



**Village of El Portal
Regular Council Meeting
Date: 12/19/23
Meeting Start: 7:03 PM
Meeting End: 9:02 PM
Meeting Length: 1:59:31**

[silence]

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Okay. Full Moon ready to go? Shout out to Full Moon. The regular Council meeting for Tuesday, December 19th, 2023, is called to order at 7:03 PM. Let's have a moment of silent meditation followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

[pause 00:00:46]

Council Members: 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 Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. Madam Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi, may I please have a roll call, please?

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Roll call. Mayor Nickerson?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Here.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Luis Pirela?

Vice Mayor Luis Pirela: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Vice Mayor Anders Urbom?

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Present.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward?

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Present.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Mathis?

Councilperson Darian Martin: Present.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Also present for the record, Christia Alou, Village Manager, Janice Jacobi, Village Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi, and the attorney is running a little late.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: No problem. May I have a motion to approve the agenda?

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: So moved.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Moved by Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward. May I have a second?

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Councilperson Darian Martin: Second.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Second by Councilperson Darian Martin. All in favor say aye?

Council Members: Aye.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All opposed say nay. Hearing none, moving on. Getting welfare, anybody can come up and talk about anything on this particular agenda. You will have time when we get to each agenda item to also come up and talk. After we discuss the agenda item, I'll also give the residents time to talk also again at that time. If anybody wants to say anything now, feel free to come up. Hearing, seeing none, we will hit every agenda item. The consent agenda. Do I have a motion to approve the consent agenda, just the minutes?

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: So moved.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Moved by Vice Mayor Anders Urbom. [laughs] I was about to say Pirela, but I knew that wasn't right. Moved by Vice Mayor Anders Urbom. Do I have a second?

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Second.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Second by Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward. All in favor say aye.

Members: Aye.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Opposed say nay. Hearing none. Attorney Village Attorney Joseph Geller is present, for the record. Moving on to the resolutions. Attorney Village Attorney Joseph Geller, you're about to be up because we have to swear everybody in who's going to be doing this.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Will everyone who's going to be a witness on anything tonight, please stand and raise your right hand? Please stand.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Stand.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: On your feet. Stand. Are you with us?

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Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Even those that are going to be-- if there's a site plan, there's a home situation or something like that, if you're going to be speaking on it or speaking about it, stand up, raise your hand.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Please repeat after me. I, state your name-

Witnesses: [crosstalk]

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: -do hereby solemnly swear-

Witnesses: -do hereby solemnly swear.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: -that the testimony I'll give tonight-

Witnesses: -that the testimony I'll give tonight-

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: -will be the truth-

Witnesses: -will be the truth-

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: -the whole truth-

Witnesses: -the whole truth-

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: -and nothing but the truth.

Witnesses: -and nothing but the truth.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: So help me God, or you may take an affirmation.

Witnesses: So help me God, or I'll take an affirmation.

[laughter]

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Thank you.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Very good. I appreciate that. We're moving on to the resolution, Resolution G1. We've gone through this one time before. The Corradino Representative, Scarlett, how are you doing? Can you come to the podium for us, please-

Scarlett Hammons: Yes.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: -just in case?

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Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Do you want me to read the first, Mayor?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes, read it first for us, Attorney Village Attorney Joseph Geller.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes, Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Can we do both of them at the same time since it's the same property?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: It's the same property. I didn't know if we could do both at the same time because he has read them into the record. Can you read both at the same time, Attorney?

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: I'll read both.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Okay. Sounds good.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: It should take separate votes.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All right. Separate votes anyway?

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Yes.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All right.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Resolution G1, resolution of the Village Council of El Portal, Florida, granting site plan approval to the addition to a one-story residence at 188 Northwest 89th Street. In Zone 3, suburban residents in the village of El Portal, an application by El Portal, LLC providing for findings, providing for conditions, providing for appeal, providing for evaluation of conditions, providing for an effective date.

Resolution G2, front yard lot exceeding. Resolution of the Village Council of El Portal authorizing the approval of the variance for exceeding overall lot coverage and exceeding front yard lot coverage at 188 Northwest 89th Street, as requested by El Portal, LLC, providing for a corporation of recitals, providing for an effective date.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much, everybody. Did anything change or was adjusted that needs to be pointed out?

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Scarlett: No, this is what was previously presented in October to the Planning and Zoning Committee meeting, so there have been no changes.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. Moving on to the council, any questions or comments from the council about this problem?

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Mayor, I see El Portal, LLC, that's the name of the company that's going to be doing the work or was that the person?

Mr. Herbo: The company.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Is the company that's going to be doing the work?

Mr. Herbo: They did it already.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: They did it already, so why are we got it?

Scarlett: Correct. It's an after-the-fact application at this point.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: All right. What's "after the fact"?

Scarlett: The fact that it has been constructed.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Already?

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Yes. They're trying to become legal to correct what they didn't. They should have been before you, before the construction, but in reality, that did not happen. Now they have come before you to make their situation legal.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Mr. Attorney, is there something there that we need to know before we give an approval on this?

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: I'm sorry, this is not on. You should take the staff report into account and take that in as evidence and accept that as evidence. Other than that, I don't think there's anything remarkable here. No. Not that I'm aware of.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: The only reason I'm asking, Mayor, is because others may come and think, "Well, let's just do it and then we'll just get the variance when we get there." That's not how we want to start doing things.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes, absolutely.

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Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: We're just this, and that's why I'm asking questions.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Councilwoman, we charge extra for doing it after the fact, but don't we?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: No.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: We don't?

Scarlett: I'm not aware of the fees, the process.

Councilperson Darian Martin: If I may, and I don't know if I could get some guidance on this. Was this the situation where the homeowner relied on something that was said by a city staffer that made them believe that they could proceed in this way?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: I don't believe this was that situation, was it?

Councilperson Darian Martin: It wasn't this one?

Scarlett: No.

Councilperson Darian Martin: Okay.

Scarlett: It's something similar.

Mr. Herbo: It was the situation.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: You want to come to the podium?

Scarlett: Oh.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Yes, we're trying to do this so that it's on the record and nobody thinks that it's a personal--

Councilperson Darian Martin: Could you enlighten us on that?

Mr. Herbo: Yes. We was given all permits.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: I'm sorry, say your name on the record.

Mr. Herbo: Junior Herbo. I'm representing 188 Northwest 89th Street. We was given our permits. We knew nothing about this until we was about to close out final permit. It was said,

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"Oops, you guys made a mistake." What was the mistake? We was supposed to go through variance and now we're going through variance, but we had all our cards. We passed all our inspections. Inspectors came out, we knew nothing about a variance until it was final inspection time.

Councilperson Darian Martin: All right. Thank you for that. Do you know anything about that?

Scarlett: Now, he's reminded me. We started this, I think, in August or so, so it's been a few months. It was also another planner that was the previous planner-

Councilperson Darian Martin: I remember.

Scarlett: -that wasn't informed that this would have been something that should have come to you as a variance and also the site plan as well because they built, I think more than 50% of the-- They doubled the size of the house if you-- [crosstalk] Then the lot coverage never was an issue until the very end, as he said, when they were doing final inspection.

Councilperson Darian Martin: I understand. I do want to make it abundantly clear that it wasn't the Corradino Group that did this, but I do remember that being the story from our Planning and Zoning Subcommittee meeting. I think that is why we said we will move it to full council because there was a level of reliance on erroneous information that was provided by the village, and we didn't want to penalize the homeowner for that. I think because of that, this quite clearly enumerates this situation from another situation where a homeowner would just unilaterally choose to complete the construction without coming for permits prior to.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much, Councilperson Darian Martin.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes, Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: For the record, I appreciate that. I appreciate the honesty. I appreciate you coming up and just being forthright about it. It happened. It didn't intend to be that way. I can accept that, but I wouldn't want people to think, "Well, let's just do it, and then we'll just come and apologize." Thank you so much.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: No, and if I may, also remember, based on the report that was reviewed for the site plan and based on the recommendation of the staff, that's what we went ahead and prove it, because it's not violating any code as far as construction goes. Like the main structure, it complies with all the site setbacks and everything else.

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Scarlett: Correct.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: It's just process.

Scarlett: Correct?

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: It's just process.

Scarlett: It's just the lot coverage issues, really, that they went over slightly.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Any more comments or questions from the Council?

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Yes, a couple of questions. The variance is specifically to the driveway, is that correct?

Scarlett: It is two things, the overall lot and the frontage between the driveway.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Okay. How far? On the overall lot, what was the percentage that went over?

Scarlett: Yes. The increase on the overall lot, they should be at 40 and they're 49. In the front, that's limited to 33% and they're asking for 40%.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: I see. Okay. The driveway has already been redone as well, is that right?

Junior: Yes. [unintelligible 00:11:18]

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Okay. Then these of the setbacks of the HVAC specifically, there's two HVACs, one on either side of the building. Are the setbacks for those HVACs? Do we have five feet to the property line?

Junior: Yes,

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: We do?

Junior: Yes. Everything else is.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: I just want to be clear about the driveway situation. Anyway, it looks like well done job. Looks like nice plans.

Junior: Thank you.

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Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: You guys have Certificate of Occupancy on this building? There's people living there now. Is that correct?

Junior: No.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: That's what we're waiting on probably process--

Junior: [crosstalk] -variance.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: All right. Okay. I guess those are all of my questions.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: The extra coverage on the driveway because of the size of the property, you said it's only 7%. It represents the minimum--

Scarlett: It's 7% in addition to-- [crosstalk]

Junior: It's almost nothing when it comes to low coverage and the front coverage.

Scarlett: For the park. Exactly.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: That's why we are here. All right.

Councilperson Darian Martin: My end, one more thing. I think when you do make a mistake, you do have to own up to it. On our end, there seems to have been a mistake. It's just not something that I think that the homeowner should have to suffer the consequences of. The Corradino Group has looked into the issue and in the ways that it is not conforming. I think the staff report stated that they were not gross enough to suggest that this was not approved. Correct? Like they should be approved. Correct? Your staff recommendation was to approve.

Scarlett: To approve, yes. The recommendation is to approve.

Councilperson Darian Martin: I think with that being said, [chuckles] we don't want to torture this homeowner too much, number one. Number two, our Planning and Zoning officials say that, "This is something that can be approved without there being too many negative consequences to the village." I would note that.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Mayor this time you should-- [crosstalk]

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Accept the staff report into evidence.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: I didn't hear you.

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Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Accept the staff report.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: I'm sorry, Council, when I said, at this time the staff report should be accepted by the Council into evidence.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. Motion to accept the staff report?

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Moved.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Move by Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward. Second?

Councilperson Darian Martin: Second.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Second by Councilperson Darian Martin. All in favor say aye?

Council Members: Aye.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Opposed say nay? Hearing none.

Dudley Mayard: I'm sorry. I just want to add one more--

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Go ahead. Say your name, address for the record please.

Dudley Mayard: Dudley Mayard, a member of the 188 LLC. We have a citation or something that's out. I just wanted on record for you guys to work with us when we get this resolved. The reason why we wasn't able to close out the citation is because of the various issues that we have going on now. Just keep that on record when we do come back to close out the citation that the fees have been accumulating is because of this variance that we're doing now.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Fees accumulating?

Councilperson Darian Martin: I can work with you on that. From the administrative side, we'll work with you in code enforcement. I will get with Mr. Simmons to review and we'll reach out to you to see how we can resolve. Okay?

Dudley: Okay. Thank you. Appreciate it.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: I'm Chair of Code Enforcement Committee, so I will also follow up with the manager on that.

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Dudley: Thank you.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Very good.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Any other questions or comments from the Council?

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: See, Mayor, for benefit of those that are listening, we may be small, but we are definitely just as concerned about this village. Somebody just shut me off. We're just as concerned about this little village not being taken for granted just because we're little. We're coming forth, seeing the problem, bringing it to our attention, especially the manager's position, and it's on the agenda.

It's here so that we go on record stating, if there's an error, don't be ashamed. Come to us. You'd be surprised how understanding not only administration, but the Council will be. Things happen. Not like somebody tried to do something deliberately. I just want to applaud those of you that came to tell us that it really wasn't intended. It just was an oversight. Appreciate it. Thank you.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much, Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward. Anybody else from the Council, questions or comments? Hearing none. Anybody from the audience, questions or comments? Hearing, saying, none. Back to the Council? Any last questions or comments before I ask for a motion? Hearing none. Do I have a motion to approve?

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: So moved.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: For the record, that's G1.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: It is G1.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: The site plan approval?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Yes. One at a time.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Yes, I moved to approve the site plan.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. Do I have a second?

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Second.

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Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Okay. Madam Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi, may I please have a roll call?

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Roll call. Councilperson Darian Martin?

Councilperson Darian Martin: Yes?

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Council person Lightfoot ward?

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Vice Mayor Anders Urbom.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Luis Pirela?

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Mayor Nickerson?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Motion passes, five to none.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. Any last questions or comments about the front yard lot exceeding? Any questions or comments from the audience before the second? Back to the Council, final questions or comments, front yard? Do I have a motion to approve G2 front yard lot exceeding?

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: I'll move to approve the variance.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Variance moved by Vice Mayor Anders Urbom. Do you have a second?

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Second.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Second by Councilperson Luis Pirela. Madam Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi, may I please have a roll call?

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Roll call. Councilperson Darian Martin?

Councilperson Darian Martin: Yes.

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Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Council person Lightfoot ward?

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Oh, yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Vice Mayor Anders Urbom?

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Luis Pirela.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Mayor Nickerson?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Motion passes, five to none.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. Congratulations to you all. Appreciate it. If nobody is opposed to it, since we have a lot of visitors here for the short term rental, I would like to move that up if that's okay with everybody.

Scarlett: It's completely up to you.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Is that all right with everybody?

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: What do you want to do?

Councilman: Can we move that up? The short term rental discussion, can we move it up?

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: What do you think?

Junior: G7.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: G7.

Scarlett: I'm open to any way that you guys want to structure it.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Can we attack it right now? All right, you guys.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Let's do it.

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Village Attorney Joseph Geller: We're going to move on to the G7 ordinance, the short term rental ordinance. This is bringing back the amendment. This is first reading. An ordinance of the village of El Portal, Florida, relating to short term vacation rentals within Zone 3. Amending the existing ordinance providing a definition of a vacation rental, requiring a registration to operate a vacation rental.

Providing standards for issuance of a vacation rental, registration, requiring insurance for a vacation rental, providing standards of operations, providing for penalties for violations of this section, providing for incorporation of recitals, providing for conflict and repeal, providing for codification, providing for severability and providing for an effective date. First reading.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All right. Here we go. We're back to the first reading, this is how we're going to do this. I'm going to go to Councilperson Darian Martin. I know she was very involved in this. I'm going to go to Councilperson Luis Pirela, and then I'm going to go to Attorney Village Attorney Joseph Geller, and then I'm going to open it up to the Councilman, and then I'll go to the audience, then I'll come back to the Councilman, and then we'll do a vote for the first reading. Councilperson Darian Martin, up to you first.

Councilperson Darian Martin: This is going to be very quick for me. We have discussed this issue extensively, and we have already, as a collective body, voted to have a short term rental ordinance in the village. This is a refinement of that ordinance. The attorney has sought counsel with other attorneys. He has listened to residents in their complaints and brought forth what we believe is a more perfect document.

All of the statements that I've made as to why I believe there should be a short term rental ordinance in the village, those stand and remain. I think, as a collective body, we've decided to move in this direction, and this is a perfection of the document. I think the discussion should relative be short on this one. That's the entirety of my statement.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much, Councilperson Darian Martin. Of course, we'll be coming back to the Council if you have anything further to add. Councilperson Luis Pirela, I know you intricate part of this also, so if you want to go ahead and chime in.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Yes, again, echoing what Councilwoman Darian had said, this is something that we've been working for a long time and is being revised so we don't get in too much trouble as the lawyer that is, actually, on the side of the short-term renters discussed already. If we had an extensive conversation about this, a new one, this new ordinance proposed or ordinance with a lawyer, so basically, our

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ordinance is different than any other municipality because, supposedly, it actually stays within the parameters of what the state regulations dictate.

Apparently, all other ordinances that are out there that we've been studying for the past two years are in challenge or in violations. This is something that it will, actually, benefit everybody and it's just bringing everybody in compliance without any troubles or anything. The only question I have in one of the whereases is where it says, "All the state preemptions allow for inspections for the state violations rental fire code, building code, and for local building code for new construction."

That means that the established short-term rentals are not going to be regulated, so there's no inspection required. Anybody can be running in short-term rental on an illegal addition or room in their house where they built an extra bathroom without permits, or a kitchen that is not legal to have second kitchens, or wet bars in their house. That's my biggest question here.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Attorney Village Attorney Joseph Geller?

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Yes, thank you, Mayor. Vice Mayor, that's not quite my view of it. What it is is that inspections, there are some provisions in this that allow for inspections if there's a violation of something like the Florida Building Code that can be inspected. There are other circumstances where an inspection is appropriate. You can't have an illegal kitchen, you can't have an illegal bathroom, but what we can't do is target short-term rentals for those inspections. It's illegal to have a conversion without a permit, a bathroom, a kitchen, regardless of what you're using the property for.

It's equally illegal if you're renting it out as a short-term rental, or if you're putting your mother-in-law there or if you're renting it on an annual basis. It's still illegal, but we don't have the right to automatically enter anybody's property to conduct an inspection unless there's some reason to conduct the inspection. Basically, it's not that they're allowed to get away with these things, we just can't say it's illegal if it's a short-term rental, but if you're renting long-term or you're using it for a family member, then it's okay. It's not okay-

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Either way.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: -either way.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Right.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: The same principle that Vice Mayor Anders Urbom is pursuing with the noise ordinance. We can't say, "You can't make excessive noise if you're a short-term rental, but if you're a year-round resident, you can blast your stereo," or whatever they call them these days, "all night." It's illegal and we just, as we move to evolve our noise

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ordinance, it's got to apply to everybody. We can't target short-term rentals differently than we target other properties.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: That was my other question. In regards to, possibly new regulations or revising all the new ordinances that might come in place because of the noise and excessive noise or parking and even occupancy, which I don't see in here either, it's something that will apply to any existing, or let's say, if it is were to pass and then we have to change some of the other ordinances.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: You're 100% right.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Okay.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Noise, trash, parking are the three biggest complaints, but, certainly, over occupancy, those are existing ordinances, but we can amend them. We can make them tougher. We're trying now to do that, turned out not to be as easy as we'd hoped with noise, but the same with having too many people there. If you have too many people living in a premises, it's illegal.

We can have those ordinances, we can enforce those ordinances, we can make those ordinances more strict than they are. What we can't do is say, "Well, you can't do it if it's a short-term rental, but otherwise it's okay." If you violate the ordinance for noise, trash, parking, if you violate our ordinance on occupancy, whatever you're doing with the property, it's still illegal and the principle is that we can't target short-term rentals and treat them differently. They get treated same as everybody else.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Perfect. Thank you, Mr. Village Attorney Joseph Geller.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: The Mayor had recognized me, so let me just speak briefly to this. This has been an excruciatingly long process, but when we adopted this original ordinance, and Councilperson Luis Pirela's correct, there are a lot of cities, a lot of different municipalities in Dade County that have these regulations. Originally, people said, "Well, Miami Shores has it, why can't we do that?" We looked at it and they have an ordinance.

There's some things I didn't like about it. I looked at a number of others. I relied some on Miami Springs, but we looked at Miami Beach and we looked at other places. You brought up West Miami. In fact, I just had spoken with their City Attorney recently about some of this stuff because he's a friend. Frankly, yes, [chuckles] there are a lot of ordinances in this county for a lot of, I wouldn't say all of them necessarily, but, certainly, a lot, that do things that, frankly, state law on close inspection doesn't allow.

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It happens that some of the people who operate short-term rentals in our little community went out and got counsel who, frankly, this is what he does. He's an expert and he's been a reasonable individual. We must have spoken on the phone 10 or 12 different times. We've hammered out an ordinance. There's a few things in here he didn't love that he agreed to because we were being, otherwise, reasonable in acknowledging what state law is now.

As you and I talked about, Vice Mayor, I don't like the state law. It's not the only one I don't like, there has been a campaign over the last 10 years or so to restrict the home rule powers of municipalities in the state of Florida. The Florida League of Cities has fought a long battle against these, but mostly, unsuccessfully, although there have been some changes made.

I was in the Legislature when this current short-term rental law came up, and I voted against it. I don't like it, [chuckles] but it still passed overwhelmingly and it is the law in the state of Florida whether we like it or not. The counsel for our residents who are short-term rental owners, he's a very reasonable and knowledgeable gentleman, he said, "Oh, I'm not threatening to sue. That's not the case. We seek compliance," but he did just sue Coral Springs, and although they-- Not Coral Springs. Coral--

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Cape Coral.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Cape Coral, thank you.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Cape Coral?

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Yes, I believe that's right. After blustering, and talking, and litigating, and spending money, they ended up having to completely back down and settle, and that's not the only case. We're a particularly small community and one of the things I pride myself on as your attorney is keeping us out of court because we just don't want-- If we have to litigate something I sure want to be sure we're right. I don't want to take us into some litigation that we're going to lose, not only get damages but end up paying somebody else's attorney's fees.

Cape Coral, which is not huge but sure bigger than us, had to back down completely and they had to pay money and they had to pay fees. I think we've pushed this ordinance just about as far as we can without leaving ourselves liable for litigation. I've agreed with that Council that I've mentioned after an awful lot of conversations and sessions, that there are some things that we need to be able to do.

Enforcing the Florida Building Code is one of them. Life Health Safety Regulations, I have a particular issue with things called Drain Pool Covers that cover the drains in pools because there have been some just horrifying stories about, mostly young girls with long hair having

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their hair sucked into that drain and drowning because they couldn't save them in time. We can enforce that. We can enforce things like fire codes.

There's provisions to require there to be somebody in at least roughly the vicinity, it's not as strict as we would like, but the days when the responsible party for short-term rental was nothing more than a post office box in New Hampshire are governed by this code. The thing to keep in mind is there are also part of the Legislatures, I'll use the word scheme, but I don't want it to sound pejoratively, that's the scheme of things that's been set up, is there are some circumstances where our very exceptional, aggressive code enforcement officer is allowed to conduct inspections as to certain violations.

We can't enforce those violations, but he can enter under certain circumstances. If he observes violations, he's able to, or anyone else who observes it, can report it to the state of Florida agency that investigates, and presumably, hopefully, they will come out and they will conduct enforcement action. Since the Legislature's plan is that they are then the party that can enforce these actions, we expect and hope that they will enforce, and there's nothing that stops us from calling it to their attention.

What we cannot do, as I said earlier, is we cannot target short-term rentals simply because they're short-term rentals. We can't target them for enforcement and treat them differently than other homes and residences in the village that have the same violation. They have to all be treated the same, and that's why some of the stuff that we might otherwise want to regulate and that other cities and towns think they are regulating isn't in our ordinance.

We've pushed it as far as we can, and one day one of these other cities and towns, or more than one, are going to try to enforce their code, and somebody's going to stand up against it and fight it and maybe take them to court. Then they're going to have an unhappy outcome, although if it's like the city of Miami or the city of Miami Beach with 20 or 30 or 40 lawyers on staff, it's less of a problem for them than it is for us to try to run up legal fees. We're trying to avoid that. I'm of the opinion that what we have proposed will stand up in court and that we've pushed it just about as far as we can without unduly looking to get sued. That's the ordinance.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Perfect. Thank you, Mr. Village Attorney Joseph Geller. Anybody else from Council want to add something?

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: I'd like to add something.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Go ahead.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: We're here now to everyone that came to see where our last night's going to look like. I just want to give a shout-out to the police, for our

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police services. We have people that do parties on [unintelligible 00:35:41]. They've been very good. What I like about it is anytime there seems to be a bunch of cars, I can also depending on the force, coming and just making sure that they understand.

They're not asking them to come in. They're not trying to get in on it. They come. They see the cars parked. They don't hear any noise. They see the people. Whatever they say, I don't hear noise. Do you hear noise on your side? Because we're right around the corner from each other.

Councilperson Darian Martin: I do hear noise sometimes, but I don't know exactly what you're referring to.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Just in the vicinity.

Councilperson Darian Martin: Yes, sometimes I do, but I don't know where it's from. I'll let you continue.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: That pleases me because whatever we've done in the past has been heard. Whatever they're doing in the administrative offices or the village Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi, whatever's being done, the folks that want to do this on my block, in my vicinity, just not on my street, I don't have the noise. I just see the cars and they're very careful about the cars being parked and where they're being parked, and I appreciate that. I mostly appreciate the force. Yes, major loss, I appreciate the force coming out. When people give a report, I don't usually have to call. No, I do not.

I see them coming through. They get out of the car. They're very polite. They spend maybe 5, 10 minutes. They're coming out. There's no noise. There's no noise on the front side. There's no noise on my side, there's no noise on the next street, nor the street over because I can hear all of them. I live on right there on the corner. I just want to let you know that whatever we've done, however we've done it, Vice Mayor, however, we've done it, it's been working on my block because, I was a fire [unintelligible 00:37:43] when it first started, and all this noise all night long was not what we were going to do. Kudos to the police force.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Nice to hear that. No, there's definitely more police presence around the village, so that's great. Thank you guys for that. Anybody else from the council want to add something?

Councilperson Darian Martin: I think we should open it up.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Okay. Let's go ahead and open it up to the public. Anybody that want to come and say something? Just, please, state your name and address for the record.

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Pascal Depaul: Good evening, Pascal Depaul, 177 Northwest 90th Street. Just point of order or question how you guys are going to run this. Are we going to do it like we did last time where we go through a section and have comment and go through a section and have comment or is this going to be like a one-shot? Tell us everything you want to talk about right now.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Mr. Pirela, do you feel like you've read it enough to where you know exactly what you want to address right now?

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Yes.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Other people out there, you guys have things you want to address also?

Speaker 1: It's the same.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Is it the same things? You're sure it's the same thing, the same sections?

Pascal: No, I'm not sure of that. We can either go by section or if you want, we can go through everything now. I think it makes more sense to go by section.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: It's not a lone ordinance. We should go one shot in the tip.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes. What do you--?

Councilperson Darian Martin: From what I understand, we're not workshopping the entire ordinance. What we do have is we have a structure within which you have three minutes to give us your comments on the entirety of what we're talking about. We can extend the time. I know usually the Mayor is flexible on the time, but I do think it would be wise for you to just put forth all of the issues that you have and just put that on the record. Then the next person can come up and put forth all of their issues and then we can take that into consideration, come back as a Council and make the decision. I think that's going to happen.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: We'll do it person by person. Just go ahead and knock it out.

Pascal: First of all, thank you very much for kicking out a bunch of the stuff that we guys asked you to kick out over the last year. I appreciate that. We've been working with you guys for the last, what? Is it now, a year and a half, two years on this? I appreciate that.

Councilperson Darian Martin: We thank you for your input. It's been helpful.

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Pascal: There's a few things. I'll just go in order. On page 2 on one of their whereases, you guys specifically have mentioned emotional support animals. They are not required for public accommodation, which an STR is under the DBPR. I think that should not be on the whereases. It's never been before. It's the first time it's on there now. I think it should be gone.

Councilperson Darian Martin: Can you tell us which whereas is that again?

Pascal: The first whereas on the second page talks about ADA-registered service animals, which is fine.

Councilperson Darian Martin: We got it.

Pascal: The emotional support animals are regulated under Florida Housing, not Florida Public Accommodations Act.

Councilperson Darian Martin: Okay.

Pascal: In Section 2, your definition as the village talks about that a vacation rental is a dwelling unit, but that's not defined anywhere. I don't know if that's a room or if that's a house. Is a folio number considered a dwelling unit? Is a house considered a dwelling unit, or is a room considered a dwelling unit?

Councilperson Luis Pirela: As a property, it's a dwelling unit, in general, and they're [unintelligible 00:41:27].

Councilperson Darian Martin: I understand your need for specificity on that and I would defer that to the village attorney.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: I will say reading through it, I hit the same speed bump, but I know we don't want to make any assumptions here. I was left with an assumption, which is not--

Pascal: We have hosts that rent a room in their house. We've talked about the difference between owner-occupants and people that don't live on the property. I still think that's something that needs to get addressed that's not addressed in this ordinance. We have a property that has a cottage where it's a completely separate building. Then our house, where we rent the cottage, it's a multi-family zone property, all that good stuff. That would be depending on how you define dwelling unit.

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Councilperson Darian Martin: Can the Village Attorney real quickly give us some guidance on that, on how we can better define dwelling unit, or if it's already contemplated, or should we add definitions in this?

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: We have definitions, but I'll go back and look specifically in the light of the comment about the distinction being drawn between a stand-alone cottage and a simple room that's being rented. I actually think the definition is adequate, but that doesn't mean that we can't improve upon it. That's why this is first reading.

Pascal: Here's the problem that you have right now. DBPR does not issue a license for somebody renting a room or rooms as long as it's not the majority of their house. If I have four bedrooms in the house and I rent two, I cannot get a DBPR license. You guys require a DBPR license for you to do the registration for an STR owner.

Councilperson Darian Martin: That's good to know.

Pascal: Depending on your definition of a dwelling unit, if you're saying it's a room, then that owner cannot comply with this regulation.

Councilperson Darian Martin: Thank you so much. Your next comment.

Pascal: I do want to talk about or ask you guys to consider the owner occupancy. We've talked about that before to have two different ones. There is a lot less trouble with somebody living on the property, obviously, than somebody that's not. On page 3 in *Section 5-72*, number six, you guys talk about the registration with the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulations. We do not get registered by them. We got licensed by them. They are the body that regulates us. That needs to get changed back to licensures like it was before in the old ordinance. I'm not sure why that's changed to registration.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Because we can't have licensure.

Pascal: No. You are asking me to establish proof of registration with the Florida Department of Business Professional Regulation, which means I'm supposed to give you my registration with DBPR. I'm not registered with DBPR. I have a license from DBPR. That needs to change from registration to licensure. I understand that you can't grant me a license. This is now changed. This whole thing now has changed from a license to registration. I understand that. This specific one asks for a registration versus a license from DBPR. That's all. It's just a word.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: I'll take a look.

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Pascal: The same applies under 11 in the third paragraph that we're registered, we need to be licensed in the paragraph that starts as, "Such applications shall also include." In the one, two, three, four.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: What's the issue on that?

Pascal: It's the exact same thing. If you go to the second paragraph that starts with "Such applications shall," in the fifth line or in the fourth line, it talks about registered with a DBPR. It should be licensed.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: It hasn't become registered or licensed.

Pascal: We need to be licensed. We are licensed. We are not registered. There's a question about insurance too, under *Section 5-73*, that other hosts have brought up. You guys asked for general liability insurance with limits of \$1 million with \$300,000 per occurrence and the question was, if Airbnb, for instance, does an air cover, they call it, they insure hosts for that. If that would be sufficient or not.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Say it again, please. If what would be sufficient?

Pascal: Airbnb provides an insurance on our home for a million dollars. They call it Air Cover. We had asked before and I'll ask again. If that would be sufficient or if you are, actually, looking for a general liability insurance certificate from a separate insurance agency for a host?

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: We'll try to clarify that

Councilperson Luis Pirela: The reality is that this is something that has been going on property. Me asking about the village, asking for insurance on a property that's yours. I don't see the need for it and so forth.

Councilperson Darian Martin: The village attorney is going to give us some guidance on it as far as whether or not air cover. Your next comment?

Pascal: On standard of operations, the last three, or actually, I and K, I just had the question on. Mr. Village Attorney Joseph Geller, you had brought that up a little earlier. Maybe you can clarify that in regards to inspections of State Fire Code or State Occupancy Limits. I'm just curious on how the village can enforce a state mandate or law on that when they can't do that on other laws.

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Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Let's deal with K. K simply says that our existing ordinances relating to these things will be strictly enforced. As I said, we're not targeting short-term rentals here. I don't see the issue on K.

Pascal: My question specifically on K is the state occupancy limits since it's a state law versus a village law.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: I'll take a look at that specific issue and compare our law with theirs that's 5-74(k). Then let's look at the other one.

Pascal: I is the same thing as a state fire code. I'm just curious about village enforcing state law.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: The state fire code is in the nature of the same thing as the Florida Building Code. Absolutely, those are laws that we can and should enforce to be sure that this is a life health safety issue as I mentioned. That one I'm comfortable with. That there's not an issue because it is a state law and that's one of the state laws we are permitted to enforce. Now, as far as the occupancy limits, to the extent that there could be a differential between the state and our local ordinance as far as occupancy, I'll go back and look at that issue. There's, in my opinion, no issue in regard to I, the Fire Code reinforced.

Pascal: Then the last thing you guys also define the short-term renter, and we've had this discussion before. Again, is everything under three months. State of Florida and DBPR both make that break between guest and tenant at 30 days. I just spoke with DBPR today on the phone, and I asked them again about that, and they say, "If you have somebody staying in your place for over 30 days, you are no longer doing a public accommodation now. It's a month-to-month tenancy." That's a difference that we have. We've talked about this in there in the past. I'd like to again suggest that we get in line with the state and with DBPR to do that at 30 days.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Which section you're referring?

Pascal: That's under your definition of a short-term renter or a short-term guest.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Backward. Earlier in the document.

Pascal: That is on page 2 under *Section 2*, under the definition of vacation rental by guest for a period of less than three months of duration.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: That's an issue that I discussed with your counsel.

Pascal: It's not my counsel for the record.

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Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Sorry, I thought that was, but, again, I will be happy to revisit it.

Pascal: I do see a difference between state and DBPR and our village there on that.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Yes.

Councilperson Darian Martin: Thank you so much for the-

Pascal: That's all I have.

Councilperson Darian Martin: -comments. I appreciate you. Can we have the next commenter step to the podium? State your name and address for the record, if there's any. Oh, I don't think we might not have any commenters. Put it back to the Mayor.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Are you sure? Very good. All right.

Councilperson Darian Martin: Going once.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Back to the Council for questions or comments, you guys?

Councilperson Darian Martin: I think we have spoken about this a lot. The comments tonight are in line with comments we've heard before, which are all really good comments that help us perfect the document. I think we already did the arduous task of coming up with a decision as a collective body that we do need a short-term rental ordinance in the village. We've talked about why we need it, why we need to do it now.

We did it in the past. We should go ahead and do it again and continue to workshop the document. Our village attorney is well versed on the topic. He's heard the comments from the commenters, and I'm sure that the next time we see this, this is going to be an even more perfect document. I think we should go ahead and pass the item.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Mayor, if you would, let me say that I don't take the comments lightly. I don't consider any of the comments made frivolous. I don't necessarily agree with them, but I will research each and every one of those. We should pass it, I hope on first reading. If there are any adjustments that ought to be made for second reading, I'll not only make them, but I'll make it my business to point out to the council which ones are being changed. At this point, I think I'm comfortable asking you to approve this document as it reads on first reading with my undertaking to look at those particular points that were raised.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. We're good. No further questions or comments from the audience, no further questions or comments?

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Pascal: I have one final edit. It's not significant, but as long as we're here. Page 2, first paragraph, second line, there's a redundancy. It says having registration registered. First having registration registered, is that--?

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: I'm sorry, which paragraph [crosstalk]

Pascal: Essentially the first sentence, the end of the first sentence starts in the first line, extends to the second line. Perhaps I'm not--

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Tell me. [crosstalk] I'm looking at the first paragraph.

Pascal: I'll just read the sentence. "No owner of a dwelling unit shall rent or lease the dwelling unit." Then it continues, "As a vacation rental without first having registration registered with the village." Should it just read registered with the village?

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: I'm sorry here. You're on page 2, first paragraph did you say?

Pascal: Very first line, very first sentence. Extends to the second line, but it's the end of the first sentence. Seems to be a redundancy.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Why am I not seeing this?

Pascal: Unless that's legalese that I'm-- Am I the only one, maybe it's just on.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: I'm sorry, I wish I was seeing.

Pascal: Maybe it's just my copy that I received in my email then.

[background conversation]

Councilperson Darian Martin: I think we can notate it. We can notate it and then we can-- You could probably do like a control F.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Only if I see it, though. Tell me how the paragraph starts.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: It's just going short too.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: What's the first word besides whereas.

Pascal: Sorry. Well, I'm sorry. Forgive me. It's not page 2. I'm sorry. It's page 3.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Page three.

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Pascal: Yes. There we go. Sorry. Forgive me, it's page 3.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Oh, "Without first having registration registered with the village."

Pascal: Yes.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Oh, that's simple Councilman. That is from the Department of Redundancy Department. One of my favorite department.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Everyone's favorite, absolute favorite department.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Yes. I can tell you definitively that your eye is good on that. One of those words needs to go back to the Department of Redundancy Department, and I will send it there. In fact, I would ask you simply as we go through first reading to delete the word registration by amendment. It would read without first having registered with the village. If you would-- with I'm not sure who is presiding, if it's the Committee Chair or the Mayor. If whoever it is would call on you to make that amendment that we can clean up immediately because I don't need to research that. That's wrong and good eye. Will someone recognize the councilman to make that amendment?

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: So moved.

Councilperson Darian Martin: Second.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Second.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: It was a move by--?

Councilperson Darian Martin: With the Mayor.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Was it--? [laughs] Do I have a motion for the recognition to delete that from the ordinance?

Councilperson Darian Martin: So moved.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All right. Thank you. A second?

Pascal: Second.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All right. All in favor say aye?

Council Members: Aye.

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Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Any last questions or comments from Council?

Councilperson Darian Martin: No.

Vice Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Hearing none. Any last questions or comments from the audience? All right. Do I have a motion to approve ordinance for the first reading short term vacation rental?

Councilperson Darian Martin: So moved.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Moved by Councilperson Darian Martin. Do I have a second.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Second.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Second by Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward. Madam Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi, may I please have roll call?

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Roll call. Councilperson Darian Martin?

Councilperson Darian Martin: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Lightfoot Ward?

Councilperson Lightfoot Ward: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Vice Mayor Anders Urbom.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Luis Pirela?

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Mayor Nickerson?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Motion passes five to none.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Mayor, item G3.

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Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes. Item G3

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Resolution of the Village Council. The Village of El Portal Miami-Dade County Florida accepting their proposal from Altumint Inc., in connection with installation of speed detection systems in the village of El Portal Miami-Dade County providing for incorporation of recitals providing for an effective date. Mayor, these are relating to those devices in the school zone.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. We do have the Senior Vice President here. How are you doing Mr. Vice President. You're going to come up to the podium for us.

Councilperson Lightfoot Ward: Yes, common up here.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: We want to meet you and say hello and give you a friendly welcome.

Jason Norton: [unintelligible 00:56:42]

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: [chuckles] Go to this one, better. Madam Manager, I don't know if you want to speak on this very quickly.

Village Manager Christia Alou: Yes, very quickly. I can tell you that-- It's not on.

Councilperson Lightfoot Ward: Yes, it is.

Village Manager Christia Alou: Oh, it is? All right. Here we go. Thank you for coming Mr. Norton. Chief Mendez and I, couple of months ago met with some people from Tallahassee who explained that the State Legislature passed a school zone legislation that provides for increased speeding and police services in school zones. We have one school zone here in El Portal. It is at the Western Middle School. Chief Mendez and I met with this independent contractor who provides the service, but then we started getting, I guess emails and solicitations from others.

Chief Mendez went out and found some others, entertained their services and selected Altumint. It's hard to pronounce, Altumint Services. Chief Mendez met extensively with them, and I know they also met with Councilperson Darian Martin to talk about their services. It is a service that allows the village to not pay any fees for the service. We will split any fees that are collected with Altumint. I'll let Mr. Norton talk more about the service.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Say your name and address for the record. I know you flew in from St. Louis.

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Jason Norton: I did. Jason Norton, Webster Groves, 414 Selma Avenue. Our program manager, actually, who would handle your program lives in Doral, but her mother just recently had a stroke and we didn't want to put that on her tonight. I think our approach to this reflects the councilperson's comments earlier that we know the size of the village, but we don't take it for granted and that's why I jumped on a plane and got here to just show our respect and reflect that. We're here to answer any questions.

Some of the highlights of the program that's a little different from us is, one, you have no fee termination for convenience. Many of you have lived through the red-light cameras and may have liked them, may have not liked them. Many villages, town, cities have left that program. If this turns out the same and you don't like it, you can walk away. There's no fee to the to the village for doing so. Others start at \$37,000 per camera. We have zero.

This is a little bit different from the red-light cameras. It's only operational when the lights of the school start through the day and when the lights at the end of the day. No nights, no weekends, no holidays. If the kids aren't there you're not enforcing. You only enforce at 11:00 and over. If your school zone is 15 in the morning, you're only targeting when they hit 26 which is almost double the speed limit, so it's not a one over, it's not a five over, it's not a got you program you'll have signage. We'll start the program with the 30-day warning period so if you go through and it's mom and pop going through every day and they learn their lesson very quickly on a warning, hopefully, that will reduce.

You will improve your safety before this program sends out one citation. Just talking about it tonight we have a PR firm based here in Miami that will help with any content for your web page or anything that you-- social media that you want to give out to the community. It will help you with that. People will be well-informed on the program. Hopefully, it will reduce greatly the speed through your school zones. There's no chase by the police officers.

If somebody's speeding through, you don't want a police officer then chasing them through the school zone as well. There's no chase, there's no interaction. You get a ticket, it's \$100. There's no points on a person's ticket, on their license, so versus a police officer pulled over, which would be probably several hundred dollars and points. There's no points on this. It's a pretty straightforward program and it will work quickly.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. I appreciate it. Mr. Senior VP.

Jason Norton: Really?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Mr. Senior VP? Are there any questions or comments from the council before I open it up to the audience?

Councilperson Darian Martin: I do have a question.

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Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Go ahead.

Councilperson Darian Martin: In the resolution in section two, there's a mention of a fee. I do know from talking to the representative that there is no fee. Is that a Scrivener's error and can we remove that or at least on my copy of the reso it says that the city will set aside I believe \$41,000.

Jason Norton: Yes, just clarify on the fee and what per the introduction. This is violator-funded. This is not taxpayer-funded program. One, you won't have to pay, there won't be any invoice until fines come in. You're not going to pay for the warning period. If these violations work and we go down to zero, you're still not going to have to write a check. There'll never be a taxpayer-funded program to pay us a dime. I think the councilperson and I spoke about that earlier today to clarify-

Councilperson Darian Martin: Yes, for sure.

Jason Norton: -That there's no fee if there's a zero.

Councilperson Darian Martin: I appreciate that. I just want to know from our village attorney, is that a Scrivener's error and can we delete that?

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: I believe it is a Scrivener's error. My understanding was from the documents that were provided to us that there was a fee associated with it, that it was not clear to us at least that it was entirely violator-funded but yes, we can delete that reference because there is not money that has to be set aside.

Councilperson Darian Martin: Perfect. I do want that put on the record so that all the villagers know that these are devices that if the independent study is done and we do qualify for those speed detection systems to go up, there is no cost to the village itself. I do want to make that clear because right now that resolution makes it read otherwise.

The other thing that we discussed was indemnification. We do know that things change, climates change. If there is some sort of future litigation that results in these speed detection systems being, I don't know, found to be, yes, illegal or what-- like, Altament has said that they will indemnify the village, correct?

Jason Norton: Up for the fees, yes.

Councilperson Darian Martin: Up for the fees? Okay. Those are all good things We do know that we have a speeding issue in the village and I think just last council meeting we had residents I think from 87th Street. They were all here, especially those with little kids that we're talking about how petrified they are to have their little ones walk on the streets in our

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village. I have a five and a three-year-old and I feel that deeply, so I applaud everyone on the council and everyone in the administrative staff for working so quickly to now have the senior VP right in front of us.

Jason Norton: I negotiated my title better than anything else, but I appreciate you all calling that out every chance you get.

Councilperson Darian Martin: You know, we got to call it how it is. We do appreciate, and I have spoken to you and you've always been very accessible, and I want to give a kudos to the chief who has done a lot of extensive research in a field that is a bit murky. You provided clarity and guided us in a very, I think, reasonable sound manner. I appreciate that, and you worked tirelessly and quickly to turn this around, and we hopefully will have a portion of the resolution to our speeding problem in the village very soon. I'm super excited about this and thank you so much for giving us the rundown.

Jason Norton: Absolutely.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much.

Village Manager Christia Alou: May I, Mayor Nickerson?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes.

Village Manager Christia Alou: I know that Chief Mendez did work very much on this matter, but he may want to just speak to just what that will mean for the village when we bring in this ultimate. If he can just be brief here to what that means for the area and what his staff is doing to quell speeding.

Chief Mendez: It is an incredible force multiplier for us. It's something independent. It's going to be there while our officers are still patrolling. It's something that we have a very good grasp on as has been explained where we went through the scare of the red light cameras and the overreach that many agencies took with that. This is something that with the independent study, we're going to know if we qualify for it and we'll be able to apply it. It'll be fair to the residents, and it'll be an incredible tool to keep our children safe.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you, Chief. Appreciate that. Safety is the number one issue. I just want to say, your use might come even more, hopefully, in the near future. I've been working on with the school zone situation also. I've also been trying to see, actually, myself and the manager have been working on and trying to see if we can implement another school zone in front of Ms. Claudia's, for Ms. Claudia's, because since the Village Plaza is going to be coming with the restaurant and things like that, you're talking about increased traffic.

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Therefore, with all the youngsters that do go to Ms. Claudia's school, we're looking to see, and that school's been there for well over a decade, and so there's certain ramifications that you need, but I'm looking to add potentially another school zone in El Portal [unintelligible 01:06:34] also been working on also. Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward.
[01:06:38]

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: I appreciate this, I really do. My whole concern is, it may be a pilot right now. The speeding is still there. It's usually the people that live on that 3rd Avenue and they turn it in, but when they go around that curve, I can't hear anything. I just hear them from the point of that stop sign, far from, excuse me, I can't lift this like I want to. That stop sign that's to the north of me. They start from right there. Right there. I don't know what they do in the county. They start from right there and they shoot all the way down to-- what's on the corner? He's a painter. What's his name?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Jasper.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Jasper. Right there. That's where it really gets really dangerous. You can hear the tires. You can hear your officer's been out there. I appreciate that this is not something that we got to put funding in to make it happen but it is very dangerous in the morning time. I'm telling you, all the way up until that flashing stops, it's awful. Then when it does stop, it starts up again. Even though the school zone is important when the children are out and about, but what about all day long?

Chief Mendez: All day long is when we pick up the difference. That's why it's a force multiplier. While the system is up, we can focus on the kids crossing over, especially when they come over the bridge and the stop sign is there.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: That's right.

Chief Mendez: Then when the system is off, then that's when our officers take over. They do the watchovers of the [unintelligible 01:08:26]. Specifically for speed and the people that [unintelligible 01:08:30].

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Okay. Are we still talking about-- or is that off the table, putting speed bumps? The length of it does match a speed bump being there if not two places on 3rd Avenue.

Chief Mendez: I'm reaching out to Chief Gold. I don't know how they get it in Miami Shores. I know the county tells us we can't have it, but I'm following up on that. I just wanted to follow up [unintelligible 01:08:58].

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Very good. Thank you. Thank you, Mayor.

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Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much, Council Lightfoot-Ward. I just want to say we're looking into all aspects, you guys, because myself, Manager Alou, Chief Mendez, we had a meeting about the speed speaking the other day. We have things that's coming up in the new year, things we're implementing into the new year. Then myself and the chief also had a meeting with a resident who's kind of leading the charge on that also. Manager Alou was involved with that. Shout out to the no horns, another El Portal genius move but I just want to say that we're definitely working on that. Attorney Village Attorney Joseph Geller?

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Just very briefly, Mayor. This is a wonderful program. It will keep children safe. It will assist the police department. It's not costing them money. It's a great thing and it's wonderful that we're getting it. I just have to go on record to say this is the next step before somehow, someday, sometime, that we're going to end up where these cameras are going to be there and if you're spitting on the sidewalk, they're going to know it and they're going to come and find you because eventually we turn into Singapore. This is a good piece and this is a good one. It's out there and sooner or later, it's going to happen.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: I appreciate that you guys. Any questions from the audience? Say your name and address for the record.

Pascal Depuhl: Pascal Depuhl, 177 Northwest 90th Street. Mr. Vice President, you said that the duration of the system is governed by when the lights start flashing.

Speaker 1: Starts, correct.

Pascal: Then ends when they turn off.

Speaker 1: It does work during the day, but at the normal speed limit and you're still 11 over.

Pascal: I'm not sure who's in charge of figuring out when those lights go on and off, but I've seen him beyond when there's no school.

Chief Mendez: It'll be the specific date that we inform them of that includes a schedule. Anything in between that falls between the cracks, understandably that's on our end, we should have that clear. Sometimes a resetting of the lights is just a technical issue with regard to that.

Pascal: I've seen them on during Christmas break or something like that. I just wasn't--

Speaker 1: Is it [unintelligible 01:11:19]

Chief Mendez: That's correct.

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Pascal: If we see them on and they're wrong, just come to you.

Chief Mendez: Not only that but it shouldn't affect you negatively because the correct schedule [unintelligible 01:11:30] the violations won't go off. Yes, [unintelligible 01:11:35] see it right now on a regular day and they're going off, you can let us know. We'll contact [unintelligible 01:11:40]

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you guys. Any other questions or comments from the audience? Hearing and seeing none, any final questions or comments from the council? Hearing none, do I have a motion to approve Resolution G3 speed detection system?

Councilperson Darian Martin: So moved.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: So moved by Councilperson Martin. Do I have a second?

Vice Mayor Luis Pirela: Second.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Second by Councilperson Luis Pirela. Madam Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi, may I please have a roll call, please?

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Roll call, Councilperson Darian Martin.

Councilperson Darian Martin: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Vice Mayor Anders Urbom.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Luis Pirela.

Vice Mayor Luis Pirela: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Mayor Nickerson.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Motion passes five to none.

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Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. Next is Councilperson Darian Martin, but we have to read this resolution into the record, the Early Childhood Education Program, Councilperson Darian Martin. Attorney Village Attorney Joseph Geller, we need something read into the record.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Yes, sir. I'll read the Early Childhood [unintelligible 01:12:27].

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. Then, Councilperson Darian Martin, the floor is yours.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: This is item G4. The resolution of the village council of the Village of El Portal Miami-Dade County, Florida, urging the Florida Legislature to one, amend for our schools readiness program eligibility criteria to increase access for children in need of early childhood education and alleviate the existing burden on supplemental resources used to assist low-income families created by the current programs eligibility criteria. Two, increase childcare provider reimbursement rates statewide to offset higher operational costs incurred by the providers while ensuring that counties receive at least as much funding as received in the previous fiscal year. That's sponsored by Councilperson Darian Martin.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: It's always good when we urge the Florida Legislature to do the right thing. Councilperson Darian Martin, the floor is yours.

Councilperson Darian Martin: Awesome. This is hopefully straightforward, the Early Learning Coalition administers Florida's school readiness program, and what that is, is just making sure that all of those little kitties entering kindergarten at five, they're ready to learn and are at level. What we're doing here is joining Early Learning Coalition in urging the Florida Legislature to reconsider the eligibility criteria and the amount at which their service providers are reimbursed.

Currently, to qualify for the program, a child's family cannot make more than 150% of the poverty level, and with a rising minimum wage, right now we're at \$12 an hour in Miami. I think we're going up to \$15 eventually. It's really easy for a two-parent household to exceed that 150% threshold. The problem is, although wages are increasing, I'm sure we all experience that the prices of rent and food are also increasing.

These families are still families in need, but now they have lost the voucher and their ability to send their children to a high-quality early childhood education program. What that leaves some families having to figure out is whether or not one parent decides to opt out of working

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so that they can qualify for that voucher, or they have to put their children into less-enriching early childhood education programs.

What the Early Learning Coalition is doing is asking the Florida Legislature to instead of determine eligibility based on that 150% level of the poverty level, is to determine eligibility based on a percentage of median income. That's what we're doing tonight is joining them in saying that we believe that all kids in Florida and Miami deserve to have enriching quality early childhood education.

We believe that we should also not put impediments in the way of parents who are desperately trying to work their way out of poverty. I hope that it is something that everybody else on the council deems worthy because I think that it is one of the worthiest things that we can do tonight is to support them in their efforts.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much, I appreciate that. What's the last-- for the state legislature, so we want them to amend it, so the last session they voted it in?

Councilperson Darian Martin: I don't know if they did it last session. They had a discussion about it. I had a meeting with the president this morning for Early Learning Coalition. I think it is something that's an ongoing effort and it's just something that they are unfortunately forced to present every single year as something to put on their radar, something worthwhile for them to consider.

Unfortunately, this doesn't rank too high on the list of issues that people are championing now, but it also is very important because even if your child does not need those services, understand that none of our children are raised or go to school in silos. Taking care and making sure that others can take care of their children benefits our children in very direct and meaningful ways. This is all of our fight, I think.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Absolutely. I think it's important and I think that-- I don't know who the Early Learning Coalition, the president--

Councilperson Darian Martin: Evelio Torres.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: I was going to say, I don't know who's the representative or who's the state senator that they go to to help out with that, to push that thing forward. Whoever that is, if you can get that person's name, who's the one that sponsors that or push that forward in the state legislature, just let me know because I might know who that person is also [unintelligible 01:17:44]

Councilperson Darian Martin: I definitely will, and I'm sure that he would love to speak to you and all of us up here because the more that we talk about it and how important it is and

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how dangerous it is for a lot of families, there's money currently left on the table because there are droves of people falling out of eligibility really quickly. I'm sure he would want to talk to all of us.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: I think that, and the way you put it and explained it, I think it's perfectly, I think you would be great to go speak for that up there at the state legislature. Also, Councilperson Darian Martin, I have money in my travel funds, so if you need it, just let me know you got it.

Councilperson Darian Martin: You know I have a five and a three-year-old and they keep me under the weather.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: I got you. It's a 45-minute flight to Tallahassee and back. I'm just saying a 45 minutes up, 45 minutes back. Any questions or comments from the Council?

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Yes. I've had this discussion with many people in many different environments for many years. I was born and raised in the Midwest. I've had many conversations with my family, for example, over the years, and I put it like this. There's this concept of pulling yourself up by your own bootstraps.

The funny thing about that phrase is, most people, the vast majority of people, highly literate and highly educated people have no concept that that phrase came from an essay that explained that it is impossible to ask somebody to pull themselves up by their bootstraps, and lift themselves up over a barrier.

The essay where that phrase comes from dictates that pulling yourself up by your own bootstraps is literally impossible. That's what that phrase means. In the discussion of education, I put it like this. This is how I see it in my world experience. Elon Musk is great. He seems pretty smart. We're all sitting around twiddling our thumbs waiting for him an individual to figure out how to get us to Mars.

I propose if we really truly wanted to go to Mars, we would feed eight billion people, we would close eight billion people, we would shelter eight people, and we would educate through secondary education, through university or a trade eight billion people. Then we can find out who the smartest people are, then we can find out who the cream of the crop is. Until then we're all just sitting around waiting for such unbelievably privileged people to figure all these things out and they have no interest in doing so. We're not going to solve hunger, we're not going to solve war, we're not going to solve any of these issues until we educate eight billion freaking people. If I don't want my car to get broken into 3:00 in the morning, I'm going to make good and sure that everyone of my community is educated. That goes a very

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long way towards the broken windows issue in law enforcement, it goes a very long way towards getting an entire population to take ownership of their own society.

There's only a very few people who own things right now in our society. The vast majority of people have no sense of ownership in our society. That to me is the issue. Look, the eugenicists are idiots. Here's the problem with eugenics. When you dump 1,000 different types of pollutants into your water, it doesn't matter what your genes are, your kids are going to have pediatric blood cancers. It doesn't matter what your genes are, you're going to die of one cancer or another. It doesn't matter what your genes are, you're going to end up with a chronic illness or debilitating disease.

I think it's obvious I support this and I would absolutely relish the chance to go and speak about this because it's absurd the way we consider that it should be pay to play when it comes to education, and we're staring down the face of any number of realities that we have ignored for several hundred years and we are relying on a new generation of people to tackle that, address it, and adapt to it. I support this.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much Vice Mayor Anders Urbom. I appreciate that. Anybody else in the council have questions or comments?

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: I have a comment.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Go ahead, Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: I am a product of what we did in the '60s and '70s. My mother didn't have that. She didn't have the money. We had peanut butter and jelly sandwiches every day. I see people nodding. We didn't have. If someone had not come along and made what happened basically is the updated version now, I doubt if I would have finished high school. Something like this is nothing to play with and we got to get on a plane those of us who went through it and let folks know, we lived through until free lunches became a law.

We lived through trying to get to school with our bus coming down our avenue and then everything changed. The buses started coming. We weren't hungry, you get the school and you got fed. The first thing you got fed. I know I'm one of those people. I got fed real stuff. Lunchtime, I didn't have to pay for it and we got to snack before we went home. We are right where this generation that's now in their elder years telling the story why this is very important. I'm happy to get on a plane, talk to the legislator, how dare they not cause this to be a reality?

I read it to Councilperson. I read it too. You did what I couldn't think about because I'm remembering what I went through. This is something that has to be passed. People should

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not, parents should not, or guardians should not have to deal with how I'm not going to take proper care so that learning becomes a thing of the present also, and you're not in the classroom hungry, sleepy, and all the rest, clothing. All these things happen and I'm a product of that. PhD and all. Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward. Any other questions or comments from the council? Hearing none, any questions or comments from the audience? Hearing, seeing none. Final questions or comments from the council? I'm going to say final questions or thoughts, but I say comments, thoughts. Questions, or thoughts comments from the council? Hearing seeing none, Madam-- Oh, do I have a motion to approve Resolution Early Childhood Education Program, G4?

Councilperson Darian Martin: So moved.

Vice Mayor Luis Pirela: Motion.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Motion by Councilperson Darian Martin, second by Councilperson Luis Pirela. Madam Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi, may I please have a roll call, please?

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Roll call. Councilperson Darian Martin.

Councilperson Darian Martin: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Absolutely.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Vice Mayor Anders Urbom.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Luis Pirela.

Vice Mayor Luis Pirela: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Mayor Nickerson?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Motion passes five to none.

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Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Very good. The next is the resolution G5, Attorney Village Attorney Joseph Geller.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Resolution to the Village Council of the Village of El Portal of Miami-Dade County, Florida, providing for the replacement of equipment for the Explorer Police Unit of the Police Department of the Village of El Portal of Miami-Dade County, providing for incorporation of recitals, providing for an effective date.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. I don't know, Madam Manager, do you want to come here? This is basically you guys, one of the cars that we had was in the accident. Everything was fixed by insurance. The car was replaced, but the insurance money didn't cover the outfitting of the car with the lights and all that type of stuff that goes in a police car. That's what this is about. Questions or comments from the Council?

Vice Mayor Luis Pirela: Yes. I did call the manager about this because it actually mentions the exhibit aid as a supporting document, but it wasn't in the packet. I wasn't aware of what-- the price, how much was being spent or approved, and what was it for, exactly.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Attorney Village Attorney Joseph Geller, when you sent the resolution back, did you send the attachment also to the Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi?

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: I don't think it was separately sent to the Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi. Also, we had the documents from the PD and from the manager, and I reviewed those. It is appropriate, but yes, they should have been attached, and apparently, they were not.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: I have a question.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Vice Mayor Anders Urbom.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: In that case then, is any of the equipment on the former vehicle ours that we own that is recoverable or otherwise usable, and if not, is the insurance company benefiting from this equipment? It's basically attached to their property, so I'm just curious to know from an accounting side, more or less, did any of that equipment that had to be replaced, was any of that brought to bear in any way, shape, or form, in any of it?

Chief Mendez: It was a pretty decent accident and the equipment that they wanted to take out of there that we thought we could reuse, you can't warranty it any further and it's not worth the liability to the village--

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: There was an effort.

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Chief Mendez: -to expose ourselves. That's definitely [unintelligible 01:27:57]

Village Manager Christia Alou: May I please add?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes.

Village Manager Christia Alou: The vehicle was totaled.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: I was going to [unintelligible 01:28:01]

Village Manager Christia Alou: We couldn't salvage those items.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes, a full replacement, you guys. The car is a full replacement.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: I just wanted to be clear about that.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: For sure. Any other questions or comments from the Council?

Councilperson Darian Martin: I have a question. I also didn't have the attachment. I suppose none of us did. How much is this going to cost?

Chief Mendez: It's around \$17,700. That's an average on each of the vehicles.

Councilperson Darian Martin: Okay, thank you.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Hold on a minute now. We're talking about doing what with this?

Chief Mendez: The outfitting would be, the police lights, the cage.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: To make a regular car, a police car.

Chief Mendez: Correct.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: To put everything a police car, like everything a police car needs on it.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Wait a minute. A vehicle was destroyed, we're trying to get a new one or we're trying to fix the old one?

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Chief Mendez: We have the new one that was replaced with the insurance check. Now the only thing that we're minus is the upfitting charge. That's what we're requesting. That's for the specialized equipment that goes in the car to make it a police car.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: I thought they had grants for that kind of stuff.

Chief Mendez: We've been trying to find those and those don't come--

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: This is not a new vehicle.

Chief Mendez: This is a brand new vehicle replaced at the cost of the insurance company after the other vehicle was totaled.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Let me jump in real quick you guys. Basically, police officers, his car got into an accident. The car that we're trying to fit is sitting right out there right now. It's been sitting out there for months. It's right here.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Yes, it is.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Now he's without a car. We can't have this police officer driving around in a regular car, so we need to outfit the car so he now has his car. For the accident, the insurance that came in covered the car. It just didn't cover to make the car a police car, which all the lights and all the reflectors and everything a police car needs, and that's what this is about. Any other questions or comments from the council?

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Mr. Mayor every time there's something wrong or a car gets destroyed or whatever, we have to come back and refit it. Either one of y'all can say it because I'm thinking from my experience, it's a police car. We got the car. I'm going to let you speak in a minute. We have the car now we're trying to outfit the car. The insurance company failed to give us the full of the car.

Chief Mendez: No. They gave us what the car was valued, but it did not include the up fitting is always additional when we purchase cars. Upfitting is always additional to the cost of the car.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Is it insured on the car?

Chief Mendez: Just on the car, correct. Not up on the up-fit.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Something's wrong with this equation. I'm going back to my own life as a deputy. Something's wrong with this. To me, everything

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changes. Nothing stays the same. If my car's got in situations like that, that insurance company made sure the whole thing-- this is a police car. There's not just a regular car, it's a police car.

Chief Mendez: I understand your point. It covered the car, the model car itself. Once we purchase those cars, we always have to up-fit them. That's an additional cost that comes after the fact. If we paid for example 40,000 for the car, the additional cost is what's not covered with the insurance.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Accessories on a police car are no longer part of the insurance of the car. Is that what you're trying to tell me now?

Chief Mendez: We insure the car on purchase at the purchase time and it's not up-fitted. Once it's up-fitted, you got to account for a depreciation on top of that. The vehicle that we purchased is a different model vehicle so the equipment is different for that vehicle as well.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Didn't answer my question, so accessories are not part of the insurance program on vehicles that are in the police service?

Chief Mendez: If they are, it did not cover it after the accident and with the depreciation of the vehicle.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: All right then let's do this. From this point forward, make sure our cars are totally insured. They're police cars. I know what they were when I back in the day and the village attorney remembers when I was in this spot, but not this city, bigger cities. Just make sure because I can see it now. The thing broke and you're going to come back to us and say we got to put a new one, so we got to give you some more money. I thought the car was totally insured, accessories and all. Okay.

Chief Mendez: If the insurance didn't cover it, it would be due to the depreciation of the vehicle and the different model, the difference of the vehicle that we purchased.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: You know where I'm going?

Chief Mendez: Yes, ma'am.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: All right. Thank you. Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All right. Thank you very much Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward. Any other questions or comments from the Council? All right. Hearing none, any questions or comments from the audience? All right. Hearing none, last questions or comments from the Council? All right. Do I have a motion to approve resolution G5?

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Councilperson Darian Martin: It's so moved.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much, Councilperson Darian Martin. Do I have a second?

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: A second.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Second Vice Mayor Anders Urbom. Madam Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi, may I please have a roll call, please?

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Roll call. Councilperson Darian Martin?

Councilperson Darian Martin: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Lightfoot Ward?

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Vice Mayor, Oh, Vice Mayor Anders Urbom.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Luis Pirela?

Vice Mayor Luis Pirela: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Mayor Nickerson?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Motion passes five to none.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Appreciate that. Can you read G6? This is our last resolution or Ordinance of the Night. Chief don't go anywhere yet. Can you read G6, Attorney **Village Attorney Joseph Geller**?

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: A resolution to the Village Counsel of the Village of El Portal, Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorizing illegal advertisement by the police department with the village of El Portal providing for incorporation of recitals, providing for an effective date. This is to do with destruction of property, surplus property in the property room.

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Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Absolutely. This is something that we been having to do for a long time and we have to do this now. We've caught up with the property room just like we were catching up on everything, just administratively and things like that to stay compliant with FDLE and that type of stuff. Since the chief is walking away, I can explain it. In the property room all these years when we make busts and all those type of things, some of that properties after a while we have to destroy it and get rid of it and things like that. There's a process.

We have to do the process the right way so that we can be compliant with FDLE and stuff like that. This is part of that process of destroying the properties that need to be destroyed, destroying it the right way, disposing of it the right way, accepting the new properties in from when we have new arrests, and things like that. That's basically what it is. Madam Manager, you want to jump in?

Village Manager Christia Alou: I'd like to add to it. Many years ago we did this internal assessment. The McGrath did a report and one of the deficiencies was the evidence room. We had a lot of weapons and drugs in there. We were all able to smell what was happening in the evidence room. It was pretty pungent back there. Chief Mendez under his leadership and actually, under Chief Magnusson before Chief Mendez came to be worked to try to make some changes with what little resources he had.

We didn't have many officers. We only had one officer working on the evidence room the entire six years that I've been here. He finally finished this project in March of this year. He sent us the inventory and making the requests even the templates in ways to destroy the evidence properly with another police department. I'll let Chief speak more about what this means for the department finally. To Officer Owen who is retiring from our ranks now, he has finally finished this task.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Officer Owens is wonderful. Usually on Friday afternoons and Friday evenings and Friday nights when I'm here working, Officer Owens is the only other one back there. All the other police officers are coming and going, but Officer Owens, he comes right in and gets right to that evidence room. Chief, how does it feel furthering our FDLE compliance and being compliant? How's it feel chief?

Chief Mendez: Great.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Chief, if there's anything else you want to add, go right ahead.

Chief Mendez: It's been a long time in coming. It's important that we're in guidance with FDLE. They've been very patient with us and have helped us along the way. Thank you to

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Officer Sandy Owen who's done that as well. We'll be in compliance and we'll be in compliance from here forward.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Appreciate it, Chief. As I always tell you guys, this administration we're getting everything compliant. Whoever is the next mayor, you guys are going to be able to hit the ground running. I promise you, I'm going to leave you guys shining bright and flying high. We're fixing everything that we can possibly fix. Everything that's been outdated, everything that's been non-compliant, that's what I'm going to try to do before I get out to here.

You guys is just make everything compliant and bring everything up to the present. This is just another thing we check off that list. Appreciate it Chief. Do I have any last questions or comments from the council? Hearing none, do I have questions or comments from the audience? Hearing, seeing none, any last questions or comments from the council? Boom. Do I have a motion to approve resolution G6 Police Department Legal ad--

Vice Mayor Luis Pirela: [unintelligible 01:37:45] motion.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Motion by Councilperson Luis Pirela. Do I have a second?

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: So moved.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Second by Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward. Madam Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi, may I please have a roll call, please?

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Roll call. Councilperson Darian Martin?

Councilperson Darian Martin: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Lightfoot Ward?

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Vice Mayor Anders Urbom?

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Luis Pirela?

Vice Mayor Luis Pirela: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Mayor Nickerson?

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Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Motion passes five to nine.10.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. Madam Manager. It's time for your report, Madam Manager.

Village Manager Christia Alou: Thank you, sir. I'm going to make it brief since we still have another week left in the month and we're still working, working, working. Just updates very quickly. The development project called The Launch at Little River held a public meeting here in the village hall last week. It was a meeting that was hosted by the project itself. It wasn't a village of El Portal, but this was a designation of property as green reuse area pursuant to the state of Florida's Brownfield Redevelopment Act.

That was held here December 14th at 5:30. Basically, went over the project itself and talked about the contaminations and the process by which they will be making the ground or utilizing the space as green reuse area. That was a successful opportunity for the village of El Portal to have that area cleaned up. I guess our next steps will be ensuring that the 15-- or I'm sorry, the 14-acre that belongs to El Portal, part of the trailer park will be developed in some way hopefully soon.

We're still awaiting information on that purchase. From what I understand there's been some delays with the interested party in terms of financing but they too are considering it the same law firm that conducted the green reuse. Town hall is also involved with the trailer park. More to come as we find out. I'll provide that to you all. Chief Mendez and his team had a wonderful Santa Train in El Portal on December 2nd. It was a Saturday morning, very brisk Saturday morning. Almost flew out of the off-the-train tracks. Councilperson, Lightfoot Ward was there. Of course, Mayor Nickerson and I were there with a ton of residents. It was very-- I mean, it was so crowded and it was so nice to see all of those kids out there enjoying the sunshine and Santa and the train. It was a beautiful opportunity for El Portal. Thank you, Chief Mendez and your team.

I know Officer Bertha also helped out with that event in making sure that it came back to El Portal because it had been discontinued due to low turnout for the last couple of years, but we are happy to say that it was pretty packed and it was a nice event, so thank you. The police department, speaking of the department, they've been conducting their 40-hour training at FDLE headquarters for crisis intervention training, as well as through a Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office, Human Trafficking Task Force.

They've assigned a part-time detachment from our ranks to that. I think it's Corporal Torrens who is the appointee to that task force. We're excited to have Corporal Torrens represent us

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there and just bring that knowledge back to El Portal as we are having more people come to this area and even visitors through our short-term vacation rental. Those are important things to be mindful of. Just human trafficking is everywhere in Miami. It's important that we have some representatives there as well. Kudos to Corporal Torrance for that.

This coming Friday, El Portal's police department as well as the El Portal Women's Club will be having a Caravan parade and a Santa gift delivery. Thanks to the, I guess the suggestion and research of Councilperson Darian Martin. We will have our El Portal Santa visiting local residents and providing gifts to those families that have participated in our program.

I encourage those who have not, or may be interested to please visit our website so that you can get more information on how to get a gift to El Portal Police Department so that Santa may bring it, hand deliver it to your child on December 22nd. The cutoff date for that is tomorrow at 4:00 PM. We'll need all gifts wrapped and addresses and names submitted so that Santa can make that delivery. In terms of other departments, we are working hard.

We are still awaiting the ADA-compliant restroom due to contractor delays. We're getting closer. They didn't pass some inspections, so they had to go back on and go back to work a bit but we hope to have it soon. I will keep everyone posted as that becomes more viable. We have purchased some of the equipment that goes inside of the restroom, and so when that comes, I'm taking that to mean we're closer to completion. Again, just be mindful. We'll get it there.

We hope to have it by the end of the year, beginning of the year probably, since we're already at the end of the year. We are moving forward with all of our other projects, which is the tree planting that will be coming to El Portal that has been promised. Again, contractor delays and illnesses have caused a lot of delays, but we are staying on top of matters in every department. I encourage everyone to please read the Village website manager's report for this month and for more details, I will have that posted by Friday. That concludes my report for this evening.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. Appreciate that, Madam Manager. I was telling Councilperson Darian Martin before we started the meeting that this is going off so well, that there were some residents that came down here to drop off presents on Sunday. Since nobody's here, because the Village Hall closed on Sunday, they called me, they were like, "Mayor."

Because my cards has everything, every time I put this, so everybody [unintelligible 01:44:34] like, "Mayor, we're here outside of Village Hall and my kids are asleep, so this is the only time I was able to sneak the presents out. Where can I?" I was like, "Bring them over to my house, man. Just bring them over." They're all bring them over. I have three families

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that's dropped off presents to my-- I'm coming tomorrow, I'll bring them here and I'll fill out the paperwork for them. I said, "Just give me your first last name. Give me their first last name, give me the address."

Councilperson Darian Martin: I think it's going to be so fun. Those kids are going to flip.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: It's going to be good.

Village Manager Christia Alou: We have a lot of gifts.

Councilperson Darian Martin: Yes, those kids are going to flip.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: It's going to be good.

Councilperson Darian Martin: I can't wait to see it. Thanks again to our police department. Every time you give them an idea, they're always like, "Okay." I don't know who's in the suit, but whoever is going to be in the suit, thank you to them. Santa. Exactly. I can't wait to see it and we'll record it and share it with residents and hopefully, it just gets bigger and bigger every year.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: For sure. No, it was wonderful and the Santa Train was amazing. I was even saying for the Santa Train, I said, "Look," when I said this y'all, the manager, she [unintelligible 01:45:27] me sideways Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward when I said this. I told the manager, I said, "Man," I said, "You know what would be good?" I said, "It was such a good turnout, it was such a good event."

I said, "Man, we should talk to Brightline or something and see if next year we can get on the train and have little elves dressed up, have Chief dressed up as Santa. We can get on the train. How much is to rent out a bright line? What can we do at least one car?" You know what I mean? Like, "What can we do?"

Councilperson Darian Martin: You can go ahead and donate that, but I think that's a great-

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: That would be great. [laughs] I'll find a sponsor, you guys. I'll find a sponsor. All right. Appreciate that. For the mayor's report, you guys see stuff there. As always, anybody have any questions or comments, everybody has my number. You guys can text me, call me any time of the day or night and you guys can email me at any time. Village Attorney reports Joe Village Attorney Joseph Geller.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Okay, very briefly, but a couple more than usual. First of all, I'm happy to report to the council that we received word that the FOP has approved and

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ratified our proposed contract with them. I'd like to thank our bargaining team our CFO Harry Taubenfeld, our village manager, and myself, we're the bargaining team. Now that the unit has done it, we're going to write it up.

I don't think we need to have an executive session on it, but once we get it written and circulated to you, which will be shortly, what we'd like to do is for any council member that has any question whatsoever, we can arrange a private briefing, whether it's by phone or by Zoom or whatever with myself, the manager. If necessary, we can put the CFO on with us if you have any questions and we'll do that so we can bring that for ratification by the village at our next meeting. We just got the word that the unit ratified it today, so that's good news.

Secondly, as you're aware, we put off the charter review commission because we were tied up with budget, and that takes priority, but budget's done. We're going to try and get a meeting scheduled, hopefully, in the month of January so we can continue with that process. We had a good start, but we need to just follow it up and get it.

Last, on Saturday, I went out to an event, the Organization of Chinese Americans, OKA, and Florida Justice for Asian Americans sponsored an event down at the torture friendship to push back on another--The legislature passes a lot of things that are dumb, but this wasn't dumb. This was mean and mean-spirited and racist that said that Chinese people couldn't own property in the state of Florida, and that applies to some others but there's an awful lot of Chinese people.

To say, this is reminiscent of the old Asian American exclusion acts a hundred years ago that we moved past. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate. The headliner at the event was former presidential candidate Andrew Yang, who ran for president last time. I was standing right next to him, but it didn't just rain, it poured.

I'm standing there getting absolutely poured on as the wind is twisting my umbrella into a pretzel. I thought, "Who else would be crazy enough to come out here in this pouring rain to speak on this important issue and let people know that we care about them and we don't tolerate racism?" I look up and standing next to me getting absolutely drenched is our Mayor standing there in the pouring rain surprised me.

He you have his report. I know you can feel like, or think, or say that he's everywhere, but let me tell you. I've been going to different protest rallies for a whole lot of years, but I can't remember being surprised. I can't remember ever being in a worst rainstorm while I stood there and I sure can't remember being as surprised as I was to look up and have standing next to me helping hold the umbrella, our Mayor Nickerson. Kudos to you mayor, for showing up and standing up and representing, and communicating to people, but especially for doing it in the worst weather I've ever been to one end. Congratulations to the mayor. I appreciate that

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Attorney Village Attorney Joseph Geller. Thank you guys. That concludes it then. Thank you for being there [crosstalk]--

Village Manager Christia Alou: Mayor Nickerson. May I add something to that since you're bringing up some kudos and things? I'm on the cover with him, but our mayor was interviewed for the local publication, *The Egret* that's the Tri-Village publication that talks about everything that's happening in our community.

He was interviewed and gave a wonderful wonderful interview about the village of El Portal and the things we're doing. Kudos to you, Mayor Nickerson, and to the Village of El Portal for that recognition, because as I recall, I don't think we've ever been on the cover and had that recognition from the Tri-villages. Thank you, Mayor Nickerson.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much, Manager. I really appreciate it. Yes. No, it was, it was super important, the rally that we went to, I actually was coming from because North Miami Beach started their commission meeting tonight at five o'clock PM. Started a little bit earlier than usual. I was coming from there to here and because earlier today at North Miami Beach they recognize myself and another Asian American young woman for the work that we do.

They did a just little recognition for us over there, and everything. They also did a proclamation because the Chinese Exclusion Act was around this time back in a hundred years ago. We were there speaking about that earlier today.

Speaker 3: Who was the Asian one?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Of course, Ms. Tang. Of course. it was Winnie Tang. Her and I were over there today north Miami Beach and Surfside and Miami Beach I believe. If you guys know. I'm just bringing this up right now, just because the rally reminded me of North Miami Beach with the recognition today of the Chinese Exclusion Act and all that. Then North Miami Beach saying that reminded me of this. This is not something I'm just trying to be braggadocios about.

For those of you who came to the informational exposition, [unintelligible 01:52:41] Village Informational Exhibition, I said in my speech when I was talking that for the Indigenous People's Day this year, Mayor Levine Cava did a proclamation for me for being the first Native American mayor in Miami-Dade County history.

From that now North Miami Beach is going to be doing a proclamation for me on January 16th. Surfside is doing a proclamation for me, Miami Beach, and I believe [unintelligible 01:53:06] are going to be all doing proclamations for me between January and February for being the first Native American mayor in Miami-Dade County history. I appreciate that also.

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**Village of El Portal
Regular Council Meeting
Date: 12/19/23
Meeting Start: 7:03 PM
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Meeting Length: 1:59:31**

That'll be coming up, and the rally that we were speaking in my mayor's report I try to keep it to 20 items.

My rally for what we were at Attorney Village Attorney Joseph Geller will be in my next mayor's report. I'll have that in my next mayor's report, but I appreciate that. Any last questions for the attorney? We're good? All right, you guys, moving on. Good And welfare right now. Anybody can come up and say anything at all about anything that's on your mind. You guys, doesn't have to be just what's on the agenda. Three minutes. Name and address for the record and the floor is yours.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: I have one thing to add. Anders Urbom-

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Go ahead.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: -460 Northeast 89th Street. Just for everyone's benefit to know Miami-Dade County Public Transportation is free for another week here till the end of the year. It's been going on a couple of months. They overhauled the full transit map and then basically the disruption that, that caused to essentially the Daily Riders, they said, "You know what, it's an opportunity.

Let the riders get used to the new routes. In addition, let people who have not experienced Miami-Dade County Public Transit, it's a no-excuse opportunity to see if any of it works for you." Buses the trains, so that's Metro Rail and Tri-Rail, these are all free until the end of the year. I had severe car troubles but-- Councilperson Darian Martin was talking about earlier reminded me that family-- we got four kids.

We both work, we make enough money that puts us out of contention for a great many number of things. In this county it's incredibly difficult to make it up. Basically lost two cars a couple of months ago, more or less around the same time. I have found that a couple days a week I can actually get my job done on South Beach and down in Brickell using public transportation. Anyway, it's fantastic and people should jump on a bus and check it out.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. Appreciate that. Vice Mayor Anders Urbom. Actually, I was on the bus with Vice Mayor Anders Urbom and his son once. Yes, we were there. Because this is the thing, so you guys know, I go to so many events. Sometimes traffic is so terrible, if you take a Metro rail or something like that, you can get from Hialeah to downtown in like 15 minutes. Traffic, it'll take you an hour to get from Hialeah to downtown. It's absolutely crazy the time you save.

Since I'm always going to all these type of events and things like that, while I don't have to drive and watch the road, I can answer emails. I'm more efficient. I can answer things right away with Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi Jacobi, Manager Alou. It's like, "Hey Mayor." "Oh,

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I'm right on top of that. What do y'all need? Oh, I'll answer that right now." I can answer residents. I have resident meetings all day long. I can do that right away because I don't have to pay attention to the road. I was on there with Vice Mayor Anders Urbom and his son. How old is your son?

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Four.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Four, yes. his son was on top of the world. He was like, "I'm a big guy, I can ride the bus." I was like, "You are a big man riding the bus. Look at you." He was on top of the world. He was so happy. Appreciate that. Any last questions or comments about good and welfare from anybody? Hearing none.

Councilperson Darian Martin: I do have one.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Okay, go ahead.

Councilperson Darian Martin: One quick, one Village of El Portal is still partnered with Miami Diaper Bank. If you know anyone who is cleaning out their garages or if they have small babies that are growing, trust me, they have diapers. If they have diapers, urge them to come and just place them in the box right back there. The pink one. Those diapers will get donated to needy families.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Do they have to be full boxes of diapers?

Councilperson Darian Martin: They have to be full boxes. I believe so, yes. They have to be unopened diapers.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: I'm sure people have questions.

Councilperson Darian Martin: Yes. If someone has a loosey, unfortunately, we can't use those but a full unopened box, which has happened to me before, baby showers, your baby's allergic to a certain brand, they have extra-- people you know have extra diapers. Please tell them to come and drop them off at Village Hall so that they can go to a needy family this holiday season. Thank you so much.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. Also, you guys, the flag retirement box is back there that we put back there also. If you guys need to retire, flagging is back there. Yes. Say your name and address for the record. Hi, good to see you.

Depuhl: [unintelligible 01:57:48] Depuhl, 177 Northwest 90th Street. Want to talk about peacocks? I had an Airbnb guest that booked the cottage especially because she read in my

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description that the village has peacocks. Then she asked me, well can I walk there? I'm like, "You could technically, but from Horace Mann, it's quite a walk."

I told her where they are and I learned something new, that they sleep in the trees, which I didn't know. I asked some other residents about that and she especially came here to Florida out of state and booked in El Portal because of the peacocks and photograph them and to study them. I think that is wonderful.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: That's so good.

Depuhl: These are the people that rent something to look around where they're going to move. I think it's a good thing.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: No, absolutely. It's wonderful. I appreciate that. We really like to hear great things like that. I was actually with the individual from Tallahassee, this past Sunday. I was walking him around and I was like, "You got to walk El Portal. Once you walk El Portal, you're going to be--" He was like, "Oh my God." I was like, "Yes." He was like, "This is amazing." I was like, "Yes." I was like, "You don't understand how amazing El Portal is." Any last questions or comments or anything before we adjourn? We're good. Hearing, seeing none. Do I have a motion to adjourn?

Councilperson Darian Martin: So moved.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Moved by Councilperson Darian Martin. Do I have a second?

Vice Mayor Luis Pirela: Second.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Second by Councilperson Luis Pirela. All in favor say aye.

All: Aye.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All opposed, say Nay. Hearing none. The regular council meeting for Tuesday, December 19th, 2023 is adjourned at 9:02 PM Happy holidays, you guys. Take care.

[01:59:31] [END OF AUDIO]

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