oh my gosh, your lot is so big, you can do a playground here for the kids, you can do a huge swing set for the kids," and I was like, "No." No, I'm not going to do that because I want my kids to experience, not only the neighborhood but I want them to go out. We have an amazing tot lot here, it's got everything we need, beautiful trees, swings, and it's perfectly suited for my kids we can even walk there. That is what I loved also about El Portal and I think many families here can relate to that.

We really, really miss the tot lot and I really want for you guys to consider looking at options. I do not feel that it's a waste of time and energy for the manager. I do not feel that it would go unseen. I think there could be options. I did want to see if you had, in fact, considered exactly what other parks have or doing that you know exactly. You say, "Do they? Don't they? I don't know." Maybe we can find more concrete answers about what they're doing if, in fact, they are sanitizing. I really think that sanitizing really goes in and goes out because if kids are going to go in, they're going to go in at any hour, any time. It can get infected any time.

Masks work, they work. The idea is wear a mask, touch things, sanitize, keep the mask on. Before you get to your house, wash your hands, take the mask off. I think that if people proceed with those steps, they can really try and keep themselves safe, especially in an outdoor area. We have been going to some other parks in the near vicinity and I felt okay. Some of them have been too packed for me. You know what I do? We leave. I'm like, "This is too packed," we leave. I have never really seen El Portal park that packed at all, really. I think the most I've seen it is when our street kids come, there's like seven of them, and they're running around, and that's when I've seen it full.

I really think that a further consideration would be nice, if you could. Looking at options, is it necessary to sanitize? Can we maybe put just a sign that says with a dispenser, "Put your

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hands before you enter, mask is a must, do not take off your mask"? Rules like they have in the pool. A rule for the pool, and then let people in. Options I think would be nice for us to consider, okay? Thank you.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much.

Councilperson Pirela: Mr. Mayor, if I may.

Mayor Nickerson: Yes, let me just say really quickly, Councilperson Pirela, before you chime in. When I said before what other parks do, I don't personally know. I don't, but the manager before she even got these quotes, because there's so many meetings happening every day that all of us can't be on all the same meetings, she's been on plenty of meetings about this subject with managers from all other municipalities about this particular subject.

She made these decisions based off of concrete knowledge because I'm here throughout the week, El Portal's hall and I walked back there to her office and I'm not going to open the door and say, "Oh, excuse me" because she's on these meetings about this with other managers amongst other things with other managers. She's in manager meetings with every other municipality in the county about all these type of things. It was an educated decision. Councilperson Pirela.

Councilperson Pirela: I just want to say that on February 8th, I actually sent an email to the manager and the attorney concerning about opening the tot lot, and that was one of my suggestions to actually put a rule and regulations before you enter the gates of the park or I try to rent a portable sink so people can wash their hands. The regulations to say parents have to wear a mask in the park and clean after your kids, use the machines, and no more than six parents, or be six feet apart and all of that, and the answer from the lawyer said, "That could be a big liability." I don't know if the lawyer can actually speak to that right now, but that was one of my suggestions back in February.

I don't have any kids. I'm not a parent, so I'm just talking out of what I see and what I understand, but I do manage a store and it's a retail store, and we do have to clean every two hours. Yes, you have people that don't want to follow the rules. Let me tell you something, nobody goes into my store without a mask, they have to leave, and you get people that don't want to do that. Yes, you could be respectful, you could follow the rules, but there's another few parents that won't because like Andrew says, they just don't believe in it or they don't care.

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You might have the few parents that do and they're desperate in their house trying to get the kids out and they want their kids to have a fun time, but right now, we're facing something that, unfortunately, is not in our hands to fix unless we follow the rules. If we can have the lawyer to say something, Attorney Geller, or the manager.

Interim Attorney Geller: Councilmen, can you hear me okay? Hello, can you hear me okay?

Mayor Nickerson: Yes, we can.

Interim Attorney Geller: Okay, well, you're correct in what my response was. Let me just say, I know nothing about the Miami Shores Tot Lot, but one of the reasons I gave the response I did was I wanted to draw a distinction, not every park is the same. There are what are called passive parks that are basically just open space where people walk around, and those are most of the state parks that we're talking about and a lot of county parks are passive parks. As I understand the science, and I'm not a scientist, I'm a lawyer, but as I understand it, certainly, being outside is preferable; the breeze blows, the sun is there, the wind blows, it's not a complete solution.

Social distancing is enforced in most of these parks. The issue with our tot lot is that it's not a passive park, it's really an active park. There is equipment for the kids to play on. The same kids play on the same equipment one right after another. You don't clean a passive park, that's just where you walk around on the grass or on a walkway or something. Of course, you don't clean that. The issue is the equipment. If we, to the extent that we were talking about something like our nature trail, if we wanted to enforce social distancing at the nature trail and keep people separated but let them stroll up and down the nature trail, that's a passive park, but the tot lot involves equipment.

That's what we're talking about cleaning because again, you don't clean a passive park, but where you have one child right after another child right after another child getting on the same equipment and being in close proximity to each other and not socially distance, their parents, again, depending on the age of the child, may be right up with the children, now the parents are not socially distancing, it's not the same. I agreed with what Mr. Old said that certainly, it's better to have people outside than inside if they're going someplace. There are a lot of passive parks all around Dade County. Little River is probably a good example.

I'm not sure if that applies equally to getting into the kayaks that somebody else has just been sitting in. The reason, Councilperson Pirela, for the response I gave was I do think we have a

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heightened degree of liability where we're talking about children who are not immune to this, let's be clear about that. Children get sick. It's the lower rate, the consequences often are less serious, but this is equipment we're providing for kids to play on one after another, and that is a heightened degree of liability. If we're going to make this equipment available, the equipment probably does need to be cleaned in some kind of effective protocol.

Can I say it needs to be every two hours? Again, that's not for me, I'm not a scientist, but we do have a heightened degree of liability for kids playing serially on equipment that other kids have just been playing on. Walk your kids around, take them outside, take them to the nature train. I'll be happy to answer further questions if anybody asks.

Councilperson Pirela: Okay, Mr. Geller. Thank you much.

Mayor Nickerson: Councilperson Pirela, you good?

Councilperson Pirela: Yes.

Mayor Nickerson: Okay. All right, we have a hand up.

Sandra: This is Sandra Valencia, 8633 Northeast Miami Court. If we're talking about equipment, you should see the equipment that is there at Morningside for adults to exercise. It's just full with people coming in the mornings, in the afternoons, and even at the end of the late afternoon. There's people utilizing that equipment and those are adults that are the ones that probably will suffer the most with COVID, not the kids, but them. There's no one cleaning right there in Morningside Park. It's a state park. Oh, is that a state park? Yes, probably, I don't know.

Anyways, probably I'm an ignorant at it, but to be honest, if it's a matter of really the equipment, no one is cleaning, no one throughout the whole county is cleaning every two hours any sort of equipment in any park or any tot lot. No one.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much, Ms. Valencia. I'm going to bring in the village manager in a second, and then I'll go back to the council for closing. Do we have anybody else with their hand up?

Speaker: [inaudible 01:17:23]

Mayor Nickerson: Okay, bring him.

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Daniel Rojas: Hello. Hi. This is Daniel Rojas; can you hear me?

Mayor Nickerson: Yes, say your address for the record.

Daniel: 16 Northeast 86th Street.

Mayor Nickerson: Yes, go ahead.

Daniel: I understand both sides of the coin here. I am pro though wanting to open up the tot lot. I have been to two parks and I've witnessed sanitation. One was in Broward County; it involved a lady with some backpack and a spray. You sprayed the equipment. Never saw her again. It wasn't done every two hours. The other one was at the park, the new one that they opened near Whole Foods. It was a lady with a little spray bottle and a rug. She went around and wiped stuff down. Then I was there for more than two hours, it didn't happen every two hours. My question is, is this a county requirement every two hours and this crazy sanitation? Where do these requirements come from is what I want to know.

Councilperson Pirela: Mr. Mayor. I understand that the quote that we got is not for every two-hour cleaning, it's twice a day; one in the morning and one in the afternoon. It's not every two hours. What the CDC, I think, is requiring is cleaning in public places every two hours. Does everybody do it? I don't think so, but that's the requirement.

Daniel: Okay, thank you.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much, I appreciate it. Any more hands? Okay, so let me just say before I turn it over to the village manager and then back to the council. Let me say this, as far as what other, I said this previously, as far as what other places do, if nobody else is cleaning their equipment, let them deal with that. Let them take that chance, but us as a council, it's not like we don't want it open, I want it open, but we're going to be as responsible as possible for you and your children. We're not going to take the attitude of, "Nobody else is cleaning this, so let's just do the same thing here for our families." I'm not comfortable doing it like that.

If I'm going to open it, I'm going to open it in a responsible manner, and that's where I stand as far as that goes. Again, I go back, and I'll send it off to the village manager in a second, but I go back to what I said a while ago, and that is if we want to decide to do a compromise, then what we can do is, we can look and see if any of these companies, we only have one, but if any of these other companies or any other companies will charge by the day for the two

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cleanings per day. Then we can start off on a trial basis, Saturdays and Sundays. I think that's a compromise because everybody else wanted to do opening all the time.

We were under the mind frame of we don't think it's good to open at all. I think that we could at least try by, I'm not saying that we usually try opening, but at least try by obtaining those numbers of twice a week, Saturdays and Sundays and see it that way. Now, the village manager disagreed with me when it came to that and she knows what she's talking about. I may be wrong on that, but I think that we can at least look into that and then go from there. I would say, from that point on, whatever we decide will then be the final decision for the near-immediate future.

If we decide after that point on that we still don't want to do it, then that's what we'll decide from that point on, but I think that should be at least the last thing that we try to do. I think that's a compromise with our residents, our villagers. Madam manager.

Village Manager Alou: Thank you, Mayor. I do want to see tot lot open, believe me when I say that. I'm a single parent too, I know the value of our parks. We have five parks in El Portal, four are passive and one is active, that's the tot lot. I'm going by the executive order of the County, as well as the CDC guidelines and the executive order of Governor DeSantis, we have got to sanitize and clean a proper way. I don't know what other municipalities are doing, but whatever that is, we can't do that. I just don't want to see anyone being hurt or any health and safety issues crossed or for us to have that.

I meet every other week with the South Florida Parks Coalition. That is every municipality has a representative, be it a park's director or a city manager on this meeting ever since coronavirus hit and the pandemic. We've been doing these meetings to talk about what we can do, how we support each other. Our municipality is little. Other larger ones are able to do the cleaning. They have the staff. In fact, they want to get their staff back to work. Some people were laid off and they are able to now monitor in the park and do that just to get hours. We don't have that budget, so we are not able to hire someone to do the monitoring to make sure people are maintaining the distance, but also with the cleaning.

That has been my whole issue about keeping it closed for now. We really have to look at our budget and see what this will cost us. It's not just the cleaning, it's also the staff. I would love to see it open. If we can find a way to do that within the CDC guidelines, within the executive orders, the mandate, then let's review it.

Mayor Nickerson: Do we have anybody else on Zoom? Yes.

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Speaker: [inaudible 01:23:36]

Mayor Nickerson: Bring her. Say your name and address for the record.

Daniel Rojas: My name is Daniel Rojas, 16 Northeast 86th Street. I also agree, I see both sides of the coin. I do want the park open because I have an almost four-year-old that would love to be at the park and never seen it being extremely full. However, I understand the concern for this virus. We've been very careful throughout the whole thing and we've been very fortunate to stay healthy and safe up to now. We're also fortunate to be vaccinated.

I was thinking if the concern is cost and staffing, could it be considered, let's say, almost like on a voluntary basis like one of the city's voluntary organizations? Almost do like a sign-in sheet and you pick up the keys to open up the park, you sign in, you're volunteering to clean it up in the morning, and it just has to be cleaned up at night when it's going to close. That seems feasible. I don't know if there's any openness to legal issues, but I think, at least my family, we'd be okay with showing up first thing in the morning and cleaning it up if it opens up the park for everybody else, and if just somebody cleans it up at the end of the day, whether it's the manager or somebody on staff or somebody wants to volunteer, that could open this up without causing the village the exorbitant amounts we're talking about.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much. When this first came up a while ago, months ago, that was one of the first things that was brought up, which is the volunteer part, and legally, we just can't do that. Yes, go ahead, Vice Mayor Urbom.

Vice Mayor Urbom: I volunteered. I was very good at volunteering.

Mayor Nickerson: Legally, we looked into that and we can't do that because we really don't know what we're doing. Being that that's the case, for us to go out there and do that, posing for it basically like the village government because if we're getting keys from the village government, then the village government is basically saying that "We give you permission and we have trust in you that you know exactly what you're doing and you're doing things the right way because El Portal gave you the keys." Being that that's the case since we don't know what we're doing and we're not experts at it and we're not doing it the right way, if anybody gets sick from that, we're talking about a huge legal issue and liability issue. We looked into that months ago when this first came up, and that's something that we just can't do, unfortunately.

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Daniel: Can I say something? I understand there's a legality issue, but it's not like you fell on the park and you can sue the city, it's also you have to trace it back. Up to this point, what the data shows is that fomites or the transmission of this virus by touching surfaces is actually one of the least concerns. Also, there's the sanitation theatre that is occurring in most places, it's not recommended by the CDC anymore, so there is my concern. However, I'm very reluctant to take my child to public places at this point, but it would be really nice not to have to go to parked parks in other cities because those cities which has a park that doesn't usually get packed is not opening up their park.

Mayor Nickerson: Again, legally, that's just not a change that we can take. Also, it's not just the CDC as the manager said previously a few minutes ago, that we have to not only follow the CDC guidelines, but it's also the two mandates which is the Governor DeSantis, and the State of Florida, which is separate. It's three different things that we have to look into as a government.

Daniel: Is there any type of online training that you could do as part of this? With the pandemic, online education has become amazing and very accessible. I'm pretty sure there's online trainings on how to clean, that could be a requisite of whatever voluntary organization puts together the people that are going to volunteer. They have to take the education, it's like they do at the hospitals, like they do anywhere. You may not always be fully educated, you may not be an expert at the cleaning, but you take your training course and you assume some responsibility with that.

Mayor Nickerson: What I would say to that, first of all, is if we were to go that route, I think by the time those individuals who'd have got the online training and been fully certified to be able to do this, probably it will be at a point where it'd be open anyway, I think, by that point in time. Like I said, and I think I gave a pretty good suggestion and we'll do an aye or nay vote on it sooner or later if we get a motion in a second, but I think that a good compromise is is that we start with two days per week, Saturday and Sunday, and we look into and see if we can find daily rates for Saturday and Sunday. I think that's the final frontier that we should look into. That's where I stand personally.

Daniel: Thank you.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much. Village manager, I see you taking notes, do you have anything else you want to add before I go back to the council?

Village Manager Alou: No, I was just taking notes.

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Mayor Nickerson: Okay, thank you very much, Village Manager. Coming back to the council, anybody from the council? Vice Mayor Urbom.

Councilperson Martin: Yes, I do have something.

Mayor Nickerson: Councilperson Martin.

Councilperson Martin: I just really quickly wanted to say, I heard a couple of times that our tot lot doesn't get packed. That's true under normal circumstances but understand that there are tons of people that are at home right now that aren't usually home with kids, and it's just waiting for some sort of open space, a new open space to come about. I think what we saw in the past is not necessarily indicative of what we will see, and especially if we open it with a limited number of days. I think Vice Mayor Urbom is correct in saying that there will be a run on the park for those days. It is something that we need to be very cognizant of.

I am completely sympathetic to the issue. I have a 30-month-old tornado at home in addition to an 11-month-old, and I understand the value of having someplace to bring them so that they can expend that energy. With that being said, I've also taken them to parks that are passive parks because, just from my observation, the risk and the ability for me to keep them separate from other families is there in a larger park and not in something as enclosed as our tot lot. I think when we look at other parks, we have to make sure we're comparing apples to apples. What you see in Annelida is not the same beast as what is here, and I think what we have poses unique considerations.

To everyone that says that they don't see parks being sanitized, I have seen it personally and I also hope that the parks that I take my kids to, people like this are sitting there in those communities and are not just doing the bare minimum because if one child gets sick because of something that we failed to do, I would be devastated and that would be a dereliction of our duty to you guys. It seems like it is something callous, but it is really an abundance of caution in trying to make sure that we keep everyone safe. We understand that you're able to do it for yourself, but we, as legislators, are charged with seeing things and looking at, yes, the optimistic side of things but also when it is not so optimistic.

If there is someone who's a bad actor or someone who doesn't want to follow the rules, we need to take all those things into consideration. We're talking about throwing a blowout and opening the tot lot, it's not when there is no cases of COVID two years from now, it is hopefully when the numbers bear out a safer setting for us to open up. I just want you guys to

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keep that in mind, and as a council, I just would charge us to do the brave thing and the safest thing. That's it for me.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you, Councilperson Martin, I appreciate it. Anybody else from the council? Vice Mayor Urbom?

Vice Mayor Urbom: Just quickly. Virginia's comments about the CDC piqued my interest, so I went to cdc.gov and started looking up. I realized the CDC issues guidelines for people visiting parks and playgrounds, but the CDC also issues guidelines for people administering parks and playgrounds. Guiding principles to keep in mind at parks, trails, and open spaces for administrators. There's lowest risk, moderate risk, and highest risk. "Parks and trails are open at full capacity with no modifications to allow for social distancing of at least six feet between individual to household groups.

Staff and visitors from different areas," so if we open up this tot lot and the word is out in the area because one of the advice the CDC gives to people looking for parks to go to during COVID, it says, "Find a park close to your house." That's the issue we're discussing here tonight, the tot lot is the closest, but the tot lot is the closest park? It's not. The tot lot is not a park the way that these guys are talking about it in the CDC. The tot lot is a postage stamp size piece of land that only has one entrance. Throughout all of the CDC website, parks and trails are lumped together. Parks and trails. These are places you go to; these are destination parks and trails that they're talking about.

They're not talking about tot lot. It's a postage stamp. Staff and visitors from different areas. We will have people from other areas coming to the tot lot as well, I promise you. Tourist attractions. Okay, we're in the clear on that one. It's not a pool, that's good. There's no restrooms there, that's also good. However, highest risk, no masks are worn. No one's going to tell me that everyone wears their mask. I've been walking around for a year; you're not going to tell me everyone's wearing their mask. You're a fool. "Highest risk, park staff clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and shared objects once per day and may or may not use EPA-approved products."

They're saying the highest-risk place is a place that does not clean and disinfect frequently and that don't use EPA-approved products. Let's go down here a little bit and see what that means. They further tell the administrators, "Be prepared to cancel or postpone large events and gatherings," and then here's the kicker. This is instructions from the CDC to administrators of parks, "Be thoughtful about the reopening and care of playgrounds, so

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consult with public health officials." Outdoor areas generally require normal routine cleaning but do not require disinfection.

"The targeted use of disinfectants can be done effectively, efficiently, and safely on outdoor hard surfaces and objects frequently touched by multiple people, example, handrails and benches, and certainly playground equipment." The CDC is very clear, if you're going to open it up to the public, there's things you're going to have to do, and if you can't, you need to thoughtfully say, "We can't do it." The tot lot is an exception, that is the reason it's not open. It's an exception to all the other spaces. I have four children, age 10 to 2 years two blocks from the tot lot. I haven't been to it since this thing's been on and I get it.

I worked with the manager and the mayor to try and figure out how I could help the tot lot open, and the reality is it's not a wise thing to do. Look, the US is going to come to reckoning in the next 10 to 15 years. I don't care who you are, we have the single worst response to this, and most of it has to do with an arrogant attitude of, "It won't affect me."

I am exhausted from doing what I'm supposed to be doing while everybody else wears their mask below their nose, under their chin, walking around, eating food in the grocery store. Forget it, I'm at the end of my rope on this.

At the end of the race, your legs are burning, you want to give up, you want to quit, you want to stop, the finish line is not here yet, and the tot lot is an exception and that is the reason it will remain close. I don't know what else to say.

Mayor Nickerson: Anybody else from the council before I say what I have to say? You guys good? All right, I made a suggestion, this is what it'll be. I made a suggestion; I'll say it again. If we get a motion for that suggestion in a second, then we'll do an eye or nay vote. If we get no motion and/or no second, then it'll be I'll leave that there. This is my suggestion. My suggestion is that we focus on numbers for Saturday and Sunday, two days per week, and we go back to the individuals that we got the quotes from.

Even if we can reach out to maybe another company or something like that to see if we can get daily rates, we come back the next meeting for the last discussion on this about daily rates with a preliminary start of two days per week of the daily rates if we decide at that meeting that we'd like the daily rates. Go ahead, Vice Mayor Urbom.

Vice Mayor Urbom: I move to keep the tot lot closed until CDC would issue guidelines that it could be reopened without disinfecting.

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Mayor Nickerson: We have a motion from Vice Mayor Urbom. Do we have a second?

Councilperson Pirela: I'll second the motion.

Mayor Nickerson: We have a second by Councilperson Pirela. Madam Clerk, may we please have roll call, please?

Village Clerk Jacobi: Roll call. Councilperson Martin?

Councilperson Martin: Yes.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward?

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: No.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Councilperson Pirela?

Councilperson Pirela: Yes.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Vice Mayor Urbom?

Vice Mayor Urbom: Yes.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Mayor Nickerson?

Mayor Nickerson: No.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Motion passes two to three.

Mayor Nickerson: The motion passes three to two, you guys. Upon further CDC lifting of regulations, and we will visit this again once the COVID situation gets better throughout the nation and locally, and that's what just passed. Thank you very much. All right, next item, you guys. We're good. Thank you very much, appreciate that. Next item, you guys, is the traffic solution, that's H2. All right, so for this, we discussed traffic solutions and traffic calming in the past and we came up with the two items to start off with. One was a long-term which was a traffic study, we'll talk about that, and then one was short-term, which was traffic signage.

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Before we get to the traffic study, which is a longer discussion, as far as Vice Mayor Urbom bringing up the traffic signage, Madam Manager,

I know originally you looked into it and the county said that if they don't approve it, then they'll take it down. Vice Mayor Urbom came up with an idea, I think that was really, really good, which is maybe El Portal can create its own signage that residents can put in their front yard and stuff like that, that will help grab the eye of individuals driving by and help calm speeding.

We haven't looked into that because we don't even know what those signs would look like or how big they would be. I think we need to start working on that. Vice Mayor Urbom.

Vice Mayor Urbom: Today's Tuesday. Yesterday, I met with Chief Magnusson and Manager Alou in the parking lot of the Raider Church over their sanctuary. We met for about 45 minutes and talked about all of this. We believe that the county will allow us, I'm sure there's going to be a process, but the county would allow us to paint pedestrian crosswalks. That would be a demarcation on the ground in paint so that drivers would be additionally alerted to the fact that there might be people crossing at that point.

That seems to be at least a good starting point for highlighting the pedestrian walkways through the village. Then Chief Magnusson was saying that because of the data that they've already collected, it would be possible to do two intersections, what we discussed yesterday, could be others, but Third and Fourth Avenue East here on 87th Street East, if those two could be demarcated with paint, the idea is that it would look nice, but also draw attention. Then clearly, highlight these pedestrian crosswalks.

Then data could be gathered after those two intersections are painted and matched against the previous data to see if we had any success in any mitigation. Then if that did prove to be useful, then we could incorporate that, obviously, throughout the village. Then I was thinking also on the west side there, near Horace Mann and places where people are walking in the streets, and then they cross one of the avenues, which frequently have high-speed traffic on or at least people who it's a straight line so there's nothing to break up the scenery there so people just go.

If there could be, again, paint demarcating pedestrian crosswalks along the avenues there on the west side, if the data from 87th Street shows that that worked, then we could expand upon it. In terms of signage, my idea was that we had several different phrases on a uniform outline of a sign like an El Portal branded outline, but then have different phrases within it. I

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was fairly ambitious yesterday in the discussion suggesting we have as many as 30 different phrases.

Then I also would like to see multiple languages, English, Spanish, and Creole. Manager Alou had a very good idea that instead of trying to fit all three phrases on one sign, you have some signs in English, some signs in Spanish, and some signs in Creole. Then those can be distributed. Maybe you only need 12 cute phrases to encourage people to be aware of where they are, and kids around, people playing, pedestrians, cyclists, all of this.

You have various different phrases so if you take 12 instead of my ambitious 30, but then you split that out into three languages, well, you're up to 36. Another option was that maybe residents could opt into that sign program, select which sign they wanted for their yard, and then put it in the yard. The county's concern with the right of way is their control over the right of way, so they're not going to let us change the speed limit because that's control over the right of way.

They don't want us to put signs in the swales because the county does not want us to change the behavior or the protocols on their right of way. We can't do anything that changes what their signage on the right of ways already declare people to do. I'm thinking if we have signage that exists in people's yards and does not change anything in terms of whether or not people can turn right, whether or not the speed limit is followed, and things like this, as long as we're not changing those behaviors that are already dictated on the right of way, then I think we'll be in the clear.

The most common phrase obviously is "Drive like your kids live here" or something to that effect, "Children at play." Those are obviously the most common. The chief had a very good suggestion for near the railroad tracks, for example, something that said, "Waiting for the train equals 3 minutes, getting pulled over equals 15 minutes plus \$200," or something like that to get people to think about what their behavior is.

Then I'd like to see signs that are paired with each other, that are spaced, for example, you might come across the sign that says, "If you're traveling at 35 miles an hour," and then a sign separated by a specific number of feet away, it would say, "You've already traveled this distance in two seconds." Something to that effect to get people to be aware of the momentum that they're carrying through the neighborhood.

A lot of times the speeders, they really do understand their cars, they think they know their cars better than everybody else and so they're very confident in their behavior. You might

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have signs that are a little bit challenging to that say, like, "Do you know what accelerating towards a red light costs you in terms of brake repairs each year?" Things like this. I think there could be a wide range because not every speeder is the same. Some people speed for different reasons.

The soccer mom's got to get kids to school, the businessman has to get to the job, things like that. The commute was the other thing that we discussed, was that the data shows that the real problems truly are around the commute times, the morning and afternoon rush hour. Very clearly it seems to be the data showing that if we can solve that anxiety of the commute, or at least encourage people to relax during their commute, that might help as well.

I don't know if chief or manager want to speak more on that, but I know that the chief is very clear that in the data that they have, the real problem is the speed limit because the truth is that the data shows that we don't have excessive speed compared to the speed limit. The problem is that 30 miles an hour is fast for a residential area, that's the problem.

The county is not going to let us lower the speed limit on at least 87th Street or the avenues and so we're going to have to work around what the county won't let us do and we're going to have to get imaginative.

My feeling is that low budget, paint on a street, some signs that people can opt into is a great way to at least start. Chief sounds like he's saying that we have enough of a data set already that we can compare it to what happens afterwards to find out if that's effective or not. Then I know speed bumps has come up a lot and I'll let everyone speak about that but I'm just going to tell you as a self-admitted lead foot, there's a couple speed bumps in this entire county that work. I'm just going to tell you that.

Over the course of my life, I've had two jobs that had me all throughout the county for a total of seven years and so I'm not just saying that facetiously, I mean it. There's maybe a few, Pinetree is the best example I can give. Anyone who's been on Pinetree, you can put two wheels on two wheels off and you can go every single one of those at 35 miles an hour. The problem is everyone who knows to do that puts two wheels on and two wheels off.

Two wheels off means two wheels off the road, two wheels into the curb, two wheels into somebody's swale. Then you get someone at night had too much to drink, things like this, or someone they saw someone do it in front of them and they're like, "Oh, that's how you do it," and they don't know how to handle their vehicle. I'm terrified on Pinetree that someone's

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going to launch their vehicle into a home because you come off of it at a weird angle. Then on top of that road degradation and things like that.

When you go up to a [unintelligible 01:48:47] and the road gets bumpy, that's because of all the heavy traffic starting and stopping sitting in different spots and so you get road degradation too. As a speeder, I'm going to tell you, speed bumps only work for defensive drivers, aggressive drivers don't care about speed bumps, it's not going to work. I'm just going to tell you that.

Anyway, paint on the road and some signs that elevate, not like the bold print screaming act you signs, but some really tasteful signs people think to themselves, "Okay, this place is cared and maintained for, more people are watching me," and they will adjust their behavior. I'm trying to keep it succinct here, and I'll let whoever else speak who wants to speak.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much Vice Mayor Urbom. We'll talk about this once we get to that point to where we start to have designs, what type of signs that you guys think of, and things like that. I think that's a good idea. Once we get to that point, I think the best thing would be to allow residents to come and pick up signs they want in their yard. We have them available, so I think the idea of having three different languages is a good idea.

I think that we just have to look closer with the whole painting on the street because, first of all, we have a beautiful village and we don't want to put something that takes away from it, so we have to just look at that, colors and stuff like that, we don't want to take away from the village. Also, if we're going to do something like that, we really want to make sure we can keep it up because on the road, people are going to be driving over and things like that and we don't want it to start looking so worn out over time so we have to have a plan of upkeep with that.

Before we get to the traffic study, which will be the main part of this discussion, anybody else from the council have anything on signage or short-term?

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: [unintelligible 01:50:50].

Mayor Nickerson: Yes, Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: I make no apologies for knowing parliamentary procedure. Tell me, where's the parliamentary authority here? We're always starting the discussion

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without a motion. We don't have a place to get us rolling properly. You just talk, talk, talk. Is there a motion for, if not, what are we doing?

Mayor Nickerson: Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward, as soon as a topic comes up, we can make a motion, we can second the motion, and talk about the topic. Councilperson Ward, we have a lot of residents that watch this, and I do want to have an open discussion about these things, Councilperson Ward, because let's say, for example, if we did not get a motion or did not get a second to a motion and if this would die, then our residents would not have a chance to hear what the discussion is about.

We all get contacted through not only email but through telephone that our residents are talking about traffic situations, speeding. This is an ongoing thing, this is something that's very important to our residents, and they should be allowed to hear what our solutions are to this.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: [unintelligible 01:52:06].

Mayor Nickerson: Yes, Councilperson.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: I move that we discuss traffic solutions as per the two bullet points provided.

Mayor Nickerson: Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward, we are discussing the traffic solutions as to the two bullet points provided.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Now [crosstalk] proper parliamentary procedure. You can throw me out the meeting if you want to, but I know that this is the way to do it. You cannot just start a discussion without the public realizing that it could come up for a motion. It has been said to me from the residents, you're always talking, but you never tell us which direction we're going until after the discussion.

All we're doing here is ignoring the very balance, and the attorney's on the air, he can hear me. We're talking about things without a motion, and that to me is backwards.

Mayor Nickerson: Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward, when this first came out, I said this the H2 traffic solutions. I said there's two items on this. I said there is the traffic study, which is a long-term solution. I said there's the traffic signage which is the short-term solution. I said we'll start with the short-term solution, which is traffic signage. I said Vice Mayor Urbom

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was the one that brought up the traffic signage previously, so we started with traffic signage, the short-term solution.

That is right there on the agenda. That's under H2, that is the second bullet.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: [unintelligible 01:53:19], I move that we discuss traffic solutions and the two points under it for benefit of a vote. That's all I say.

Mayor Nickerson: No problem.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Do this right.

Mayor Nickerson: No problem.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Stop just jumping into a discussion without the public realizing that we are governed by parliamentary procedure unless the attorney wants to tell me we're not. We are governed by parliamentary procedure so that whatever is spoken, it is spoken so that if a vote should come up, we've already said the motion. Now, it doesn't mean you vote right away. You don't vote until [crosstalk]-

Mayor Nickerson: I understand that-

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: -question.

Mayor Nickerson: -the public-- You said that we are not telling the public what we are discussing before we discuss it. That is not true.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: I stand corrected. We have not stated a motion about what we will be discussing. That has got to stop because what we're doing is circumventing-

Mayor Nickerson: Well, we can change that.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: -the very authority to which we are being governed in handling [crosstalk] [unintelligible 01:54:21].

Mayor Nickerson: We can change that, but I just wanted to correct the incorrect statement of we are not allowing our residents to know what we are discussing before we are discussing it. That is not true.

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Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: I stand corrected. We are discussing what has not been presented as a motion.

Mayor Nickerson: Okay. We can fix that. There's a motion on the table to discuss traffic signage short-term. Is there a second?

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: There is not. That is not my motion, [unintelligible 01:54:47]. My motion is that we are discussing H2 traffic solutions with two items listed. Traffic study long-term, and traffic signage short-term. That is my motion, I'm asking for a second.

Mayor Nickerson: Do we have a second to the motion?

Vice Mayor Urbom: I will second.

Councilperson Martin: Second.

Mayor Nickerson: All in favor say, "Aye."

Vice Mayor Urbom: Aye.

Councilperson Martin: Aye.

Mayor Nickerson: All opposed say, "Nay." Nay. No, no nay [chuckles], just playing. Very good. We discussed traffic signage, you guys. Again, everybody knows that I'm the most transparent. We always allow our residents to know exactly what we are discussing before we discuss it, and not only that, as you guys saw, as we are discussing it, before we vote and make a final decision, I always allow all of our residents to come on and voice all of their opinions and ask any question that they want to.

As a matter of fact, when I first became Councilperson many years ago, the very first thing that I passed that did not exist before I brought it up and passed it was that for every item, prior to us voting on an item, we allow the residents to come in and say what they want to say, because when I first got elected, what was happening was there was only a good and welfare at the very beginning, and a good and welfare at the very end.

We would go through the whole agenda and we would vote on everything, but we didn't allow the residents to be able to speak on those items before we would vote on them. I am

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proudly the type of individual to where I'm very transparent with the residents, and not only that, I'm very open in allowing the residents to be able to say what they want to say and what's on their mind. Anybody else on short-term traffic signs?

Councilperson Pirela: I noticed the stop signs are kind of high. There's any way that they can come down a little bit more and be more visible? Those are the county, right? The stop signs?

Village Clerk Jacobi: Yes. All traffic signage is all-county. We don't have any signs except for--

Councilperson Pirela: Okay. Can we request that from them to at least lower the height of the stop signs on the corners?

Village Clerk Jacobi: I'll get the answer to you, but I think it's a standard--

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: It is.

Village Clerk Jacobi: It's a standard size that may not--

Councilperson Pirela: They're really high you know.

Village Clerk Jacobi: --allow us to influence it, but I'll get the determination from [unintelligible 01:57:20].

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: [unintelligible 01:57:23] Mr. Mayor, it is standard. It's a good question. It really is a good question.

Councilperson Pirela: I've seen other municipalities, the stop sign has been lowered, in Broward and Dade County.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: The exception is handicap, and there's another--

Councilperson Pirela: No, but I'm seeing stop signs in corners that are lower than what we have right now. Ours is over seven feet high or six feet high, and I've seen, like I said, in other municipalities, in other counties as well, the stop sign has been lowered, way lower than that. Let's just to ask and see if we can get-- I think making it more visible. People are so distracted now looking at their phones and looking lower now than--

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Being that we have a lot of trees and stuff like that, it's more of a shorter distance where you can see the sign right up on your face. I don't know.

Village Clerk Jacobi: No problem. I'll ask and get that answer to you, Councilperson Pirela.

Councilperson Pirela: I think it won't hurt to ask.

Vice Mayor Urbom: I'm guessing they're going to tell you it has to do with trucking. Because this is a throughway, they're going to say that it has to be a certain height so that large trucks are able to clearly see them. That's my guess. It's a guess.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much, Vice Mayor Urbom. Appreciate that. Is everybody good? Are we good? We're good. We're good over there. Before we move on to long-term, anybody else for short-term? We're good?

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: [unintelligible 01:59:07].

Mayor Nickerson: All right. Let me just point out for the beautiful record that when Councilperson Pirela started to speak, not only did Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward jump in, Vice Mayor Urbom jumped in, I have no problem with that. I didn't say, "Wait until you're recognized." Right? I'm nice and respectful to everybody equally. Moving on to long-term solutions, the traffic study. Okay, you guys. We got in our documents; we have the traffic study. We have two quotes in the traffic study.

Madam Manager, I'm going to turn it over to you in a second. We have Marlin Engineering. We also have David Plummer and Associates. One is significantly more expensive than the other. Marlin Engineering was \$4,883 for a traffic study. I just want you guys to remember that we had the committee meeting, the manager said that other municipalities pay \$50,000, remember? We even had people in that committee say, "Well, then, we should not even consider it," it wasn't even worth it.

I specifically said, "Well, maybe we should still go out and try. We should always try." As you see, none of these come close to \$50,000. For the long-term you guys, Madam Manager, I'm going to turn it over to you, but what a traffic study does, this will start to address the problems of if we want to consider lowering the actual speed limit. The signage and stuff with the short-term solutions. This is more for long-term permanent solutions, you guys.

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Marlin Engineering was \$4,883. David Plummer and Associates was I think \$14,000. Marlin Engineering, their \$4,883 came with no extra meetings or town halls. That's just what that was. David Plummer and Associates was \$14,000. It was about \$12,500 for the info and the actual study and then they guaranteed three meetings/town halls for the residents to be able to ask questions and stuff like that. That came to 1500 which equaled the \$14,000 for David Plummer and Associates. Madam Manager, the floor is yours.

Manager Alou: Okay. Thank you. I'll make this brief because I know you all have reviewed my memo and the proposals. I'm still awaiting one other. In the interest of assisting these firms, I wanted to make sure I gave them as much data as I could that could also help us. They did consult the 2018-2019 traffic study that was conducted by Miami-Dade County. The one that was rejecting the lowering of the speed, but it was still viable data.

Also, it was taken during a time of normalcy. We're in a pandemic now, so the traffic is not going to be the same. We're going to have to wait this out to get a more accurate read of what our numbers would be. That said, I met with three different firms via Zoom. All very excited about assisting us in some way, all with fantastic credentials, and all providing something different. At the end of the day, it's an analysis that we would then use to present to Miami-Dade County in an effort to get the speed limit lower.

The one that comes from Marlin Engineering is more of a skeletal scope of service. We're able to build on it and perhaps do phases because I expressed, "Look, we're a little municipality with a little bit of funds but we still have a great need." This is something that we can build on, but it will at least get us over the first hurdle, which is the presentation to Miami-Dade County about lowering the speed. That's about \$5,000.

Marlin did an analysis for Miami Shores and they said the reason that theirs was \$50,000 was because there was public outreach including the coordination, design, cost estimates, and a lot more comprehensive work involved that researched the entire village. In this proposal, we're only getting nine locations, which is enough for our efforts. We know where the speeding is, there are touchpoints that get the most action.

This would be a nine locations analysis that would measure the crash data sites, volume, speed data, and the information that was taken from Miami-Dade County. In terms of the other that's coming from David Plummer and Associates, same thing. It's pretty detailed in its listing out of the information. They've worked with many other municipalities as well. They

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broke down the cost, so you can see just data collection and analysis would be about 8,500 and then the traffic analysis and report, another 4,000.

I'm going to get this last proposal. Sorry, let's see, the name of that company is Florida Traffic Engineering. I'm awaiting their proposal. Florida Traffic and Engineering was the last I met with. They just completed the revision of the Miami-Dade County Traffic Flow Modifications Street Closures Procedures. This is what we were measured against when we had the 2018-2019 request for the lowering of the speed limit.

Now that those procedures are being modified, perhaps we'll have a better chance at getting this lower speed because that's actually going through BCC review right now, and hopefully, will be passed through Miami-Dade County in the coming months so that that will help us along as well. I will keep you informed as to what comes from the next proposal. These are just thoughts. We don't have an unlimited amount of money to put towards this effort. We are going to try to utilize that 5% gas tax for the payment of this.

We want to keep it modest and simple but effective. I will keep you apprised at every step of the way but just know this is an option and a possibility. I'm very excited about seeing the new modifications, I'll share that with you as soon as that passes through BCC as well.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much, Madam Manager. Before I turn over to the council, let me ask this. I know you're waiting for the third quote which is even better because it gives us more time to wait, but when you were getting these quotes and when you were speaking to the county just about the process and what we should do **[unintelligible 02:06:15]** giving the suggestions, since we are as you said in COVID, and therefore, the traffic might be skewed not in our favor because it just might be less cars.

If we were trying to get the speed limit lowered and different things like that, we need all the traffic to be shown so that we can show them like, "Hey, look at all this traffic coming through, look at all these cars, we need traffic calming." Did they have a suggestion on when we should probably pull the trigger on actually doing the study?

Manager Alou: Their suggestion was to wait for the study. They said in lieu of that, if we award this to someone they would provide that new firm the information they collected two years ago. I don't know that it will be much different from what's going to happen once we're out of this pandemic, but you never know. Some of our neighboring municipalities now have lower speed limits and perhaps that would push commuters back over to our streets when times are different, and there are more cars on the road.

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The general consensus was give it a little more time, see what happens, wait for the modifications to be approved by the county, and then be ready to roll once those changes happen.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you, Madam Manager. I really appreciate this. Anybody from the council?

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Yes.

Mayor Nickerson: Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward?

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: The manager's spoken very eloquently about how the memo is written up and is very self-explanatory. I'm always thinking about how small we are. 2019 was just the other day, quite frankly. The stats are not going to change. These are just questions because I don't know, how many tickets do we get for speeding and can we trace that number forward to today?

If a significant number of tickets that we do get for speeding and we know that the police don't get any money for writing tickets around up in here but that's okay, they write them.

That's the first thing I thought about. The second thing I thought about is as the manager's always reminding us, we don't have the money to just throw out there. We're going to climb out of this don't-have margin someday. I don't think it's going to be long.

My thoughts are would it feasible that we consult with other cities that have speed limits or signage and how they're doing it and succeeding because I'm always concerned that right up the street from Biscayne Park is it? Isn't that what's just north of us is Biscayne Park, not Biscayne Gardens but Biscayne Park? They have speed bumps. We're all little cities up in here. I'm always concerned that that happened and yet they have a sign bigger than [unintelligible 02:09:19] you won't get a ticket. Everybody knows that about Biscayne.

I'm not criticizing, I'm applauding them for my own survival since I do go through their city to get to mine. Also, there are options to how we might further explore what we're trying to get to. That is something I ran across because we made such a big deal about it. We know that Mr. Hugh Gladwin is a part of lots of studies at FIU. Being an alumni, and so is my counter person over here on the council is also an alumni, we have the Jorge M. Pérez Metropolitan Center at the Florida International University.

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They are well-known nationally for how they do studies, they are led urban think tanks in south Florida as established since 1997. The applied research unit under the School of International and Public Affairs has a solid record of providing technical services to communities in various areas, one of them being transportation. [unintelligible 02:10:40] approach to providing technical service is to take into account the unique needs of individual communities while adhering to recognized methodologies for data analysis and reporting.

I looked at them because I'm familiar with the Metropolitan Center, and while it may be a cost to it, it won't be costly as we're hearing these statistics. What I'm also thinking, Mayor and Council members, is that to the extent that we can think outside the box and allow for what is called the Waze data. Councilwoman Martin, I trust you may have heard of the Waze, W-A-Z-E studies where the community works with an organization that does the computer analyses based on what we already know.

What we already know is we've had a study of our village in the past. 2019 was it? We got denied. They can take that same study, run it through the current numbers, it's a database, it's called Waze, it's a database, and pull out the numbers to showcase why they may have continued to say no to us in terms of what we want to do or what it would take for them to say yes to us. This is a nation-wide organization, open their database for nation-wide studies like these.

I would be prone to think that the Waze data is nothing new to our own Florida International University study. I'm not trying to throw money. The manager has been very clear. We don't have the money to just do things. Sometimes we did, times gone past, but we don't now. I'm trying to think of other alternatives that will complement the manager's suggestion and not just simply always going out for bids and things because, for me, I was not impressed with the last study, I was not impressed with the methodologies used but that's neither here nor there.

I'm just thinking of other ways that we continue to think outside the box and how we want to get the numbers so we can see them. It's one thing for someone else to get the numbers for us, it's another thing for us to build our own numbers and make our own case for the time when they want to deny or accept us. I think we're a perfect guinea pig, I think we're a perfect subject for that type of analysis as opposed to always allowing a company to tell us what we can probably find out and in more detail if we just used the resources before us.

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As I've mentioned, I'm very much aware of what the Pérez Center does, very much aware of Metropolitan Center does in this entire South Dade and other areas but mostly South Dade area, Miami-Dade County to be specific.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much, Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward. I think that's a great idea. If you guys will recall, when we were talking about this in the committee, what I said was the same thing that I was saying when it came to the whole thing with the tot lot which is it costs nothing to get the numbers. If we just never get the numbers for it or the quotes for it, then we don't even know what we're comparing anything else to.

I think we should go with all options and have all options in front of us to be able to make a decision on those options because at least we would know, "Okay, we want to start with this because this doesn't cost anything," and then if we don't get the results we got with that, at least we did other things also. I always think that we should always look at all of our options and therefore we make a decision based on that ground, that solid ground. That's always [unintelligible 02:15:05]. Councilperson Martin?

Councilperson Martin: I'm going to defer to my parliamentary procedure expert to my left, but I do want to mention I do think it costs us something. It costs us time. The manager's a one-woman show. I do think that us constantly going out piecemeal and getting proposals and then kind of, "Let's rework that, let's change it, let's go back out," those things take time. I think it is a folly of ours when it comes to losing our direction on certain things.

Not necessarily traffic study related but a lot of the information that we're given is in such a disjointed fashion that there is no real way to make a comprehensive wholly informed decision. I did not know about the Waze but I would love to have an opportunity to read about the Waze. I trust everybody on this council, but I believe what I read, and I want the information.

Hearing about the Waze, other opportunities to take the information that we already have and do something with it, that's valuable for me and something that I would want to know before sitting here and with the structure that we currently have, it could possibly be that we would never know that the Waze exists and then we would just throw out another \$4,000, \$5,000.

For me, I don't know if this is the right time to approach the topic but I'm broaching it. I would love to have there be either a cover sheet, a portion of the agenda that speaks to what the manager's recommendations are. I would love for the manager to individually have these conversations with the council members to determine if we have these bits of information

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like there's a Waze, or there's this entity that can do X, Y, and Z so we are able to make a wholly informed decision.

Sitting up here, I have given it time because I just really want to see how things work before I criticize anything, but it's being like a gameshow contestant. It is a new thing popped in front of you, you have to make a split-second decision. That is not the way that it should be. These are issues that are impacting people's lives day-to-day, these are important issues. We are not representing ourselves. We need the time and information to speak to the people that we represent to get their input on it.

We need information so we can do our due diligence and come back and make a good decision. That is just what is brought up for me in learning all this new information and completely unhappy with the way the information is being presented. All of this back and forth does cost us something, it's called very precious time and direction. That is my two cents on that.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much, Councilperson Martin. I will say this, so the manager does put out a report every month. All of us can contact the manager and talk to her whenever we want to. Unfortunately, because of the way government works, we do have to do things out in the open. You guys don't really get all the emails and calls that I get about traffic. It's even more [unintelligible 02:18:49] about traffic and the chief will tell you this, they're even more passionate than what you heard tonight about the tot lot times 100.

Us putting this out, it gives us the time to discuss in public, in Sunshine, "Okay, well, this is the item, this is that, and oh, there's this thing called Waze." This is how it's done.

Councilperson Martin: Can I?

Mayor Nickerson: Yes, of course.

Councilperson Martin: This is not how it's done. In many other municipalities, there is no violation for Sunshine for the manager to speak directly to a councilperson about what will appear on the agenda. Usually, in other municipalities, the manager has a meeting with individual council members, tells them what will be on the agenda, is able to flesh out whatever issues, concerns, thoughts they have on that, and then can synthesize information and manipulate it in a way where most council members will be pleased.

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It comes before the body, the body then discusses a more complete form of the item, which is my concern. As far as the monthly report is concerned, yes, that is true. However, we receive our agenda maybe three days before the actual meeting. Sometimes as in this agenda, what is actually before us now, is completely different from what was proposed. We have no idea why those items have been deleted from the agenda and for me, it's just a problematic setup and I want to put that out there.

In addition to that, formally request that there be some sort of cover sheet or addition stating what the manager's thoughts are on the items that appear on the agenda.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much. As far as the manager, so for example, if Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward told the manager about Waze, the manager could not tell you guys that Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward brought up Waze or anything like that because she would be acting as a conduit and she can't do that.

Councilperson Martin: [inaudible 02:20:58]?

Mayor Nickerson: Yes, of course.

Councilperson Martin: She doesn't have to tell us who says it. She has the knowledge that Waze exists, and she can [unintelligible 02:21:03] it and then bring it back to us as a possible solution. I'm not asking for her to be a conduit, I'm asking for her to be what she is supposed to be, which is the keeper of all the information, and then to present that synthesized information through her managerial expertise to the body.

Otherwise, it forces us all to be mini-city managers, which are not charged to be and which we are not. I am not.

Attorney Geller: If I might, mayor?

Mayor Nickerson: Yes.

Attorney Geller: Let me just clarify. You are correct in saying that the manager, and for that matter, the attorney and the clerk cannot act as conduits. That typically means that they cannot translate from one to another member of council what a particular member of council desires to be action taken by the council. That's not the same thing as a member of council transmitting just factual backup information to the council to be distributed for the edification of the council.

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Let's take this specific example. If Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward has knowledge about Waze, she can tell that to the manager. If it's her desire that we utilize Waze to do a study, that's different. The manager could not say, "Well, council members, one of your number wants us to do a study utilizing the info on Waze." The manager in my view at least is permitted to say, "Here is some information which I received from one of your members about something called Waze, which we wanted you to have as a backup."

If the manager, not at the instance of one of the council members, but if the manager on her own decides to utilize that information and recommend it to the council, that's permissible because that's the manager's proposal, not the manager acting as a conduit to pass along a desire to move in a particular direction from one council member to other council members. I hope that clarifies the issue of conduit. Thank you.

Mayor Nickerson: Absolutely. I was just saying, Attorney Geller, that I wouldn't even want to take a chance of that. Let me say also further, you guys, that the traffic situation is something that not only our residents want to hear about. They want to know that we're doing something, that want to know that we're coming up with ideas, they want to know what we're talking about. Therefore, I just think that there are certain things that should be discussed in public for transparency purposes.

I sent out the current agenda items to everybody. I do that for a couple of reasons. I do that first of all so that if you guys were getting asked by different residents or anything like that, "Oh, why aren't you guys doing this," or, "Why aren't you guys talking about this," or, "Why aren't you guys bringing up this," you can say, "Oh, you know what, it's coming up." That's one of the reasons why I do it.

Another reason why I do it is for transparency purposes. Another reason why I do it is so that all of you, if you guys have something personal on your mind that you're like, "You know what, I want to bring this up at the meeting," you can look on there and say, "Oh, okay, it's already coming." I sent that out two weeks ago so everybody could prepare for it. The reason why the ordinances and resolutions are on their which are very, very time-sensitive is because there was just a miscommunication between individuals who were doing the ordinances and resolutions [unintelligible 02:25:24] included also.

That was the problem with that. I was completely prepared for that. I'll continue to be as transparent as possible with you all so that everybody's prepared and knows what's going on. That's the only reason why I do that. Yes, Councilperson Martin.

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Councilperson Martin: Your transparency is not in question at all. You are definitely very proactive in getting that information out there. I just want to make sure that we're working smart and I want to make sure that in addition to telling the residents what is happening, that things are actually happening. I just think that this is a more efficient way to approach it and that will also make for a better, I think, more effective, faster conversation and we are able to see a more complete picture and a more complete way forward.

Definitely not a knock on you, just saying, "Hey, I think there's a system that might work a little bit better, let's see if we can try that and give that a go." That's it. Thank you so much, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much, Councilperson Martin. What we could do if you guys want to do, what we could do is we could, toward the beginning of the meeting, have the manager do her report. That way everybody at home can hear it and ask her questions about everything that she reports on. If we're going to have it come from her instead of being an agenda item until we're ready to actually vote on it.

For example, she could've come on tonight and did a manager report in the beginning of the meeting and mentioned Waze and mentioned, "With the traffic study, this is where we are. We're at two, I'm looking at one more," and things like that, we could do that if you guys want to do that. We could put the managerial report at the very beginning.

Councilperson Pirela: Well, I guess is the issue is not [unintelligible 02:27:15]. It's more having the information beforehand and not two, three days prior. Honestly, the agendas get sent with the items on Friday, I work Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, I have very little time to go through the whole agenda items and stuff. If it could be a day prior to that Friday, we have at least extra days to review.

Like Councilwoman Martin said, if the manager can give us a heads-up a week before of what's coming up and what are her thoughts and what she heard about something else and-

Councilperson Martin: May I?

Councilperson Pirela: -and share it, it'll be better.

Mayor Nickerson: Yes.

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Councilperson Martin: Right before the meeting to me is still too short of notice, I agree with Councilman Pirela. It would suffice if we really just added a manager's

recommendation section where with the manager's expertise, she is able to synthesize. I also think that whatever appears on that agenda should have somehow crossed the manager's desk, then if it disappears, she should know why. These are my thoughts on that.

Mayor Nickerson: Let me just say, first of all, you guys are preaching to the choir as far as on Friday when we couldn't put those items through because of them not being ready, even though I gave people two weeks to have them ready, I called an immediate meeting. The manager and the clerk and the attorney can tell you I had a very frank and open meeting with them yesterday. We discussed about the new day of items being due. Did it yesterday, it's already done.

Councilperson Martin: Can I be recognized?

Mayor Nickerson: No, of course.

Councilperson Martin: If you told me that, I wouldn't have even gone off of on my tangent [chuckles].

Mayor Nickerson: I understand. It's all good.

Councilperson Martin: No, but that is a legitimate concern and a legitimate request and something that I would like to see appear on the agenda going forward. Hopefully, we can make that happen on the next one.

Mayor Nickerson: You guys, I try to do so much, right? Even though I might not say it, I'm doing it. You know what I'm saying? To all the stuff you guys are talking about, I was upset. Look at Attorney Geller shaking his head up and down.

Councilperson Pirela: Again, yes, you do a great job by communicating. I've only been here for a year. I went through the prior mayor and now you and

I hadn't seen what's that been is where you're saying the right thing to do. Probably even though you have control of the council meeting, you still gave us the opportunity a week prior to see what the points are going to be discussed and a chance for any of us to actually include something on the agenda or whatever. That's great. Thanks.

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Councilperson Martin: One more thing. It definitely is kind of, but it is also the form of the structure of our government as council-manager, which means that the council, the mayor is definitely the head, but the council should be privy to all of the information. The mayor is because he is a member of the council. Thank you so much.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: You also, Mr. Mayor, have a Vice Mayor. I am always concerned about your well-being trying to do everything all the time without delegating something to your Vice Mayor. He has a voice and he has, so he can talk. If he can talk, I'm sure he has organizational skills. You don't have to be the one that is so burdened. I feel that. I actually feel that. I don't think that's the issue here.

I think where we're going here is there weren't any other options. It's just, "Okay, we came up with this, and here's the money. Let's go. Let's go, guys." We hear the manager in her letter. We hear her saying we're just talking about spending money that we really don't have. That has been her hallmark from the beginning a lot. That's what got me to start looking at what alternatives other than spending and have somebody else tell us what we need to do when really we got enough people in this village that would be glad to have a workforce or a task force that does.

Let's look at WAS. It says how we do free traffic studies with WAS data, and how you can too. That was the name of the article that just reached my mind. Then **[unintelligible 02:32:06]** remember FIU. I think you did something, Councilman Pirela, that did something last week that said, "I didn't know you knew that kind of stuff," but I don't remember the subject. That's what started me to look. Because I'm telling you people, the manager can't do everything.

If she thinks she can, well, let me attest to you, the manager cannot do everything. That we have to be a group. We can't meet with each other talking about things. When we are in committee, we can talk. That means we've done our work and we've got citizens. I love what we saw earlier. We had citizens in here who were going to take pictures, but I thought they were lining up for the agenda and to make some comments about things.

I love it when we got that type of crop because it tells us what they're thinking. This phone call was just wonderful because we could hear them. We don't have to agree with them, but we hear them. That's what I want to see us do more and more. What my generous Councilwoman Martin has said makes a whole lot of sense. Mayor, you can't bear the whole burden and we can't put everything on the manager.

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Manager Alou: May I please say something?

Mayor Nickerson: Yes, Madam Manager.

Manager Alou: Thank you. I appreciate it. I appreciate everyone's comments here. I agree. I wish it was more time and more opportunity to get better time for each council member and do briefings. I am one person, no secretary, no assistant, and no one to do the substantive work of the village, but I'm also running the village as well. We have a lot of meetings, every Tuesday nights some months.

To turn around and have something ready to use the very next day for a meeting that's happening in the following Tuesday is going to be very difficult. I have been given directions, sometimes police find out more about the film permitting, police find out more about this. I didn't know about WAS. I gave you all this memo on March 18th. The first time I heard about WAS, was tonight with Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward. If I'd known about it, I would have done a little deeper dive, but time is a resource I just don't have. I didn't know that, and I would have done a little bit more and I will certainly look into it.

Do understand I'm not sliding anyone. It's just I don't have the time. I'm on my own and I'm doing this work alone. I understand other municipalities have managers that are knocking it out of the park. They also have staff. I don't have that luxury. I also want to address the agenda. I don't make the agendas. I see them when you see them. The chairs of each committee make the agendas.

When I see it, then I'm scrambling to get whatever you need or whatever I can do to assist those agenda items. I sometimes even make requests that my item be on your agenda, and I always respectfully submit everything that I want on the agenda. Sometimes I'm denied and sometimes it moves forward. I'm also working on my items to keep the plates turning. To keep the plates in the air.

I appreciate any new, innovative ways we can change this process. Because I know for new people, it's difficult to jump in and you're feeling left out or slide or not a part of what's happening. I feel your pain. If you have suggestions, I'm always open to it. I know that I've spoken with Councilperson Martin about this and we'll keep talking about it. We'll keep trying to find innovative ways to address this, but I ask that you do it with me and not against me. Thank you.

Councilperson Martin: May I, Mr. Mayor?

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Mayor Nickerson: Yes. Go ahead.

Councilperson Martin: Ms. Manager, you do an excellent job, and no one can say that you have the help. I feel like you definitely don't have the help. I actually think that this will be helpful for you moving those deadlines up, filtering everything through you. Even though you don't make the agenda, getting the agenda early, and then you can say, "Hey guys, this is going to be a bad idea because of X, a good idea because of Y."

Hopefully, everyone on the council will be thoughtful about these things that we throw out when we say, "Let's look into." That you are the person who has to look into it. I think this is reframing our mindset in a way to function more officially. They'll actually at the end of the day, help you do what you do because we all know that you are out there, you are a one-woman show and you are killing it. You were doing an excellent job.

To me, the point of it is we are working you too hard and not smart enough. We need to be smart in our requests. The more information we get beforehand I think will limit some of the what if, what if, what if and the auxiliary things that you're then charged to do that takes time away from the strategic things that you're capable to do to usher this city forward instead of mulling about on one issue for three council meetings.

I definitely don't want anyone in the audience or for you to think that this is a knock on you. This is definitely just an observation about the system and the way that it can work better for me and I think at the end of the day for you as well. That's all for me.

Manager Alou: Thank you.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much. I appreciate it. Anybody else before I seek [unintelligible 02:37:32] from the counselor? Let me just say this, the manager and I work really closely on pretty much every issue. It sounds that you guys are saying that I do everything myself and then just put it on everybody else, but it's not like that. The manager knows pretty much what's coming down the pipe.

If you guys know that when we do committee meetings and things like that, if we move things, then I move it to the full council. That's what we decided to do. We'll move it. We'll move it to the full council. There were contracts that were a part of the current agenda items. That's now two weeks ago. There were contracts that came in. What was it? Thursday? Friday? Friday. Contracts came in Friday that we need resolutions to. Came in Friday.

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Attorney Geller will tell you that I've been with him from Saturday. Attorney Geller look at his head shaking up and down. Looking at his head. 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM all I'm doing is writing resolutions and ordinances. Me. Mayor is not supposed to write resolutions and ordinances. Getting his legal advice and sending it back to him and sending it back and doing changes. Things were being pulled because I sent things out two weeks beforehand. Contracts were coming in on Friday, this past Friday, which is why I started to pull stuff off the agenda.

Had a two-hour meeting. It was 3:00 to 4:20 with Plusurbia and then the rest of us stayed on. We all were on there from three o'clock yesterday. The email said, "On Friday morning I want a Zoom meeting ASAP!" True or not true? To fix all of this. To fix all this stuff that has been going on forever. I'm coming in trying to change-- Ask her, she's been here. I'm coming in trying to change procedures that have been grandfathered in place for decades. I'm trying and I'm doing it. All that stuff you guys talking about, I'm already putting it in place. Just doing things that I've never-- We've never discussed turning in stuff by Tuesday and Wednesday of the day before the meeting like we did yesterday.

Village Clerk Jacobi: No. Can I say something?

Mayor Nickerson: Of course, ma'am.

Village Clerk Jacobi: I've been here for a long time now; it's going to be six years. Councilperson Martin, one of my biggest, biggest complaint has been that because I feel like if you guys-- Sometimes I come to work on a Saturday. If you look for the past, I've come to work on a Saturday to put an agenda. To me, that's unacceptable. Why? Because you guys cannot make an educated position if you guys don't have the information before that.

When it comes to the day that you're looking at the documentation, it's too short of term. One of the things I voiced on yesterday's meeting was we need to have this prior to a Wednesday. I cannot get the stuff on a Friday. That's not acceptable. It's not. It's not acceptable because then I'm sitting there. I've finished an agenda I think like on a four o'clock on a Friday and then I get a documentation to add to the agenda on a Friday at 5:00.

I feel like, "Wait, what?" I can only imagine when you guys receive it and when the residents receive it. Prior to me in the short-term that I wasn't here, the council was asking for an agenda on a Sunday. Right now, you guys are getting it on a Friday, but the council, several of them have told me they've been asking for it to get an agenda on a Sunday. To me, that worried me.

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Councilperson Martin: May I, Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Nickerson: Yes, ma'am.

Councilperson Martin: It just seems like we're all violently agreeing that it's not working. Hopefully, as we move forward, we are all open to changing, doing things a little differently to figure out a situation that works for everyone. I appreciate everyone's efforts.

Mayor Nickerson: Absolutely. Thank you very much. Anything else you guys for long-term traffic study?

Vice Mayor Urbom: Yes. Just one super quick thing.

Mayor Nickerson: Go ahead.

Vice Mayor Urbom: Dr. Ward had her hand up as well. Just to remind you that this discussion involving the traffic study is the long-term traffic study plan. Just a little bit of background for those watching at home and those with us here in the audience. Part of the reason that the traffic study is continuing to be a discussion is because of the previous traffic study not really accomplishing the goal of allowing us to lower the speed limit. That really is the issue.

In all of this, also we have Plusurbia, our urban planner, who has a phenomenal long-term plan called Resilience Streets that in my opinion, if that comes to fruition-- This is long-term, this is not going to happen next year. If it comes to fruition, what happens is that gives-- In my opinion, that changes the traffic study. If we change our street patterns, because what Plusurbia is talking about is one-ways because it's just truly brilliant what they have planned.

Instead of trying to widen lanes to accommodate two lanes of traffic and everybody's already in too tight, changing the one-lane one-ways, and that allows you to beautify larger square footage areas. It encourages people to essentially go slower. Then I'm hoping that if we are able to lower the speed of traffic within the village, meaning excluding 87th Street and excluding a couple of the West avenues because those are County roads, the village-controlled roads. If we can change the speed that people travel, I believe that will affect the data set that the County is looking at to say, "Okay, we've got the slower activity around this area. It makes sense now," or within their protocols to whether or not they're going to lower the speed limit.

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I just did some calculations because I talk about it all the time. Someone traveling down Northeast 2nd Avenue at 45 miles an hour is traveling 66 feet per second. Now, my lot, I think is fairly average to a little bit small, but it's fairly average, 50 feet across. In one second, someone traveling 45 miles an hour will cross my entire lot if they were on my street. I don't live on Northeast 2nd Avenue, but there you go. Just getting down to 30 miles an hour traveling. If you have someplace to go and you're on Northeast 2nd Avenue and there's two cars in front of you both going 30 miles an hour, you're aggravated. "Why can't I go faster?"

Now you're at 44 feet per second. It's effectively a 30% reduction in how far you're traveling. That should tell you as a speeder, "Well, I should speed up then because I can gain 30% of the time." No, no, these are seconds we're talking about. You'd have to drive that speed for an hour without stopping at a stop sign, without stopping at a traffic light, without stopping anywhere, without slowing down. You have to travel consistently at that speed for an hour to gain almost one minute on your commute, 60 seconds. The time it takes you to--

The issue here is long-term traffic study. What's the point? The point is because in the long-term we are trying to change the behavior of drivers on 87th. We're trying to change the behavior of drivers on Northeast 2nd Avenue, Miami Avenue, West 2nd Avenue, West 3rd Avenue, West 5th Avenue. We're trying to change those behaviors. This is a long-term discussion that will take, honestly, several years to accomplish. Whereas the first discussion we had was the short term. What can we do in the meantime and what we're looking at doing, that is some signage, some paint on the ground, and we'll find out whether speed bumps come to fruition or not.

This is a long-term ongoing discussion about what are we going to do in terms of planning our streets and working with the County to accomplish our goals of lowering the speed limit. In that regard, we are exactly on track for that discussion the way I see it.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much, Vice Mayor Urbom. Anybody else? Long-term traffic study. How are we looking on Zoom? Thumbs up. Are we good on that? Let's move on, you guys. Sorry about that. Couldn't see you Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: [unintelligible 02:46:52] taping this discussion.

Mayor Nickerson: We are taping this discussion.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: [unintelligible 02:46:57].

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Mayor Nickerson: We have a motion on the floor. The motion was simply to make a discussion of these two items. Motion to table. Do I have a second for tabling?

Vice Mayor Urbom: I'll second.

Mayor Nickerson: Second for table. All in favor say aye.

Crowd: Aye.

Mayor Nickerson: All oppose say nay.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Nay.

Mayor Nickerson: No problem. Come up. Come up. State your name and address for the record.

Diego: Good evening everyone. My name is Diego Lopez, 127 Northeast 88th Street. I was just talking in reference to the traffic studies. I want you to know I read the proposals. The intent right now seems to just lower the speed limit. I don't know if you guys have considered on any other alternatives. Thinking outside the box seems like a really good thing, but what about other traffic calming devices aside from speed bumps? Turn around, like we have out here at the village or closing streets like we have on Miami Shores.

That way, for example, if we do any three closures, we can work with the County, and then we can localize our streets, our traffic areas, and then we can work better at reducing-- Then we can work on reducing the speed limit signage and be more focusing on anything that police want to monitor, track like I said speeders and citations, and such things like that.

Also, if we do some street closures, we can also benefit from pinpointing and having smaller circulation within streets. Crimewatch could we be more efficient because everybody in the neighborhood will know each other and they will pinpoint some other vehicles that are not there. If there's any other options that you guys will consider [unintelligible 02:48:45] something that signage becomes white noise after a while because everybody's going to be seeing the same sign and everybody's going to be speeding.

Speeding if we reduce it, if we don't enforce it, if we don't have people filing tickets for doing speed traps like everything else, you'll see it on next door. Everybody's complaining about it. It's not only in El Portal, it's all around us.

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Unless the speed traps make it known, then people will start realizing it. A good example was the [unintelligible 02:49:14] Park. If you go down the [unintelligible 02:49:16] village, the cops they're all over the places stopping people and everybody knows not to speed in that area. That's it. Thank you.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much. As far as the thing with the police department and the street, "Calming or speed traps" as we don't like to call them, Urbom will be discussing that. We've started that. We're going to be doing a lot more of that. What slows us down, just to be frank, is the number of officers that we have at one time. Me and the chief has been talking about that and with the manager and we're going to be changing that as much as we can in the near-immediate future.

As far as street closures, not only can we not do that at this particular time but-- What was it? Last week or the week before, and what's so funny is that I meant to send you guys that document, but the county actually passed in there last-- I don't know if it was in their last regular meeting or if it was a special meeting. The county actually passed a bill that said that not only are they not going to allow street closures anymore, but they're going to go back and review all the municipalities that have closed their streets, they said under the guise of traffic calming. Because they say that they feel like municipalities in the past couple of decades have closed their streets which now causes emergency vehicles to-- For example, Miami Shores is closed now so our streets get more damage because our streets have more wear and tear.

The county passed a couple of weeks ago that they're not only not going to allow any more street closures, but they are actually going to go back and review those in the past couple of decades who have closed their streets to see if it was viable as traffic calming or if they just wanted to close it under the guise of traffic calming.

As far as the speed bumps and other traffic calming type of products or items, those things also come out of a traffic study. If we ask for those things, they'll only give it to us or grant it for us if it shows in a traffic study that we are able to have those things because of our traffic. Even though it focused a lot on speeding and speed limit, but all that stuff is within that. Anybody on Zoom? We're good? Council.

Vice Mayor Urbom: I'm sorry, I just have one thing [crosstalk]. As far as the rotunda, we've already applied for a grant to try and get monies for a rotunda over on the west side. That's certainly part of the overall strategy in terms of traffic calming devices. I just want to remind

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everybody that really a lot of what the mayor is talking about in terms of the county readdressing closures is Miami Shores closed their streets for racist reasons and we're not going to go down that path. There's a lot of other municipalities in South Florida and Florida, in general, that's coming to light in terms of past activities. The wall over here in Pork & Beans, there's all kinds of walls, there's all kinds of street closures and a lot of these have absolute ingenuine racial reasoning behind them going back. That I think is part of what the county is trying to redress.

We don't want to go down that path necessarily. Our urban planners, the design that they have calls for actually narrowing some of our streets, making them one-ways instead of closing them. Then creating an environment where we have lower speeds throughout the residential area in El Portal. The issue continues to be 87th and the avenues because of the speed limit. Chief's been sitting there quietly listening to us but understand that he's been very clear in all of his presentations to us since his time here and since he started looking at this data. I got news for you guys I'm just going to say it, we do not have a speeding problem in El Portal, we have a speed limit problem in El Portal. The data is very clear that we do not have an excessive number of people driving at excessive speeds over the speed limit, the problem is the speed limit itself.

When the speed limit is 30 and people tack on their nine miles an hour instead of going from 44 feet per second, you're already up to something like 58 feet per second. That's a significant increase and reduces your ability to slow down. Because of the tightness of our municipality, and because of the canal, because of the railroad tracks, because of Biscayne Boulevard and the commuters trying to accomplish-- North East 2nd Avenue people get to choose every day, "Do I want to deal with construction on the bridge or do I want to deal with trying to hit the two lights between 81st and 82nd to get to 79th have a chance to get through and then go 60 miles an hour from 79th street all the way down to the Design District?" Soon as you clear 79th street, you just drop the pedal, 65 miles an hour nobody bothers you, hell, a cop might even pass you.

That's the reality that we're dealing with. It's not a speeding problem in El Portal, I'm going to say it into this microphone as loud as I can, we don't have a speeding problem, we have a speed limit problem. The traffic study that we're talking about is-- The reason we're having this discussion is because we need to strategize how are we going to accomplish our goal of demonstrating what we all know which is we need lower speed limits. The county is the one standing in the way of that. There has to be some manner of communication to the county to demonstrate to the county that we need a lower speed limit and that they should do that. That

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is the point of the traffic study, is to present something to the county that they can't ignore, that says, "You know what? Fine, all right, we will allow you to lower the speed limit."

Again, if any of you know the name Philippe Azanya you already know that he's been fighting the county and the state for years over Biscayne Boulevard design.

A lot of it has to do with the design, you don't want me to go 140 miles an hour on my way to work on my motorcycle on the turnpike, then don't build the turnpike like the biggest straightaway you've ever seen on planet earth. Truly, it all comes down to design. The county has designed their roads to be higher speed limits so that they can accommodate commercial traffic, which is why the stop sign's higher than we think it should be because the roads, especially county roads, are not designed for civilians.

The Interstate was built for the military, not for us okay [chuckles] so it has to do with design. We are needing a study to present to the county to encourage them to say, "We should design this differently, that is the issue." There you go.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much Vice Mayor Urbom, I appreciate it. Anybody else on the matter of traffic calming and traffic solutions? Zoom we're good?

Speaker 3: We have one.

Mayor Nickerson: We have one.

Speaker 4: Hi, everyone. I'm [unintelligible 02:57:05] on 40 North East 86th street here. Thank you for continuing to deal with this issue it's important. I live a block away from the park, but my kids cannot walk to it, I would never in a million years allow them to cross that street, North East 2nd, by themselves because it's extremely dangerous. When we talk about having parks in every neighborhood, we need to take into account the fact that if you have a park in your neighborhood but it's across an arterial, it's not in your neighborhood. That's point one.

I agree with Urbom that the speed limits are too high for most of our residential streets. My street has a curve on it that is blind, and its speed limit is 30 miles an hour, that's the same speed as North East 2nd so that's definitely something that needs to be addressed.

I know the county is allowing municipalities to reduce their speeds to 25 miles an hour out of hand, I believe El Portal should try to go to 20 miles an hour, which does require traffic study

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at least on the residential streets. I know that the traffic study or the traffic counts that were taken in 2019 showed that most of the arterials didn't have a speeding problem but North East 2nd did. That the average speed on North East 2nd was at 41 miles an hour which is 11 miles over the speed limit. That means that we need to do something further on that street than just lower the speed limit.

I think what Juan and his team at Plusurbia put together, The Resilient Street Package, is really worth looking at, that there are a lot of good ideas in there. Miami Shores has done the hard work for us already of creating their downtown with one lane going south and one lane going north. All we have to do is continue that down through to the City of Miami which also has one lane going south and one lane going north. Only El Portal has this two-lane section and it encourages speeding and we should get rid of it, thanks.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much [unintelligible 02:59:50] I appreciate that. Anybody else about anything traffic calming? Zoom, we're good? Arthur, you guys good? You guys good. Anybody on the council? No? You guys good? All right, good. Moving along, you guys. For H3, the Miami-Dade County League of City dinner/the Miami Shores Gala, you guys want to make a motion to discuss?

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: [inaudible 03:00:25].

Mayor Nickerson: Motion made by Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward. Do I have a second to discuss?

Vice-Mayor Urbom: I'll second.

Mayor Nickerson: Second by Vice-Mayor-- Was it Vice-Mayor Urbom or who? Vice-Mayor Urbom. All in favor, say aye. Aye.

Crowd: Aye.

Mayor Nickerson: All not in favor say nay. All right. We have the MDCLC dinner. I spoke to them. They said that they're moving it back from-- It's usually, what was it, May? They're going to move it back they said to August or September. They said that they're going to have it. Vice-Mayor Urbom as the Chair of Public Affairs, we leave it up to you to decide what you want to do. We can discuss that when we get to the committee meeting. They said that they're going to have it. Are you okay with what you need for Easter or are you still short?

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Vice-Mayor Urbom: No, Easter, we're good. Arbor Day, we're probably okay, and then the 5K in May, that's concerning, 4th of July would be concerning. If they're moving it back to July or August, does that mean--

Mayor Nickerson: They moved it back to August or September.

Vice-Mayor Urbom: They're doing that, so they hold it as a fully functioning live event.

Mayor Nickerson: That's why they're trying to push it back, yes.

Vice-Mayor Urbom: Well, I feel like we can make a decision on that in July. We could at least discuss it in May in the committees but the goal of making a decision on that in July, we'll be almost to the end of the fiscal year at that point. We'll have a very good idea of what our economic picture is and what we can commit to. Not having it as a live event, my feeling was, well, we should contribute something but certainly not a full table. My thought was if they're going to simply do it as a virtual thing or simply as a fundraising for the scholarship, I would think we'd be in it \$500 as opposed to a table.

August changes things. It's probably the smart thing to do although it's also in the off months. It's hard to say who will be available to participate in August. If that is the case, is July a possibility? That they would possibly have it in July or do they say [crosstalk]?

Mayor Nickerson: No, August or September is what they said.

Vice-Mayor Urbom: In that case, then I think that we could discuss this again in May and make a decision by July [crosstalk].

Mayor Nickerson: I just wanted to make sure you had the money that you needed for the Easter event. That's the reason why I want to- [crosstalk]

Vice-Mayor Urbom: We have a plan to deal with what we have currently. The moneys that were in theory freed up from these two dinners have not been placed anywhere else yet because that decision to remove that money from those dinners is not necessarily finalized because we don't know what the dinners look like. If they're saying August or September, that's the very last months of our fiscal year so we'll know exactly what we can contribute by July with no doubt, by May, probably a good picture I would think.

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Mayor Nickerson: All right, thanks, perfect. As long as the Easter is okay or the spring egg hunt.

Vice-Mayor Urbom: We already have eight households, I believe, interested in participating in hosting for the Easter event.

Mayor Nickerson: Perfect. Anybody else from the council?

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Yes, sir.

Mayor Nickerson: Yes, Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: [inaudible 03:03:56] all we had to do is start to discuss but we ended up voting for something that we hadn't discussed, there was a motion to discuss. We're getting the idea, so I'm not really aching over that. I thought the last meeting we were talking about what we would be doing-- See, this is March, comes April is Easter, May is Memorial Day. Was it something about doing a fun run, 5K run, when is that going to be? April?

Vice-Mayor Urbom: That is-

Speaker 5: May.

Vice-Mayor Urbom: Yes.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: That's in May? Okay. I thought I was getting this right. With us talking about Easter, I'm not sure I understand, are we talking about having an Easter egg hunt? What are we talking about? We're still in a pandemic. What are we talking about?

Vice-Mayor Urbom: The Easter event is different houses will host as a site for people to come and then, essentially, 10 eggs will be placed out in the front yard, a group comes by, they essentially collect all those eggs and then the host site will put an additional 10 eggs out for the next group that comes through. Those people will be able to turn those eggs in to the village hall for awards and prizes for the kids.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: These are not edible eggs?

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Vice-Mayor Urbom: No, these are the plastic eggs with little toys inside and things like that. There will be a few eggs that have-- The golden eggs with the-- That can be turned in for a gift card. The idea is that individual groups can participate on their own in their own space and it involves a larger swath of the neighborhood. It's not just at a centralized site, it'll be at different sites.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: The wisdom is in the detail.

Vice-Mayor Urbom: It's not a virtual Easter egg hunt but it is socially distanced.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: What I'm trying to get to is do you have the money? I'm right there with the mayor, do you have the money and what are we talking about in terms of funding?

Vice-Mayor Urbom: That has a budget. The Easter event has a budget of \$500. We will probably use about every last dollar of that, but we believe that we are-- Another \$250 but we're actually looking for some sponsorships or donations to cover that as opposed to pulling any more money within the Public Affairs budget itself. For Easter, we think we're going to be fine coming in on budget for that.

For the Arbor Day event, we've got a good path to be on budget for that as well. Then the 5K has this year a 25% budget compared to years past. The 5K is the next large event where we really need to critically think about how we're going to use every last dollar for that event--

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Listen, and I bring this up at this point because I've heard from our veterans here and they don't like this 5K at all. Because they are all kind of, "This is not what you do with a Memorial Day. You don't do that. That is not what we do as those of us who have served for Memorial Day." Yes, there are other communities that do that but if we're going to honor the veterans, it's not like that. You can do that on Veterans Day, you can run all you want, we're still alive but the Memorial Day is-- Well, research it for yourself and you'll see that this is not what we do on Memorial Day.

It is Memorial, recognizing those that fought and died. They can't get up and run. Their relatives are more what hit in my heart is that we don't do that on Memorial Day, we allowed it. Now that we have a new person as mayor and very much respected in this community, by the way, I was chastised when we were meeting last week or last month on this issue.

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Think about that again because that's not what you do on Memorial Day. That is not what you do. Some communities do but we're not trying to keep something that may not be-- It's been very insulting. Let me say it the way it's been said to me. I never gave a thought in that regard. I gave a thought from the perspective of Veterans Day but that's on me. That's on me.

Let's do what we're supposed to do on Memorial Day. Yes, there are sometimes parades but there are [unintelligible 03:09:06] things, the memorializing, that's what it is. It's not trying to make a big-- Like we forgot they died. They literally died. That's what Memorial Day is. I stand as a living witness that it's not a pretty thing when you have to tell a loved one that they didn't make it out of the war. That's all I'm going to say on that.

Other things about our budget. Public Affairs, that's what you do. You do events and I commend you for wanting to chair that committee because there's a lot we could do to make the public know that we don't just sit here every fourth Tuesday and talk, we really want some activity in the village. Let's make sure we are cognizant that what we used to do; we may want to think about what we want won't be doing in the future. Enough said. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much, Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward. Vice Mayor Urbom? We good? Okay. Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward, we did that 11 years in a row until COVID. It's not Memorial Day. It's not a Memorial Day 5K. It actually takes place I believe it's on Armed Forces Day. It's not Memorial Day because we always do it in the middle of May. It's like May 15th, 16th, 17th.

If we want to decide that we don't want to do it, we can decide that, but it's not a Memorial Day 5k. It's not Memorial Day. Like I said, we did 11 years in a row. It was started by former Mayor Cubillos. She started it in dedication to her husband who's a colonel in the military and all military individuals. We usually get a good amount of-- When it got bigger, we got a good amount of individuals who were in the military who would come out.

It's not a 5K run, it's a 5K walk-run, but it's for Armed Forces Day, it was not for Memorial Day. Anybody else for-- Any talk about the Miami-Dade League of City dinner before we move on to the next item?

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Yes.

Mayor Nickerson: Yes.

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Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: What's the cost of that?

Mayor Nickerson: The dinner?

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Yes.

Mayor Nickerson: The dinner, I believe, is \$1,500 that we have budgeted for.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Per person?

Mayor Nickerson: No, that's for a table.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Table [unintelligible 03:12:01]

Mayor Nickerson: Table of 10.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: [unintelligible 03:12:02] Table of 10?

Mayor Nickerson: Table of 10. We usually do all the five council members with a guest that they want to bring. That's how we used to do it in the past, and if a council member can't come, then we'll bring a police officer or something like that if a council member can't come or doesn't want to go, but we usually do a table. Like I said, for now, they're pushing it back. They're going to try to do it-- It usually happens in May. We're going to try to do it now in August or September.

Like I said, the only reason why I put it on the agenda was to bring it up because I wanted to make sure that Vice Mayor Urbom had what he needed for his event.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Do we usually pack it out?

Mayor Nickerson: Yes, we always pack it out.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: [unintelligible 03:12:41]

Mayor Nickerson: Yes, our table's always full.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Very good.

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Mayor Nickerson: No problem. Anybody else for the dinner before I move on? Anybody else out there? You guys are good? Zoom, we're good? Okay. The next thing, Madam Manager, I'm going to have you come in on this. The manager contacted me because we had questions about the Miami Shores Gala. She contacted me and said that she had spoken to the mayor of Miami Shores, and then there's something that the mayor of Miami Shores is doing that she wanted us to consider. Madam manager, the floor is yours.

Village Manager Alou: Yes, thank you. Last year, the Mayor's Gala was canceled. We had paid for a table, the Miami Shores Community Alliance who is, I guess, the host of the Mayor's Gala, and they're 501(c)(3). In line with what we've discussed in the past about a 501(c)(3), this is the entity that does fundraising for Miami Shores, and its interest. They are doing an online fundraiser and they asked that we please consider contributing in any amount to the Raise Up week-long fundraising, and we're a week out. We've already missed the deadline, but I was contacted again like, "Please don't feel like you can't do it if you're able to give or contribute, let us know. We're accepting all donations."

I said that we had to cut our public affairs budget, but that I would bring it to this body to consider if you would like to give a donation to the Miami Shores Alliance.

The funds are utilized for nonprofits to provide educational programs, cultural arts, senior services, environmental and green initiatives, equity and diversity, women's health services, after-school recreational activities, special events, civic and social clubs and more. I have provided everyone with just a printout of the online donation site.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you very much, Madam Manager. Yes, Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward?

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Thank you, Madam manager. You've answered a lot of my questions. Is this is the reciprocation that they do with us when we do our [unintelligible 03:15:03].

Village Manager Alou: No. [chuckles] Although, I don't know that we've asked them to sponsor any activities for us.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: [inaudible 03:15:14].

Village Manager Alou: Yes.

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Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: [inaudible 03:15:17] It's a fundraiser, so it seems they are in need, [inaudible 03:15:32] that they do, which is [unintelligible 03:15:38]

Village Manager Alou: Well, anyone can contribute, but because we'd purchased a table before, they're asking us to sponsor something as well and provide because those funds for the gala, for the purchase of the table, go toward this, toward the Alliance. Instead of having the actual gala, they're just asking for the contribution.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: [03:16:07] participate as a community or as a council?

Village Manager Alou: As a council, as a group.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: [inaudible 03:16:27] You know what? I won't argue with the [inaudible 03:16:32] We have a common road [inaudible 03:16:35] to get that road paved [unintelligible 03:16:58] all by themselves [unintelligible 03:17:00] this is like an olive branch to me, because the last time we needed that road paved, you know what happened?

Instead of the crazy stuff of you pave your half, and we'll pave ours, they agreed to pave up to a certain point, and then Miami Shores paved the rest of the way. Well, it's that thing that makes me interested in knowing if we have the money now, if we have the money, that we might want to participate because we need a better relationship. This man has reached out not just the two communities, she's crossed the border to be recognized that we are different people, come see what we're about, come live in our area.

It would be a matter [unintelligible 03:17:56] of the whole council here to determine our philanthropic advancement on this one. Quite frankly, for me, I'd love to [unintelligible 03:18:09] Miami Shores over there, and they'll give a-- About us. Well, there's El Portal over here and they don't-- That's not true. That's not really true, and we need to change that perspective and maybe this is the road to do that. Thank you so much for bringing it to my attention because I wasn't aware of this.

Mayor Nickerson: Thank you, Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward. Anybody else in the council?

Councilperson Martin: Mr. Mayor, are we deciding now whether or not we're going to donate to this entity?

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Mayor Nickerson: If we get to that, finally, I'm just going to get all the discussion out of the way first, and then I'll ask for a motion if we want to do a motion, then we can discuss, if we want to do a motion if you want to say how much you want to do, if you do not want to do it at all.

Councilperson Martin: Okay. Well, for me, I would lean on the side of not doing it, I think especially because we've just said that the tot lot is not going to be open for a while. Maybe some of those funds could be redirected to something that is geared towards maybe the families who have younger kids. Maybe we can do some sort of something, pop up something. I know you mentioned Horace Mann's Park Ring, or you're doing something that maybe come into fruition.

We can use that money to think out of the box to create something that's really unique and special in this time for our residents. I do think that we have been benevolent enough in the past and we've given to their dinner and unfortunately, this is just a unique year and maybe this is the year that El Portal needs to use those funds to either create something new in El Portal or do something really different this year just to brighten everyone's spirit and probably focus on those families that have younger kids at home that may be are

less than happy with the decision about the top lot. That's just my opinion.

Facilitator: Thank you very much, Councilperson Martin. Anybody else? Vice Mayor Urbom? Councilperson Pirela?

Councilperson Pirela: Let me just say something because it happens this morning and it's good that you mentioned it with the school and all of that. Today was one of the few days that I go out early. It's very early in the morning I go out to the front yard and there was this little boy from the school, probably a 10-year-old passing by. He saw me and he asked me for a mask. Of course, I went outside because I have boxes of masks and I gave him a few masks. I asked him if the school wouldn't provide him with masks, and he told me no.

Here we are trying to contribute something to Miami Shores when we are having our own front yard, a school that's having kids walking from Northeast 2nd Street all the way to the school crossing the [laughs] super heavy street, North Miami Avenue and asking somebody for a mask. We could do something better with our money and try to contribute more to the school and those kids than going to a different funds. That's my opinion.

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Facilitator: Thank you very much, Councilperson Pirela. Anybody else from the council? That's good. Madam Manager, do you want to chime in, or are you good?

Manager Alou: No, I'm good. Whatever. Sure.

Facilitator: How are we looking on Zoom? We're good? Anybody out here? You good? All right. Actually, at this point we have a decision to make. Somebody can motion a certain number that we want to give, or we just don't motion anything, so I'm going to ask for a motion.

If you can make a motion, let's say, if you want to give you can make a motion with a number in your mind, and then we can discuss after the motion. Second, if you want to do that or when I ask for a motion if you do not want to do anything as far as this is concerned, then just don't say anything at all, and the motion will die. Also, somebody can motion if there's no second then the motion will die for lack of second. Yes, Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward?

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: I would like to make a motion in this fashion, since it was presented to us. The information was presented to us that we make this information available to the village. Let the villagers decide if they want to go ahead with this philanthropic venture and I would entertain a second on that.

Facilitator: I have a motion on the table to turn it to the villagers. Do I have a second before we discuss?

Mayor Nickerson: I'll second.

Facilitator: I have a second by Vice Mayor Urbom. I think the only problem, and this is not necessarily a bad idea, Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward. I think the problem may be because when the manager first brought this up she said that time was really of essence. I think she said that it had already expired the timeframe and Miami Shores may have reached out to her, even though it's expired, to see if we would like to do this as she's putting everything together. On the paper it says that it ended Friday, March 19th. I just don't know if we got time to send it to our residents for the time it takes to get an accurate count and stuff like that? That's the only thing I have to say about that.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: The only thing they can do when you're throwing a fundraiser like this. One thing they can do is return the money to the people that gave it, but

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we don't give the villagers the opportunity-- If I wasn't on the council and this came as a-- I don't know what you call it when you're just being nice and like the council says, this is what our neighbor is asking us to support.

If this were a nonprofit the bank that'd be doing it may be over, but the bank receiving or whatever sponsorship you want to do. It never ends because this is all year round if this is what I think it is. It's just another way of looking at this online fundraising event and saying we got it. How many things have we been in an organizations and we said after the polls and they still say you received a receipt, so I wouldn't count that out.

I'm just making a suggestion that perhaps if they would know that and the manager writes back to this after consulting with the mayor and hear it from the mayor and it got to the manager. Did it get to you, the manager? We write back and say, "While we were unable to support it as an organization, we have solicited all. We have made an attempt to the public, the neighbors in Alachua. We wish you luck in your fundraising event."

At least they know we went beyond just simply trying to think of a number to make sure this got killed. It's another way of thinking things, it's all, as my distinguished Councilwoman emphasizes, to start thinking out the box as opposed to always going to kill it.

Facilitator: Thank you very much, Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward. Anybody else have any suggestions? Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward, how would you want it to look? How would you want it logistically? Would you like it to be a vote through the website?

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Yes.

Facilitator: Yes. I think that'd be the easiest. That might be the easiest way, to vote through the website.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Thank you for the suggestion.

Councilperson Jacobi: Sorry. I'm confused. Are we putting this out for the residents to donate?

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: If they want to.

Facilitator: For the residents to donate?

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Councilperson Jacobi: Yes, because her interpretation to me was so the residents, correct? Now you're saying something different.

Facilitator: Yes, I'm saying something different.

Councilperson Jacobi: You need some clarification on that.

Facilitator: I understand now. Anybody else have any comments on this? Anybody on Zoom? We're good? Nobody out here, we're good. Yes, come and say your name and address for the record.

Juliana Colinger: Hi. My name is Juliana Colinger. 8650 Northeast Miami Court. I do believe that there are going to be years where budgets are reallocated, and I do trust you to make the right decisions. I also like knowing about them and I'm really glad that I'm here to know about these things.

There are going to be times when we do need to, I think this year, I agree, that we need to be able to move the money towards something else. I also like the idea of letting our community know about this opportunity to give back. I'm saying 'giving back' because at the end of the day we are neighbors with Miami Shores and we do enjoy some of the benefits of having restaurants over there, of going to some of the parks over there, and it does show good, neighborly attitudes.

I like the idea of being able-- I don't know if we want to vote or whether they want to use the money or not. I was a little bit confused as well as to what it was that you wanted the city to do. To vote whether you should spend the money or not spend the money or to just have this being promoted within our community.

Even if the deadline has passed I think it's still something that we could do. Maybe we can do a fund where it's collected by us through the community and then given to the City of Miami Shores. I don't know. Those are just options that we could do collectively to give, rather than using it out of our own budget because I think it was discussed that it was out of the budget, right? There's options, so I like the fact of considering these options. Thank you.

Facilitator: Thank you very much. Yes, I believe, for clarification, correct me if I'm wrong, Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward. From what Clerk Jacobi corrected me on what you're saying is that we put it on the website and then the residents themselves can give out of their own pocket to the pot not the government. That's what she was saying.

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Anybody else you got? Anybody else on the council? You guys are good? I'm going to ask for a role call in a second. I'm going to have Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward repeat her motion because we've got a motion and we've got a second. I ask for role call. How are we looking on Zoom? We're good? Okay. Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward, can you please repeat your motion for the record before we do a role call?

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: In the spirit of showing support for the Miami Shores Community Allowance, I move that we place this information on the web and indicate to the residents that this is an opportunity to support a non-profit as per our neighbors' request.

Facilitator: Thank you very much. That was the motion. It's already been seconded, you guys. Madam Clerk, any more for discussion? You guys are good? Madam Clerk, may I please have roll call, please.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Roll call. Councilperson Martin.

Councilperson Martin: Yes.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Yes.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Councilperson Pirela.

Councilperson Pirela: Yes.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Vice Mayor Urbom.

Facilitator: Yes.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Mayor Nickerson.

Facilitator: I don't really like asking our residents for money. It's just so weird. I don't like to ask anybody for money. It's a weird position.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Being that the time has passed does that still, would even count?

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Yes, it will. It's an alliance. If you look it up, you'll see it does very good things.

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Village Clerk Jacobi: No, no, no, no. I'm asking--

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: He's got a role. Yes, he's right.

Village Manager Alou: I do not know. I would reach out to Miami Shores to see if they would like us to put it on our website, considering that it was a special drive, but perhaps just-- I don't know. I'll have to reach out and ask.

Facilitator: I'm going to vote no, Clerk Jacobi.

Village Clerk Jacobi: Motion passes four to one.

Facilitator: Thank you, you guys. Appreciate it. All right, so we're moving on. The next thing is the committee reports. Manager Alou, any highlights to your report?

Councilperson Martin: Mr. Mayor, one second.

Facilitator: Yes.

Councilperson Martin: Can I just back it up a little bit? Are we not going to determine at all the number, the amount, if any, that we're giving? Is that not important because I vote zero. I just want to make sure nothing pops up that we don't need.

Facilitator: What we voted on was that to put it on the--

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: That's it? That's all we're going to do?

Facilitator: She wanted to put on the website and say that, "Miami Shores has this fundraiser and if you want to give feel free to give."

Councilperson Martin: Perfect.

Facilitator: There's no threshold amount.

Councilperson Martin: Perfect. Thank you so much.

Facilitator: All right. Thank you. Thank you, Councilperson Martin. Madam Manager?

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Village Manager Alou: Thank you. I'm going to make this brief because of my managers' report is on the village website. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to reach out to me via email or phone call if you have any questions or want to follow up with me. I'm just going to touch on some of the bigger highlights.

First thing is The Sanctuary Rader Church property has been purchased by a group called Sanctuary Village LLC. They just received a permit for a security fence. They closed on the property on March 19th, which was last Friday and they're putting up a construction fence in the coming days. They told us their initial goal is to clean out the property and get it dried out with the new roof to prevent further deterioration.

They will be applying for these permits once they have the asbestos report in hand. They have repainted the building already, repaired all the entryways. As some of you may know, we had some public safety issues with the building, had fallen into such disrepair. We had some squatters in there as well. Police has been in a number of times trying to clear out that area as well as our code enforcement.

They've done a lot to secure the property since the purchase. We're excited to see what they have in store for us. I have reached out to them to ask if they are planning to host any community meetings and forums so that our community can get to know them and get to hear their plans, but also to give their feedback as well.

When that happens, I'll let you know when I hear back from them on what their intentions are for property. As of now the intention is to put a restaurant in the chapel, part of the building and office space for the other part, the two-story area. We were told on a phone call with these new property owners that they want it to look like a property that they have in new Orleans called the-- I can't remember, I'm sorry, but it may look really nice. We're excited.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: What's the name of the company?

Village Manager Alou: It's called--

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Sanctuary?

Village Manager Alou: Well, Elm Springs is the property management company. The client is Sanctuary Village LLC. That's the name of it.

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Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Okay, I'm just doing something quick on the Google. Okay, go ahead. Finish your report.

Village Manager Alou: Thank you. Then moving forward, let me see here. We're just working on a number of things. We discussed the traffic study and the police department is very active. They conducted a detail for the train rail tracks repair that was very successful, and rerouting traffic, and addressing those needs. We have had squatters incident; a scam was exposed.

The police department removed some squatters and have been addressing some of those issues and also bringing our awareness to the vacant homes in the community falling prey to squatters coming in and then displacing new owners. We're working with our building department and with police. That was inter departmental effort that really did work out.

We're happy about that.

All of our officers have completed FDLE one-hour trainings on child welfare, recognizing head injuries on children and babies. There was a mandatory due date of June 2022. They were ahead of schedule. Also, we've completed an FDLE audit which was also set up past satisfactory. We're all in good standing with that code enforcement. As you all know, I've sent you some memos and discussed the short-term rental bill that was before the Senate during this legislative session.

As you all know, it's a hot topic right now, especially with everything that happened on South Beach over the last couple of weeks. In fact, we had one of our own neighbors home in Biscayne Park was advertised to for spring break Freaknik party March 12, which was just two weeks ago. El Portal police had to back up the Biscayne Park police in getting that party broken up and getting those party goers off the street.

From what I understand, it was quite the scene and the Manager of Biscayne park was on the call with Senator Pizzo discussing just the realities of short-term rental and how these are used as party homes and it is disruptive. It is a nuisance, and noise, and trash, what have you, which is more of a code enforcement issue. The police departments are called upon quite a bit because this is happening during the evening hours and on weekends when code enforcement staff is not on duty.

Our police are stepping up, they're doing their part, but it really is a tragic concern that we're all plagued with. You have ownership rights in your home and during the short-term rentals

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benefits a lot of people for traveling and being an economical way to see different cities and vacation, but the downside is what it means to our community. Again, the nuisance, the noise, and the trash. I'll keep my ear out on this house bill and keep you informed as things shake out for that, but we are staying on top of that.

If you check my reports, you'll see a lot of information about code enforcement and the list of violations and what have you. We have been very active with the building department as well in issuing many permit. We seen a tremendous increase in our permits, but we're working a lot on that. Mr. Jean, as well as Mr. Garcia are getting a lot done. There is a need to really do more scanning and to take the antiquated filing out of the in-house area and put it into a cloud.

That is the way other municipalities do it. It's more efficient and effective. Without a filing clerk or someone to back up Mr. Garcia, we're having some issues with getting files back where they need to be so that then they can be pulled upon again. We've had some issues with that. Unfortunately, Mr. Garcia has had to come in on weekends sometimes to just catch up on filing, which in turn gives me a pause because we need him fresh and ready on Monday through Friday. We're working on those things, but that's just the reality of so much more permitting and more work, and just needing a little backup, some support. One other highlight I want it to bring your attention to is-- There's so many things I hate to delete or just pass it much, but we have been very active. I participated in the Miami-Dade County, ADA compliance workshop on the 17th. I reviewed our ADA compliance with Full Moon Creative, as well as our Webmaster. We now have another statement on the village website that discusses our ADA compliance and we are. We're doing really well with that, with the new website, especially. We'll continue to monitor that and do our best with our ADA compliant.

I actually sent you all memos and some information I've also placed on the website about the FEMA flood maps for insurance. There was a proposal of that has increased the flood zones to include a lot of El Portal, including the El Jardin area, which was not previously included. This will mean more homes will have to have flood insurance. We know those rates can be extremely high.

I mean, it's a good thing to have if you have a flood, but to require it for some areas that may not be so affected, maybe a bit oppressive financially for them. I will be meeting with other City managers and leaders with the FEMA representative in the coming weeks. They told us

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it would be mid to late April to discuss any challenges or concerns we have, what our residents are thinking about this flood map amendment.

I asked if you have any concerns or questions, please let me know as well. I've put it on the village website. I've also reached out to our Sustainability and Resiliency Taskforce so that they can get the word out as well. We really want our residents to be aware of the change that's coming and how they'll be affected and how they'll be affected financially with this as well. For now, that concludes my report. Again, if there are any questions or concerns, please do contact me and I'll be happy to answer.

Facilitator: Thank you, Madam Manager. I appreciate that. For me, you guys, myself and the manager share so many things. We're always in the same meetings, her, I and Attorney Geller. I did want to point out that if you guys remember that the first payment for that FEMA reimbursement was 462,318. We did get another one 407,000, which is good. That money is continuing to roll in. Our remaining debt is down to 679,750. Still a lot, but it sounds much better than over a million.

Steady chipping away at that and maintain these relationships so that they love us, and they continue to pay us. [chuckles] Also, there was good news with-- and I think the Manager touched on this, and that was a whole thing with the little river set to the sewer on 2nd Avenue. Now, you guys know phase one is West of Horace Mann. Our lobbyist actually has gotten a bill in for commercial conversion, commercial corridor conversion, which is Northeast 2nd Avenue.

The good news is that it's in the house right now, it's in the state house. The good news that it was passed by the first subcommittee, 11 people in the subcommittee. It pass 11- 0. Thank you to Representative Dotie Joseph for that. She's the one that put that through. We were happy to hear when that occurred.

I will like to say that what we should really keep an eye on you guys is, there is a Senate bill that is about a residential home protection. I don't know if this is the one you touched. I think you touched on vacation rentals. The vacation rentals one. That one is crazy also. The vacation rentals one, it says that local guy government can't make the decision for themselves.

We can't decide what we're going to do in our own cities. That's the vacation rental one. It says, "Preempts Local Government Regulation and prohibits local law ordinances or

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regulation from allowing or requiring--" We wouldn't be able to inspect anything in our community occasionally. We wouldn't be able to ask for licenses.

It prohibits local governments for requiring inspections. We couldn't even require inspections from individuals in our neighborhood, or licensing, or establishments, or vacation meals, or even public food service establishments. We can't require inspection of a public food service establishment. Can you imagine how crazy that is?

Mayor Nickerson: Somebody is getting paid.

Facilitator: Can you imagine how crazy that is.

Mayor Nickerson: Sounds like the way we went to war it was written.

Facilitator: That's crazy. Like we have to have public food establishment be able to be inspected. That's vacation renewals. The other one that's probably even more dear to our heart, I would say is the residential home protection. This is also in the Senate. I just want to give a thanks to Senator Pizzo because he's against these things, and he's really helping us out with this stuff.

Residential home protection, it says it prohibits local government. It would prohibit El Portal-- Oh, Councilor Pirela's going to love this one. It will prohibit El Portal from requiring a notice application, or approval, or permit for moving trees. Anybody can just start removing any tree like they want to in a tree city USA with all of our beautiful landscaping.

Speaker 2: There's no sense to be spending money \$10,000 in trees.

Facilitator: Crazy. Hopefully these things don't pass, as I said. What was really good was that Senator Pizzo, I think it was yesterday. I think it might've been yesterday or Friday last week. He was a deciding vote that stopped it in committee. Shout out to Senator Pizzo for that. Appreciate Senator.

[applause]

We love you, Senator Pizzo. He's saving all the trees in our community. [chuckles] We'll see how far it can go. Hopefully, it dies in another committee and then it'd be done with. I would like to say that you guys on Thursday, I don't know if you guys got this email, if you didn't, I'll send it out. On Thursday we have a community forum. That's Thursday from 5:30-7:00. If

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you guys can get it, I'll make sure I send it or send it to the Village Manager. I think she has the link also.

It's a little river adaptation action area. They had one before. It's about sea level rise. They had one before I believe Vice Mayor Urbom, you were on. It starts at 5:30 PM. It's an hour-and-a-half. It ends at 7:00 PM is Thursday night. It's a community forum. Anybody from the community can be a part of it. We'll put that on the website. I'll send you the information, Madam Clerk so we can put that on the website so that it can get--

Village Clerk Jacobi: If I may Manager, just about the community forum. Yes. I met with Christian Camera this morning with Orlando Rubio, our engineer to talk about all of the water projects. They are all up to speed. They know everything we're working on. You'll be set for tomorrow, but these are really valuable webinars. I strongly suggest everyone to attend and get the scoop on what they're doing, what the adaptation area action is.

Facilitator: Absolutely. Thank you very much Madam manager. That's Thursday from 5:30-7:00. We'll put that on the website. Then Friday, there's an adaptation detection, adaptation area. Webinars is one hour. They've been having, this is the last one is Friday. It's like a thing. They do it from 12 to 1:12 PM to 1:00 PM. This is Fridays. This is about evaluating and elevating homes. It's about flood and stuff. Flooding and things like that from the County.

The last one was really, really good. I attended that one, and that was the one about it happened on, I believe on March 10th. That was red lining. It was about historic segregation and a little river. It talked about how certain areas were put into like how the flood zones and back years ago, decades ago, they did that in this area based on segregation and based on race. That was really good. It happened a couple of weeks ago.

These things are really good, you guys. This is with full support of Miami-Dade County Mayor, Levine Cava. This was part of the whole process or the whole series of the one that I went to and spoke over there at the little river with Mayor Levine Cava. I send you guys out there before that happened. That was a Friday afternoon. It was part of that whole process. That's all, pretty much. When I say everything else the manager pretty much touched on, but we really have to keep an eye on the tree situation. That tree bill. We don't want that to happen. That's a thumbs down. We really want that thumbs up for that commercial corridor, except the sewer conversion. Passed the first committee, 11-0. 11 votes to 0 up there in the

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state. Shoutout to Representative Dotie Joseph. Shoutout to Senator Pizzo. We appreciate both of them.

[applause]

Attorney Geller, do you have any reports for us? No, he's good? Is he there? Did he get disconnected? We're good, Attorney Geller. I think you're cutting in and out.

Attorney Geller: That's the one called Zoom, the app there. There's going to be another Zoom?

Facilitator: We can go ahead and bring them in really quickly. Maybe he can connect while they're asking their question.

Jacob: Hello?

Facilitator: Hello?

Jacob: Hi, can you hear me?

Facilitator: Yes. Say your name and address for the record?

Jacob: This is Jacob. I'm at 200 NW 86th Street. I know it's very late. I applaud all of you for sticking around so late. I just had a question regarding the septic tanks and tying into the sewer and all the phasing. Is this something that's available on the website? Where can I find a map showing how are things going to be segmented into phases?

Facilitator: We can have that done. Go ahead, I'll wait for you to finish.

Jacob: Oh no, I'm done.

Facilitator: Okay. We can have that done. The thing about it is we have it set up to where a lot depends on it. Where we get the funds from, it's just a lot in the future to know where all the phases are going to be. Phase one is west of Horace Mann. The reason why phase one is west of Horace Mann is because we got money for that. We got funding for that because of the area that was west of Horace Mann and the cost of the properties that were over there.

We got money for that particular purpose. That's the reason why we're starting west of Horace Mann. If that wasn't the case, we would start Northeast 2nd because that's our

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business corridor. We got particular funding to do the 70th sewer which start west of Horace Mann. Phase two is definitely the business corridor. From there, it depends on how it branches out. It depends on what type of funding we can get, and things like that.

For example, we always intended on starting on Northeast 2nd because that's our business corridor, and we continue to lose a lot of businesses because we don't have sewage. The company that was helping us or that still is helping us, we're still in negotiation with them about some stuff. That particular company, Pennoni, that particular company went out and found funding for us so that we could fund that entire west side of Horace Mann because of the type of homes that were over there.

That funding doesn't exist for other parts of El Portal. There might be other funding that exists for other parts of El Portal. As far as saying where all the next phases are going to be, we just can't say that. It depends on the funding.

Jacob: Okay. Basically, I was just trying to figure out more about when I would have the opportunity to tie in the sewer, but it sounds like at this point, there's really no telling right now, right?

Facilitator: We know what we want to do, but as far as being able to give a distinctive amount of time, no we can't because it all has to do with the funding.

Jacob: Okay, got it. Thank you.

Facilitator: Thank you very much. We have anybody else over there? Do we have Attorney Geller back?

Attorney Geller: I'm here.

Facilitator: Yes.

Attorney Geller: Okay. As I said, I have to reconnect a dozen times in the last half-hour. It keeps reconnecting. I'll try to do this very quickly. If negotiations with the PBA, we propose it to them, meeting scheduled for them to come back plus our reporting. We're going to be able to reach an agreement with them.

As you know, Mayor, we've had some extensive discussions regarding the council vote with our planners so that we can move forward with reprogramming some of this stuff opinions or

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the council vote. We should have that more or less be very quickly and possibly, Mayor, you may want to consider a special meeting between now and the next Wednesday meeting. We completed the contract negotiations, the Securitor that are going to from the Brightline Station and we've reviewed the [unintelligible 03:56:13] contact, so we were able to move forward on those.

I have been in contact as recently as today with the Barrington brothers and some other supports in regard to finalizing a permit fee ordinance that we expected to move forward shortly. As you indicated, Mayor, we've had extensive conversations with them and some preliminary conversations with Miami-Dade in regard to the septic's over in west side of town. As you know, we had some conversations regarding the El Jardin Project that's also moving forward. We're also going to try and get some of the storm water issues addresses simultaneously.

Of course, you mentioned on FEMA, the floor is now bound to close to 50% of what it was previously. Our PO is ending not very long ago. The Florida Department of Emergency Management forwarded that two national FEMA, along with their support for our appeal. We're waiting to hear from the appeal. We don't have a definitive timeline on that, but we are optimistic on it.

In our conversations with FDEM, indicate that they're aware of the council we're using. It is highly regarded and we're optimistic that we'll be somewhat successful, if not completely successful. On our appeal, we don't need to get every dollar to be able to pay off the loan, but it is our hope to be able to get some reimbursements in addition to paying off the loan for some of the village's expenses. That's a quick summary of a lot of things going on. Be with the hour, I'm happy to take any questions from the council?

Facilitator: Thank you very much. Appreciate it, Attorney Geller. Any question for Attorney Geller? You're good? All right. Thank you very much, you guys. Thank you very much, Attorney Geller. I appreciate that. At this particular time, it is a little bit past 11:00. I need a motion to second. All in favor say aye. I need a motion to continue the meeting.

Vice Mayor Urbom: To continue the meeting.

Facilitator: I have a motion by our Vice Mayor Urbom. Do I have a second?

Councilperson Martin: I'll second it.

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Facilitator: I have a second by Councilperson Martin. All in favor say, "aye." All opposed say, "Nay." Very good. The next is unfinished business with general orders. Do we have any unfinished business? Anything else you guys want to finish up on? We're good? New businesses. Do we have any new business? Anything new? No.

Done with good and welfare. This is the final time for the residents if you guys want to come up and talk about anything at all. It doesn't have to be just things on the agenda. This is anything at all, you guys. This is your time to come up and speak about anything at all that you want to talk about. You have three minutes. Just say your name and address for the record. How we looking on Zoom?

Participant: We got one.

Facilitator: We have one? All right. We'll do her first then we'll do the Zoom in a second.

Juliana: Hi. Juliana Colinger. 8650 NE, Miami Court. I just wanted to commend you all for this great meeting that we've had today. I'm really impressed at how knowledgeable you all are of all the topics that you're looking at and considering, and really taking it seriously to heart with what I've seen, a good work ethic, and what is best for our community. I wanted to commend you all and thank you. It's a late night and I really appreciate this. This is the first time I've been here so long, and I know you do this all the time. I also wanted to thank you for the nice tone that this meeting has been today. I've been to other meetings before where the tone was different, and I have to say that I really, really appreciate this. I'm sure our entire community is seeing this, hearing it, and appreciating this and I hope that that ensues for more participation from our city. Change is not easy, and I really commend you all for your patience, your perseverance and I want to encourage you to continue to doing that. Thank you.

Facilitator: Thank you very much. Really appreciate it you guys. I really appreciate that, Miss Colinger. I hope that the home is coming along good. [laughs] I know you have a lot of work to do, but it's wonderful. Thank you very much. Who do we have on zoom?

Speaker 3: Let me see if Jake is still on hold.

Jake: Hi. This is Jake Rana again, at 200 Northwest 86th Street. I live next to the pedestrian bridge and my house is built on slab-on-grade. Since we've moved in, we've had a few floods and it's a bit concerning. It also appears that our house seems to be one of the few houses at

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least near us in an area that does not have a seawall, or probably did at one time and it was destroyed.

I've also noticed a few other houses down the street just from crossing the bridge that seem to have the seawall but are partially damaged. I looked into getting prices to get a seawall and whatnot. It's just economically not feasible at this moment, but I'm just wondering if this is something that El Portal will eventually look at helping the residents with, or is this something that we just, on our own, we have to figure it out?

Obviously, if we do it ourselves, it has to go through dam, it has to go through all kinds of authorities having jurisdictions and just because it's on the canal. I also asked this question to Mrs. Alou. I know she's very busy, but I'm not sure if she ever looked into that. El Portal was looking at repairing seawalls, but I don't know what happened to that.

Facilitator: Let me jump in on this. If you want to I can start. Go ahead. Go ahead. You start

Village Manager Alou: I will just say, Mr., Rana, I appreciate your question and, yes, we talk about it. I did a little research because, obviously, we don't have that program now, but there was a program in years ago and some funding had been identified, but the residents who were affected did not agree on the seawall-- the installation and what it would look like.

I think that was the issue and so the funds were returned back to the state, I was told. This was many years ago and I can't seem to find any information. This is just from me interviewing and talking to other people who've been around and knew the history of it and the former village manager.

At present there is nothing coming down the pipe for seawall for us except the fact that we need it, especially with sea level rise on these new flood maps that were presented by FEMA. It really calls for that and begs for us to look into "What can we do?" I don't have anything online just yet, though. Mayor, if you have something to contribute about the history of the seawall I'm sure Mr. Rana will appreciate hearing it, too.

Facilitator: Yes. Go ahead, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Nickerson: Recently in meetings, I know with Plusurbia as well, and then even with the lobbyists I had brought that up, "Can we get some lobbying money from Tallahassee for bolstering the seawall?" It was explained to me as I recall that the septic to sewer, but primarily the storm water projects-- Those infrastructure projects would need to be

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accomplished first before something like a uniform seawall was constructed across multiple properties.

Until that time that the infrastructure would be bolstered first, specifically meaning storm water, but then additionally the septic to sewer-- Until that time it sounds like creating an El Portal seawall plan is not an option. We're missing a couple components of infrastructure to be able to do a large project like that and it seemed clear that in the meantime until that was done it would be up to individual homeowners to deal with the wall there on the canal.

I certainly I'm looking for avenues for us to have some funding from the state or from the county that would help us with that because I know that some of the properties are losing, through erosion and things like this, wildlife, the flooding. There's multiple concerns for why the seawall should be there. It's my understanding that two pieces of infrastructure have to be completed before something like a seawall project becomes feasible or doable. That's how it was explained to me.

Jake: Okay. Thank you.

Facilitator: I mean, we can only hope that because right now the county is really focusing on flooding, and so we can only hope that it's closer than before. It's closer than we were at before. All right, you guys. Anybody else? We're getting welfare. How are we looking on Zoom? We're good? Okay, you guys. Moving right along. Do I have a motion to adjourn?

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Moved.

Facilitator: Motion to adjourn by Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward. Do I have a second?

Councilperson Martin: I second.

Facilitator: Second by Councilperson Martin. Any last thing before we go? Everybody good? We good? All right. The Regular Council Meeting for March 23rd, 2021. All in favor say, "Aye."

Council Members: Aye.

Facilitator: All opposed say nay. No nays. The Regular Council Meeting March 23rd, 2021 is adjourned at 11:12PM.

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[gavel]

Facilitator: Thank you very much, you guys.

Council Members: Thank you.

[off mic conversation]

[04:07:05] [END OF AUDIO]

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