



**Village of El Portal
Regular Council Meeting
Date: 2/27/24
Meeting Start: 7:01 PM
Meeting End: 8:49 PM
Meeting Length: 1:49:01**

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Shout out to full moon. The regular council meeting for February 27, 2024 is called to order at 7:01 PM. We're first going to have a moment of silent meditation followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Councilperson: Silent meditation.

[pause 00:00:23]

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

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. Madam Clerk, if you got roll call.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Roll call. Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Here.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Luis Pirela.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Here.

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: Here.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Martin will not be in today. Also present for the record Yenise Jacobi, Village Clerk, Christia Alou, Village Manager. You have a quorum.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much, Madam Clerk. I appreciate that. Approve of the agenda. Do I have a motion to approve the agenda?

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

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

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: I second.

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Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Second by Vice Mayor Anders Urbom. All in favor say aye.

All: Aye.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Opposed say nay. Hearing none. Moving on. Good and welfare. If anybody wants to come up and talk about anything on the agenda, anything on the agenda, now is your time to do so. You have three minutes. Name and address and those minutes are yours. Also, for every time we get to a certain agenda item, I do give you a chance to come up and speak on that particular agenda item. Then at the end, we have a good and welfare where you can speak about anything at all. Hearing, seeing none, moving on. Consent agenda. Do I have a motion to approve the consent agenda?

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: So moved.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Moved by Vice Mayor Anders Urbom. Do I have a second?

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

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

All: Aye.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Opposed say nay. Hearing none. Moving on. Village Attorney Joseph Geller is not here yet-

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: No.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: -but--

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: We're moving.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Mayor, if I may.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: I do believe there's some folks in the audience who wanted to speak about a speeding issue. It might not be exactly school zone speed, but if we are waiting for Village Attorney Joseph Geller, it might be an opportunity at least to hear from those residents about a speeding issue that they wanted to address.

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Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Sounds good to me. Those residents, you have-- I'm basically going to give you guys a special good and welfare [chuckles] just for you. Those residents, so you guys can come up all at the same time if you want to, or you can come up one by one, say your name and address for the record, and let us know what's on your mind. You guys can all come up together if you want to speak one by one if you want to.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Both mics or one, Mayor? Both mics or one?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: They can all come to this. They're going to speak one at a time. How are you guys doing?

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

Tamara Hendershot: What do we do?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Just jump on there. Say your name and address for the record and the floor is yours.

Matthias Cole: Sure. Matthias Cole is my name and address is 104 Northeast 86th Street.

Tamara Hendershot: Tamara Hendershot, 105 Northeast 86th Street.

Nicole Heigl: Nicole Heigl, 88 Northeast 86th Street.

Greg Steer: Greg Steer, 120 Northwest 86th Street.

Matthias: We all have the problem that there's a lot of traffic down 86th Street.

Tamara: Speeding.

Matthias: Speeding. It's going to a point where it's not really feasible anymore.

Tamara: Yes, it's [unintelligible 00:03:42] speeding. There's two signs on 86th between Second Avenue Northeast and North Miami Avenue further on towards you. I don't know how many, and it's 15 miles an hour, but they're basically overgrown and nobody pays attention to them anyway. The average speed there is between 35 and 60 miles an hour if somebody's really late for work. It's very disheartening, his cat was killed three days ago, who sits at the end of his driveway and waits for him. I've lost three cats in three years.

Terry across the street lost two. They just tear down there, they could give a damn. They're on their way to work. They all turn illegally left right now under the construction at North Miami Avenue. Nobody bothers to stop them. We have now taken to-- When we're walking

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our dogs or taking care of our-- we now have taken to standing in the middle of the road when they're coming fast, so they have to stop or run us over. We have a choice, but usually they stop, they slow down and we tell them, but it doesn't make any difference.

They do it on 87th Street too if they're forced to. They're trying desperately on 86th Street to avoid the two lights, the one at 87th and Northeast Second, and the one at 87th and North Miami Avenue. Now, we've looked up alternatives. We have done lots of research just on speed bumps. You can start at \$15 apiece. The signs that say, "Speed Bump Ahead," you can get two for \$15, the metal ones, but that doesn't necessarily is going to be a solution. I think they'll just go right over the bumps if they're late for work and coming home from work. Our solution has been, though it's the worst one for us living there, is blocking off 86th Street at North Miami Avenue, so they have to go down 87th.

Matthias: We have seen a lot of streets in Miami Shores, they are like this. I have the feeling that traffic is much more quiet in an area where the street has a dead end because people cannot just speed through them. We would really appreciate if the administration or the government here would look into this, especially right now when they have construction on Miami Avenue, that bridge that crosses the canal there. The streets are dugged up anyways, and they're going to be dugged up even more when they-- we have seen lots of big concrete forms for drainage or whatever that is that they want to put in there. If they dig this up, we could make a nice landscaping at the end of this-- at Miami Avenue and-

Tamara: A blockage, North Miami-

Matthias: A blockage, yes.

Tamara: -and 86th.

Matthias: Make 86th Street at that end street. Us, we have no problems with that and-

Tamara: No, we all have sort of come to that conclusion, and it's inconvenient. Then we have to go to 87th Street and wait on the light, but that's better than what's happening now.

Matthias: Yes. I think it would add a quality of living for us as a member of this community.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: I want to hear them before I respond.

Tamara: She has children.

Nicole: I have a young child, and it's become really dangerous because they are the age, they look, but they sometimes, and you know the street is very curvy, they shoot around the corner. I know why. They're already standing since probably 30 minutes on these junctures

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and they're pissed off. I'm sorry. They're just shooting through. I wouldn't say more than 60 because by the time they are so annoyed of the traffic on these both sides.

Speaker 4: I'm sorry, I want to interrupt, can you speak into this?

Nicole: Yes, of course. Basically, the children are super in danger on that street, and it's supposed to be a quiet street. It's not a traffic-through. I'm so sorry for all the cats, but the children are in danger. That's my main concern. Every single family almost has a child.

Tamara: In the early evening, the parents walk their children there. There's lots of children on my street, which I love because I don't have them. It's really nice to have them there but we're all scared.

Greg: I just wanted to add, because we've had this conversation before, Mayor, about the possibility of just getting what you call traffic calming devices, speed bumps on the street. I know Miami Shores has a lot. Where I live, west of North Miami Avenue to Northwest Second Avenue, it's a straight quarter-mile flat, and it's turned into a speed track.

I mean, they come through there 60 miles an hour. There's no sidewalks. People walk dogs. It's a constant problem, especially at night. We've talked about that, I think, about a year ago, and you said that was really a county issue or a state issue, but shouldn't be that difficult to get a speed bump.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: I appreciate it. [chuckles] Thank you. All right.

Tamara: Here comes one more, is that okay?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes, absolutely. Yes, come. How are you doing?

Speaker 4: Take your time, don't fall.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes. Say your name and address for the record.

Tamara: Two more. Just two more.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: I got you. No problem. No problem.

Juliana Colinger: Hi, my name is Juliana Colinger. I live at 8650 Northeast Miami Court.

Tamara: You were complaining about the traffic-

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Speak your mind.

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Tamara: -so you have to state.

Juliana: Something about-

Tamara: Yes.

Juliana: Absolutely. Yes, we have noticed the increase in traffic speeding in our street, and especially in 86th. It's concerning because of the narrow streets that we have. It would be nice to have some kind of better control or management of it. I'm here to support that. I think it's very important. We have kids still small and running around. The reason why we moved to El Portal seven years ago was because I love that feeling of community, the feeling of being able. My kids walk across the street from the neighbors, love and we know our neighbors very well, and that's what I loved about it. When I see these cars rushing in and going in and out really fast, it's just a little alarming. Thank you.

Jerome: I am Jerome. live in Northeast 86th Street as well. Like Mathias said, I think that will be nice to close the street because it's been 14 years I live here. Same thing. I've seen the traffic increasing. No left turn when you go North Miami Avenue, only right turn when you come for North Miami Avenue, you cannot do a left turn as well. You turn on 87. There's no reason to continue even in 86th Street because there's no connection with 86th Street. That will really increase safety, security for children, for cats as well.

For cats as well. I have a dog. The curve also, people accelerate and they slow down on the curve, but we have to go in the middle of the street to make them. We are like, "No, no." One time, remember, you have to be on this. The guy really wanted to ride on you. I think, yes, closing the street for me will be more than a speed bump, like in my initials, many know it requires many administrative--

Tamara: We ended up saying before you because you're late. It's to our disadvantage, but we prefer the blockage at 86 in North Miami Avenue, even though then we would have to go around to the light.

Jerome: No, I don't mind. [crosstalk]

Tamara: Basically, the conclusion. We've argued speed bumps. We've gone back and forth. Several people are still at work, so they couldn't come. That's where we think it would be the safest for everyone. What Mathias said makes sense. It's all dug up now. You can make a lot of money putting a police officer out there for the left-hand turn. You could make millions every day, and you'd get rich just in a week. It's really ridiculous.

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Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes, our pockets are about to be fat, so let's go through this. All right. First of all, thank you for doing this, because a few weeks ago, I was on the phone with Manager Alou, and I was passing out my flyers. I was at your house-

Tamara: I attacked you.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: You spoke to me about this. I said, "Why don't you gather all the neighbors, contact me, and I'll come out and do a block meeting." I've never heard from anybody.

Tamara: No, because it's hard to. Everybody has different working hours, and three of them can't come. One, I couldn't even get a hold of, her work hours are bizarre.

[crosstalk]

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: But it's good. That's what I'm saying. You saved me that meeting, and I appreciate that. If you guys still want to, I can still do it.

Tamara: Everybody on the street agrees with-

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Absolutely.

Tamara: We can have a petition signed easily.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes, absolutely. All right, so let's go through this. Okay, so the first thing is the street closure, right?

Tamara: Yes, that's basically what we want.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes, I know. When you look at Miami shores, you see it. Yes, unfortunately. There's a couple of things with that. First of all, if you notice, Miami Shores did that a long, long time ago. Right now, there's a moratorium in the county, and we have Commissioner Hardeman, our district commissioner, Commissioner Hardeman's office. That's his representative right there. She's the best. She will tell you that because of Miami shores doing that to their streets. They did it for a couple of reasons.

One of those reasons was not such a good reason, going back decades and decades and decades. Okay. Being that's the case, there's currently a moratorium on blocking off streets. Blocking off streets even though it's currently a moratorium on it, it's not an easy process. As for example, when you all say, while they have everything dug up, it would make a lot of sense to start this process because you have to not only get approved from the county and things like that, but they also look at the traffic patterns.

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Those things have changed since Miami Shores did it back in the '70s, '60s when they did it because they look at emergency vehicles, traffic patterns, and things like that. It's a longer process. Right now, currently, that's just not an option because the county has a moratorium on it. Okay, so that's right now, currently, it's not an option because of that moratorium. Okay. That's my next thing I'm addressing. All right. Speed bumps. Yes, it is a county road or state road we're talking about. These are county roads. Speed bumps are definitely an option.

Speed bumps are things that myself and Manager Lou always continuously looks at. Miami Shores. We spoke about this when we went to Miami Shores. We spoke to them, Miami shores. They have speed bumps that they're movable also, and they can be moved throughout the community. Myself and Manager Alou, we're working on that and looking into that now. Miami Shores did that years ago.

They got the approval. A lot of times when you'll see something, the approval took a while. Look at Manager Alou shaking her head. Yes, we've been working on this. This is why I know.

Tamara: Sorry to interrupt. Why do we have to compare ourselves to Miami?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: You guys brought up Miami.

Tamara: Shore residents got them all. Treasure Island just got brand new ones on Bay Drive. They're all over.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: One person needs to talk at a time. This is what I said. Like I was saying-

Tamara: I'm sorry to interrupt.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: No problem. It's okay. No problem. Like I was saying, you guys brought up Miami shores. The only reason why I'm saying Miami shores. El Portal, for decades and decades before I was mayor, should have done the traffic study, but they didn't. It wasn't until I was mayor and this administration came in and we just completed the first phase of our traffic study. What I'm trying to tell you guys is that these other neighborhoods, when you see these things like the speed bumps, it's not like they did the traffic study two years ago, and now you see the speed bumps now.

They probably started their traffic study five years ago or four years ago, because those things take time to implement. Because the first phase is speed, which we completed. The first phase, which is speed reduction. That's the first phase of a traffic study, which we've completed. Then after that, there's another phase, and then another phase. what I'm trying to

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explain to you and understand, and I see you shaking your head, I understand. What I'm trying to explain to you is the governmental process.

It's not a process that we made up because we don't own the roads. Now, if El Portal owned these roads, my process would be, you know what we put in the speed bumps next week. We put in the speed bumps tomorrow. [crosstalk] To the microphone, please to the microphone. Step to the microphone. Talk to me.

Greg: Isn't it better to ask for forgiveness than permission? What about the neighbors? Don't they have any rights to the streets that they live on? We deal with this every day. Part of the problem is the bridge project, which has been going on for four years now. A lot of people use those side streets so they can avoid that traffic jam every single day, twice a day. We have to live with it. You're telling us that this is going to be a seven-year project to get a speed bump?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: What I'm saying to you is that we've completed phase one of the project of the traffic study. We're going into phase two. What I'm also saying to you is going to your ask for forgiveness instead of permission, myself and Manager Alou have been talking about the signage. Signage was something you guys brought up just now. Signage is something Keon Hardeman's office doesn't hear this. Signage is something that myself and Manager Alou have been talking about.

What we've been saying is, mayor, why don't we just do the signage that's necessary and start there? Now, for signage, we also would have to go through the county. What we've been saying is, look at this with a room full of-- this is being recorded, right? Oh, lord. Behind closed doors, and I'm not going to say too much, what we've been saying is that for certain things, we'll ask for forgiveness and not permission.

Can't say it right now, but we've been saying that behind closed doors and there's things that we're looking into under the idea of how often do they really look for these things and drive through our neighborhood and see these things and things like that. Maybe we should start doing these things. Contact me tomorrow. I can give you details.

Greg: They'll never notice.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: That's the case. The third thing is we did the street closures, speed bumps. The third thing is when we came in, we-- that's a phone, right? When we came in, we revamped the police department. One of the things that we did, no taxpayer. Everything you see is no taxpayer dollars when you look around. One of the things we did was we got the most updated speeding equipment. Part of the process of getting that is that

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our officers had to be certified because they could give a ticket, but if they don't have certification, the new speed equipment, it gets thrown out immediately.

The problem with that was that that speed certification class occurs twice a year. The problem with that is, is that since it happens twice a year, we can't empty out our police department to send every officer to get certified in the new speed equipment. We send two, three at a time. We recently got this new equipment within the past year. Now, most of our officers have gone through it. Now, check this out. I see you. Check this out. You all might not know this.

Some people might know this but now that the certifications have happened a couple of weeks ago, as a matter of fact, a few weeks ago, for a couple of weeks, we had about, Officer Rodriguez, about 30 officers from-

Officer Rodriguez: About a little more than that.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: A little more than that. Doing speed traps. [crosstalk] Throughout El Portal, focusing on Northeast 2nd. Why? That's exactly why, because there were three accidents on Northeast 2nd scene, Ms. Claudia's school, there's a fence they took down on one accident. There was a couple of other. Because of that, we concentrated our first speed reduction-- speed traps it is. You shouldn't say speed traps, but you know what it is. The speed reduction element. We concentrated first on Northeast 2nd.

The next phase, and the next locations is Northwest 5th because Northwest 5th coming from that school, that long street down there, they speed like crazy. They sped so much recently that one of the cars went into the front yard of the houses at the end of that street.

Greg: By Horace Mann on either side of the Horace?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Either side of Horace Mann, but on the other side of Horace Mann. The side that faces Unincorporated Dade, Northwest 5th. We're doing them. You all, we have 86th Street, West of North Miami Avenue. We have that right there with the Northwest 5th Avenue, and I believe on the list that we have the Al Hardin right after that.

Greg: It's a revenue source for the town.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: As you heard, Officer Rodriguez said we had about over 30 officers. The only reason why Northeast 2nd was the first location was because of the accidents. Y'all's location is right around the corner, not months away.

Greg: We don't want to wait for an accident.

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Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All right? Contact me for any off-the-record conversations. I can give you details about that but besides that, can't do the street closures but the other stuff is being worked on. The others has already been implemented, already been started. Just Northeast 2nd was the first location.

Greg: Got it.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All right? I got you. The last thing I would say is for Al Hardin, when do you see those speeders? Is it during the morning traffic or afternoon traffic? Is it random times throughout the day?

Tamara: Heaviest between 8:00 and 9:00 in the morning, and then between 4:00 and 6:00 in the evening.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: 8:00t and 9:00 and 4:00 and 6:00. Madam manager.

Tamara: 8:00 and 9:00 is big time. One right after the other. As you know, the line can be almost as big as 87th Street all turning left onto North Miami.

Mathias: Mayor, if I could,

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: One second, I just want to ask one more thing.

Tamara: I don't understand. This is a simple problem we're having, speed, and it's a very quick solution to put speed bumps down to don't cost anything. Even though I understand what you just said, do we have to wait till a child is really harmed before we can go faster?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: No, but it's not as simple what you're saying. Just putting speed bumps down is not as simple as it sounds because it's not legal for us to just simply go out and put speed bumps down. Like I said, there's things that are happening behind closed doors that-

Tamara: Then we can get a variance or something. We can all go down and protest. It's crazy. We're worried about people living on the street.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: I understand.

Tamara: I think it's important.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: It is very important, and it is actually in real time being worked on what you're talking about.

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Tamara: When will we see the results?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: You're going to see, well, you're going to see quick results really quickly within the next week or so. When it comes to the officers and when it comes to the money that's going to be going to be coming to Albert Tower that you guys are talking about, that's going to be happening fairly quickly. When you're talking about speed bumps, we can speak about that offline, and other things are being worked on.

Tamara: That's the point.

Nicole: We can still do it in the meeting she wanted to do, right?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes, yes. You guys can still do the meeting and-

Nicole: Pull everyone together.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes, and pull everybody together like you said.

Tamara: Oh, there's more of us. They just couldn't come. I could bring them all of them.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: I'll come out and meet you guys. Like I told you that day.

Tamara: You did tell me that.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: I said gather everybody and I'll be up.

Tamara: I thought it better for us to come here and attack you-

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: It's all good.

Tamara: -rather than you coming out there.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Either way. I appreciate you guys, but you guys can always contact me. You guys know you guys can call me anytime day or night with anything, but you guys will see a lot of stuff. I want to talk to Manager Alou really quickly. We found out Al Hardin is the morning rush hour and the evening rush hour for west of North Miami Avenue on 86th Street. When is the times that you guys are seeing out there?

Tamara: I'm sorry, what [unintelligible 00:26:13]

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: West of North Miami Avenue on 86th Street. When are the times that you're seeing that a lot of this speeding is happening? Is it rush hour also?

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Greg: I think they're talking about--

Tamara: Where did he go? [crosstalk] We're all East, he's west.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Who is West? I know somebody. Oh, you're West. 86th Street West, right?

Greg: Not really rush hour, because they go 60 miles an hour. It's usually at night.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: It's usually at nighttime. Nighttime after 8:00 PM?

Greg: From 8:00 until midnight.

Juliana: Can I make one-

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Is it worse in the weekends or is it any night?

Tamara: Yes, you can.

Juliana: More one observation.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Worse than the weekends. Let me jump. Last thing in [unintelligible 00:26:51]

Juliana: One more observation, and I think this is a very important observation. I'm in Miami Court and I sit in front of my window a lot. What I notice is that the cars, the same color of cars. I know because I see the same color of cars going south on Northeast Miami Court and then that same car drove in rather okay.

That same car comes back up fast. What my understanding is here that is happening is they're turning on Northeast Miami Court going south to turn onto North Miami Avenue and make a left. When they realize that they can't, they turn around and they speed back up because they've already missed two minutes of their time.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: I got you.

Juliana: They miss, they come back fast. That's the problem. If we could have a signage that says, "Over there, dead end." I don't know. Something like, no. Yes. Something even closer to that because that's what's happening. They get mad. They go there and they're like, "Oh, I can't do it," and they speed back.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: I think the police-

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Tamara: You can fix the speed signs now. You can't see them and they're all faded. We could make good ones.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Let Manager Alou. Councilor Urbom, I got you. No, I hear you. The first thing is going to be the police out there, and I think that's going to be a big hit from the very beginning.

Tamara: They do come. I know three of them who'd make their rounds but-

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: They haven't come the way that we are doing it for the speed.

Tamara: I agree.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: I got you.

Tamara: Hopefully.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: I got you. It's starting not necessarily next week, but in the next couple of weeks, it'll be really out there. All right. You guys contact me for anything, okay? Thank you. Thank you very, very much.

Village Manager Alou: May I please add a little something?

Mathias: You said we have completed phase one of the traffic study. How many phases are there?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Traffic study, it just depends but there's a few phases that we're looking into.

Mathias: We're talking about three phases.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: There's a few phases. There's there's a few. There's three phases that we're looking into.

Mathias: Three phases, so we completed one?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: We completed one, which is the speed limit. Thank you very much.

Mathias: Thank you.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Manager Alou?

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Village Manager Alou: Yes. I would like to add that some of the things we're doing, and this is for the residents who I know you're leaving and you probably can't hear me, but if you'd like to hear some of the things we are working on.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: For the residents, you guys might want to listen to Manager Alou.

Village Manager Alou: It's okay. We've had several actual police operations. I think there have been four just this month. The Florida Highway Patrol was a part of it. It was not just Northeast Second Avenue, it was the entire Village of El Portal. It was Northeast 2nd, North Miami Avenue, Northwest 2nd, Northwest 5th Avenue is when they did the operation or the exercise that garnered several speeding tickets.

Because we have such a small agency, we had to pull in other departments. The City of Miami, Miami Shores, [unintelligible 00:29:51] Game Park North Bay Village, those police departments assisted our officers in doing that exercise. There will be some more happening in the coming weeks like Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson described. On top of that, we also conducted a traffic study last year. The gentleman, our traffic engineer, Mr. Juan Espinosa is here to actually talk about an item. That is something that we're working on. On Northeast 2nd Avenue, we have a road diet plan that we're doing. We would like to reduce the lanes down from four to two in [unintelligible 00:30:25]. That would also deter speeding on the road.

Mr. Espinosa did a complete study. We've submitted that to Miami-Dade County. They responded with no speed bumps and all of those things, but we can still push for other things like raised intersections, what have you. There are different phases that we are working on based on his work and based on what is allowed. We are working for the village. It's just it takes a long time. I'm sorry.

Juliana: I know. I'm sorry.

Village Manager Alou: Okay. We also have a roundabout going in at Northwest 2nd Avenue and 90th Street to slow down traffic in that area.

Tamara: [unintelligible 00:31:03]

Village Manager Alou: Yes, we're doing several things, they're small, but sadly it just takes so much time because we have to do the study, then we have to submit, we have to get the permit. We're even here today based on the technicality needed from the county for us to submit, so we're here to address that. Believe me, I understand your concerns. It worries me too. I'm a neighbor, so I do know. Those are some things we're working on. I want you to know, we are working on things, but it just takes time. We'll keep at it and we'll-

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Tamara: Traffic keeps on increasing [crosstalk]-

Village Manager Alou: I agree. I'm so glad we have our county here. If we could get that bridge-- That's why I asked Ms. Augustine. She could tell us when that bridge is because I think that also makes it very dangerous in that intersection as well. Please work with us. We'll continue to keep you informed. Okay?

Tamara: [unintelligible 00:31:51]

Village Manager Alou: Okay.

Tamara: Thank you.

Village Manager Alou: You're welcome.

Mathias: Thank you.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Vice Mayor Anders Urbom.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Yes. Yes. I wanted to let the residents know about the roundabout that the mayor just spoke about. In terms of the concern of speed specifically, heavy traffic in general, acknowledging that it's not just during rush hour, but it is at odd hours as well, including weekends. It is a village-wide problem. There is not really any place specifically in the village that is really free from this issue. I know 88th Street, for example, is one of our most absolutely narrow streets. I'm on 89th, not too far from here, and it's kind of an awkward-- let's see, one, two, three, four, five.

There's a lot of different angles, and it creates this intersection that doesn't have right angles, so people can access 89th Street heading west at speed. You have people rounding the corner at 30, 35 miles an hour. Then once they straighten out, they're accelerating one block to a stop sign, rolling stop, accelerating to the next block, rolling stop sign, accelerating to East 2nd Avenue, and then going on their way from there. I've thrown things at cars before. I have four small children. I've gone out in the street myself as well.

I wanted to let the residents know that outside of getting bogged down in the administrative process of what we're dealing with, I've been on the council almost six years now. This issue has been at the forefront of discussion for committee meetings as well as general council meetings for a solid two years really, three years already. This evening, as the mayor said, we have people in the audience. It's not just a traffic engineer, but our urban planner as well. There is a resilient street strategy that would involve making some streets one ways and changing the pattern within the village that would--

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Just as the residents were saying tonight, we don't mind being inconvenienced to go around. That's the idea, to try and create a type of labyrinth of street pattern that would discourage people from using it as a cut-through. Then the residents being used to the street pattern would be able to navigate it easily, while people coming from outside the village would have a very difficult time navigating it. That would be the idea to basically train the public to avoid using El Portal as a cut-through.

5th Avenue, those avenues, especially the western avenues are of severe concern because of the length of the straightaway. People drive the road. The road is designed as a quarter-mile drag strip, so that's how the behavior shows up on the road. That roundabout that the manager has spoken about is critical to disrupting that pattern from the north end. One thing I believe the mayor meant to mention, to be specific when we say the traffic study was completed, that was the second traffic study. The first traffic study did not get us the results we were hoping for and the county declined all of our requests for lowering the speed limit.

The traffic study that the mayor is talking about in terms of what occurred last year, that traffic study was successful. The county recognized and the data proved that we do need reduced speed limits. The speed limits are going to be reduced on several roads and the permitting process for having the signage put up and things like that is already in motion.

There is a considerable amount of effort throughout the village to address this in many different ways, not the least of which would be changing traffic patterns wholly. We might not be able to close off a street. The mayor is being polite to not into it, but we're talking about decades-old racial issues. Those of you who are new to Florida, Florida specifically has had an issue with walls. There are many walls throughout the state that were put up for racial discrimination. So the concept of blocking access to residents in one degree or another is something that the entire state needs to address, face, and correct.

That's why you're going to get a lot of pushback from doing something like blocking off access because of the history of racial discrimination specifically associated with that. The solution then becomes, "Well, change the traffic pattern. Have one-way streets so that--" It serves the same purpose as a dead end. You have the traffic flowing the other way so that they're not able to get down and go that way. All that to say there is a considerable effort again throughout the entire village. That's why the mayor had a difficult time saying how many phases because it depends on which intersection you're talking about.

The phase that was completed was to get permission to reduce speed limits, and then we are looking at it from there. As far as speed bumps, yes, we have got to be very strategic about that because harmonics, if you don't put the correct speed bump in, people can literally speed up to get over it easier than slowing down. It's a whole different animal there, but it is being examined, looked at, and aggressively pursued.

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Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you, Vice Mayor Anders Urbom. I appreciate it.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: You got someone at the mic.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes. This is what I'm going to say.

Resident: [inaudible 00:38:01]

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Our first bit in welfare is usually for things on the agenda. The last bits in welfare are for anything you want to talk about. Since I did open that up, we'll do the last bit in welfare now since we've already started that process. If you have anything that you want to mention at all, it doesn't have to be just things on the agenda, we'll do all of that right now. Okay? All right. Since we started that process. Sir, say your name and address for the record, and let us know what you're here for.

Dudley Mayard: Good evening, everyone. My name is Dudley Mayard. 188 Northwest 89th Street. The reason why I'm here is just-

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Push it up.

Dudley: Push it up?

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Yes. Push it up.

Dudley: The reason why I'm here is a courtesy I'm asking. I had two inspections. I was actually here in the city speaking with Frank when he actually was at my property doing the inspection. It's about two of them. I was told that I have to come here to try to get any type of-- because they want \$80 fee to do a re-inspection. I'm here tonight to see if you guys could waive that for me as a courtesy.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: You have an inspection fee of \$80?

Dudley: Yes. That needs to be paid before I can get an inspection done to close out a permit that I'm trying to close out.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All right. The process of inspection fees and things like that goes through the building department. As far as what the council can do, you would have to go through the building department, go through administration, and then get on the agenda for anything that we could do.

Dudley: I did. I was told this and emailed-

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Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Told this about who? Do you know who told you this?

Dudley: Well, Frank told me that I need to get on the board, to come here in order to be heard. If there was anything to be done, this would have done that. I did email the proper person asking them to put me on the document, and they emailed me back asking what I needed. I explained again, I want to get on a document to try to get a fee waived and I got no response.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: This is what you would have to do. What you would have to do is you need to go to the front desk when we're doing our open hours, go to the front desk. You said you e-mailed, correct?

Dudley: I spoke to Pedro, the Building Department. Pedro?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Ms. Martinez, yes.

Dudley: Yes, I spoke to him. He was here when I came to do it. He's the one that advised me. Everyone advised me at the office in there that they cannot do anything. It has to be a board meeting, or you guys have to be the one to be able to remove any fees.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: This is the thing. To vote on it, though, we would need-- for example, we would need-- and this is why you have to go through that. This is what I'm going to tell you to do. This is what you need to do. Write an email saying, "I was instructed by the building department to come before the council because of a hardship payment that I'm not able to pay or I do not want to pay. I want the council to waive it."

Dudley: I did an email similar to what you're saying, and I got no response.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: I think I know the email you might have been talking about, but it wasn't detailed. I saw an email that I was forwarded, and it said something like, "I want to get on the agenda." It didn't say anything about the building department, hardship, \$80, housing. It said nothing about that, correct?

Dudley: Yes.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: When I got the email, I was like, "I don't even understand what this is about."

Dudley: I didn't get any feedback to elaborate on the email.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes, but write this. This is what we're doing. We're doing the feedback right now, my brother. Write the email.

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Dudley: I would appreciate it if I got it at that time for today, I could have been prepared to do what you're saying to do had I got that feedback at this time and manner.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: This is why we would need to do it this way also because we would need also the paperwork from the building department. We know exactly what we're looking at, exactly what property, exactly what needs to be done, exactly what permits. We would need to be happy to prepare.

Dudley: Am I able to come-- Not to cut you off. Am I able to come in? Because I come several times. I know Pedro really well. I know Frank really well. Is there a way-- I even know the pretty manager we have.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Manager Alou?

Dudley: Alou, really well. I'm saying that to say, is there a way that we can maybe got together to speed up the process? Because the thing is, this is a whole ordeal why I'm asking for the courtesy to begin with. I was the one that they made a huge mistake on my permit that cost me about three months delay. That three months-

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: This is what you need to do, not to cut you off. I'm going to save you time. This is what you need to do. In your email, what you were just about to explain to me, put that in that email.

Dudley: Okay.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All right? Send that email to the Building Department, CC Manager Alou, and clerk Jacobi, and CC myself. You have my information also?

Dudley: Yes, I do.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes, you do. All right? Everybody has my information. All right. What you're going to do, send that email, Building Department is to Building Department, and you can even put the Building Department and Ms. Martinez, if you want to. If you don't know Ms. Martinez, we can forward it to them. Make sure you send it to the Building Department, CC, manager Alou, clerk Jacobi, and myself. In that email, you're going to say why you want-- give a background, and you're going to talk about the mistake you feel like we made.

You're going to say, "I want my 80 fee waived due to the mistake, hardship," or whatever your reasons are, "and I would like to come before the council to speak about this matter in the next council meeting." All right? Just send that email, and we'll start to handle it from there.

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Dudley: All right, quick question. When is your next board meeting?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: It's next month. It's usually the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Dudley: Fourth Tuesday of the month.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Okay. All right.

Dudley: I'm going to do that but this is furthermore delayed due to my issue of you guys giving me the error from the beginning.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: I don't know about the error. That's why you're going to explain to me. What you were just about to explain.

Dudley: It was already proven in the beginning meeting that we had. It was already proven that you guys made the error on my behalf. It was already proven already.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: You were approved in December, so all you're waiting for is the \$80 to close it out?

Dudley: Yes, two of them. That's what I'm saying.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: 160?

Dudley: 160. I'm going to be waiting more for 160.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: To close it out?

Dudley: You guys cost me about 15,000 a month for three months.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Listen. I'm trying to help you out now.

Dudley: Okay. I just want you guys to know on record what you cost me, on record.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All right. I'm trying to help you out now. Write the email.

Dudley: Okay.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Write the email as soon as you can.

Dudley: I will.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All right? We'll go from there.

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Dudley: Thank you.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All right. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Nickersen: Excuse me, but that was the property that was built all without permits, right? That's the one you're talking about.

Dudley: Correct. Yes.

Vice Mayor Nickersen: Okay.

Dudley: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Nickersen: Thanks.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much, Mr. Vice Mayor. How are you doing?

Speaker 4: Hi, [unintelligible 00:44:25]

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All right.

Serena Erie: Hi, Serena Erie, 86th Street on Northeast Second Avenue. Before I jump into my list of items that I would like to address, I would like to say that I have seen the traffic cops on Second Avenue, or just the cops in general, coming through the neighborhood for a lot of reasons. I have been impressed. The speed has been reduced. I've been happy to see a lot of tickets being written. I assume that there are no traffic cameras because you don't allow or you don't have license plates on the front of cars.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: You're talking about the red light cameras?

Serena: Just any speeding cameras or why it needs to be cops as opposed to-- I find if you hit people's wallets, they tend to change their behavior.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes. There's something that we have tonight, actually. As far as school zone, we have that aspect. As far as red-light cameras, so the red-light camera thing is a weird thing. The red-light camera things were really popular a while ago, but they ended up not being such a good situation. A lot of municipalities and counties took them down, and they were running into a lot of problems with the process of the red-light camera situations. That's why you don't see that right now.

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It's something that we can definitely look into, but we do have, just on the agenda tonight, We do have cameras that will help out with speeding, but it's more directed towards school zones and certain speed zones.

Serena: You're talking about reducing some streets from four lanes to two lanes. I did want to ask that you also give thought to making, instead of taking away a lane, making that lane a bike lane or a motorcycle lane, or a bus lane, because a problem we have on Second Avenue, a lot of people with those motorized scooters and electric bikes and whatever, going on the sidewalk, especially at night where it's not as lit and zooming past. it's a big hazard, not only for people with pets but also for people with kids and strollers and trying to walk.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes. We can look into that. Okay, so when we spoke to the county about Northeast Second, the first thing that we addressed, if you remember, Madam Manager, we were in those meetings. We were in, myself and Manager Alou, we had seven, eight meetings about this. It was a lot of meetings. They looked into it, and when they came back with the options because of-- I forgot the exact reason, Madam Manager, you might remember in detail more than I from those Zoom meetings.

For some reason, they said that the bike lane would be more dangerous than not-- it would be more dangerous on Northeast Second El Portal than it would be in other locations, I believe it was. It was something like that I remember them telling us. The bike lane was out. As far as you're talking about a bus lane, that would still be four lanes, and it would be the same thing in a way because you would have it where when the bus is not there, you're going to have people just speeding to the bus lane. You know what I mean?

Serena: What tickets?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: They'll just go into the bus lane. We can ticket them, but-

Serena: How about parking then?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Parking is what we're actually doing. She's talking about, when Manager Alou is talking about four lanes to two lanes, it's not just getting rid of the other lane. That would be parking.

Serena: It's not making the sidewalk bigger.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes. It will be the continuation of what you see in Miami Shores downtown. We have the parking on the side, and you have the one lane because it calms down the speeding in the track.

Serena: Great. Thank you. All right. What I did--I'm sorry.

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Village Manager Alou: Can I just address the part about it's a clearance matter for bike lanes and turning, so we can't do everything that we may envision? Actually, the item is on the agenda tonight. Our traffic engineer is going to talk about that, the Northeast Second Avenue mobility study or the plans. That is why everything can't be exactly like that because we may not have the space for the turns that are needed.

Serena: Thank you. What I wanted to address was the homeless situation on Second Avenue, which I have seen, or just in El Portal generally, has seen an increase in this last year, such that I find homeless people sleeping on the sidewalk in store, entranceways of stores that have been closed, or there's nobody there on Saturday mornings or Friday nights. Sleeping, of course, there's a lot across from my house on Second Avenue that they sleep in.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: What street is this?

Serena: I'm sorry. What street is this? On 86 and Second.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: On 86 and Second?

Serena: Yes, on that corner across the way. There's a lot there. Even next to that, between before Little River or after Little River, there's also a parking.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: On the El Portal side or the city of Miami side? When you go over the bridge, you're into the city of Miami on Unincorporated Dade, on their side.

Serena: The city of Miami side, yes, there would be that lot there. Also, on El Portal side, on 86, on the west side of North.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Of North to 2nd?

Serena: Yes.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Where the empty lot is, the one for sale.

Serena: right. Although I'm not sure it's for sale anymore because I don't see a sign out there anymore. Yes, they've been sleeping there under the tree and fishing and whatever. Also, my neighbor actually, his entrance is actually on 2nd Avenue, so that he had to buy another hose because he found people washing themselves on his front lawn. We both found drug paraphernalia or whatever kits, they stow into my hedges or try to hide things within my hedges so that they can come back. Somebody has stolen some solar lights that I had in my front yard just last month on the 28th. I reported that. I've seen them throwing their trash out in front.

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Just today there was a guy with a luggage set or whatever on the 3rd Avenue in 87th side just throwing his garbage out in somebody's property. They've been loitering in Sherwood Park. They've just been there hanging out and it's fine until they don't look like they're mentally fit. They're scary. With the sleeping and hanging out, since I'm on 2nd Avenue, the garbage, the liquor bottles, the needles and things like that is scary. This is the first time I felt scared in.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: We'll deal with that because nobody should feel scared in EL Portal. Especially I'm 100% against that. We'll speak to the police department and start to do more rounds, particularly in that area and we'll fix that situation.

Serena: I know the cops have been doing a lot of rounds. I do appreciate that.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: We'll concentrate though and fix that situation fairly quickly.

Serena: There have also been people loitering in cars. I know somebody else in my neighborhood address that with the police department. I have seen them hanging around, but there've been people slowly driving by and stopping in houses that they think are unoccupied. Or sometimes I'll find somebody just sitting in my driveway in a car. I have to go out and say, "You need to move along." They're just sitting there and I don't know why exactly they're doing that.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All right, we'll concentrate a lot more in that area about these things.

Serena: My last two things are the Plant the Future outdoor parties. I know Plant the Future technically is on the other side of Little River but they're parties, they're outdoor concerts I don't think they have a permit for. I can hear it. They usually start on Thursdays, then they go to Sundays and they don't end at 10 o'clock.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Have you ever called 911 or an emergency police number?

Serena: I've called code enforcements and they've gone out there. El Portal Code Enforcement has gone a couple of times and they have lowered the music. El Portal will say that sometimes I get somebody who says, "Yes, we'll go out there." Sometimes they say, "No, that's not El Portal." I have to call the cops or whatever and they have gone out there a couple of times. It's worked. Should I have-

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Call the cops.

Serena: Call the cops every time, even though it's El Portal and technically they say it is not?

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Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Call the cops because even if you give the address, once you give the address or say it's whatever, even if it's El Portal cops, they'll know the City of Miami or Unincorporated Dade and they'll contact that police department to take care of it.

Serena: The last thing is, could you update our websites for the '24 recycling schedule?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: I got you.

Serena: It's not the same as the-

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: No, it's not the same. You're going to get that schedule. I'm doing flyer handouts next week. You're going to get it-- I get my flyer hand. You're going to get the whole schedule. You'll be able to put it up on your refrigerator then.

Serena: Yes, I remember. Thank you so much.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. I appreciate you. Thank you. Anybody else for good and welfare for about anything, you can come back up. Name and address for the record.

Greg: Greg Steer, 120 Northwest 86th Street. I just had two other quick items I wanted to bring up one of which I already mentioned and that was related to the speeding is the bridge project on North Miami Avenue and 86th Street, which has been going on now for four years. I haven't been able to turn left on my street in four years.

Donald Trump was president, it was pre-COVID. I guess there's a rep from the commissioner's office, maybe she could speak to that, but it's obviously everybody knows it causes an extreme bottlenecks in both directions twice a day and it's dangerous.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes. Go ahead. Go to the next thing. Go ahead.

Greg: Finally, I wanted to see if you could give me an update on a topic I know that you've been kicking around for about 10 years and that's the sewer septic conversion.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: The sewer conversion. We're going to be starting west of Horace Mann. We got money from the county for that. Thanks to Ken Hartman's office, thanks to Mayor Levine Cava, thanks to our relationship now that we have with the county under the current administration of EL Portal. We're starting phase one will be west of Horace Mann. Phase two depends on the funding.

I would just say most likely phase two would probably be Northeast 2nd only because it's probably easier to get funding for business corridor. All right. After that, a lot of the flooding

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after that happens mostly with the residents that are on the river. Along the river would probably be more of the phase after that. It depends on what funding comes in, what phases that we do.

I would just guess our Northeast 2nd of business corridor would probably be phase two. As far as, the other thing was the bridge, as far as the bridge that's not El Portal. [laughs] Also, it was being fixed and like you said, it's been a long time. It was being fixed and then something happened with the parts or something like that. You had to start almost from the beginning again.

Ms. Augustine, if you want to just come up. You can talk about the bridge, but you can give a really quick update on anything you want to speak about, Ms. Augustine. Our District Three representative from Commissioner Hardemon's office, everybody. She's wonderful. We always stay in touch and she's always on top of everything.

Rosenny Augustine Jean-Louise: Thank you. Good evening everyone. Mayor, vice Mayor, council members, councilor Parsons. My name is Rosenny Augustine Jean-Louis. I'm the Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator with your county commissioner, Keon Hardemon. I guess I'll start-- the bridge was the first thing I was going to talk about tonight. The bridge started actually almost six years ago. 2018 is when it first began. That is prior to County Commissioner Keon's Hardemon term in office. He started in 2020.

Unfortunately, 2020 didn't help any of us as a country with COVID, so that caused additional delays. Then there was delays due to funding because of the COVID situation. What the mayor just said last there was a delay with the state underwater. It's called FDLE. There was a permit that had to be pulled and it literally took 365 days and they didn't catch that until almost three years into the project.

Yes, we had to basically start over. Actually, got a report today from the DTPW, which is the Department of Transportation and Public Works. I asked for monthly reports about the bridge to see where we are. We're actually moving in a better pace. We're it's not going to take another six years or another year to be done. We're anticipating a completion of 2024. I say July, I would like to keep July, but if anything happens where I notice that we're running a little be delay, I will come back to the council and let you know.

I can tell you that as of this month, we've installed drainage system to the north and the south. As you can see, there is a west side of North Miami Avenue, and there's a east side of North Miami Avenue. We've completed the west side of the North Miami Avenue. Now, we're on the east side, which is what needs to be done. They've installed the drainage system of the north and the south of the east side of the bridge. One. Next week we're installing the manholes and pipes in the south side of this east side.

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Once this is done, we finally, I am anticipating before March is over, there's a drain that literally is the last pipe that needs to go underground, which is physically in the water that needs to be cemented together, rubbered together. Once that's done, we should no longer have any issues underwater. They'll lay the surface of the road on top, they'll do all their additional permitting testing to make sure that it can support the vehicles on the road and that we should be physically opened.

That's why I'm anticipating this July 2024 but if something happens between now February 27th and this July, I'm going to ask for the end of July 31st. If something happens between now and then, I will continue to come back to the village and I will let you know this is the status of the bridge but that is where we are. I can tell you last month, January, the county actually gave the additional funding because there was a huge funding gap between what was anticipated.

This project should have been done within three years of its original request so by 2021, it should have been done. As you can see, we are still so much further away from that original due date. We had to fill in the gap and the commissioner did pass the legislation to make sure that they're going to do what they said for the village, but, two, to make sure that they don't come back and say there is a financial situation as to why they won't be able to complete the bridge. That is our update in regards to the bridge. In addition, this upcoming week, Commissioner Hardemon, in collaboration with SBD, which is the Small Business Development, will be hosting a community meeting tomorrow morning or an early morning meeting with the small businesses from 10:00 to 12:00, just to talk about the different ways to partner with Miami-Dade County as a small business and how to be better integrated if you're not aware of resources that are available.

Tomorrow night, the Cultural Affairs Department is having a how-to-apply-for-grants that is open to the community at large that they can also apply to. I want to thank the residents who actually came out who was talking about the North Miami Bridge. Mayor, you're absolutely right when it comes to this new relationship between District 3 and the village for the residents who called and the residents who are feeling uncomfortable in their neighborhoods. Yes, the county and the village will work together. The mayor is absolutely right with the different layers of things that need to happen before you can just say, we're going to put a speed bump in the ground because some roads can't handle a speed bump.

From what you guys are talking about, you can do a speed table, but the county has to come out and assess that. The village makes the request. The commissioner's office will then ensure with the Department of Public Works and Transportation that that request is done thoroughly and efficiently, but quickly, all at the same time, and then give the recommendation. I know the village is going to present something today in reference to

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traffic patterns or traffic requests for the entirety of the village, but if that is something, if there's something specific we want to work on for 86, starting with the signage.

Signage is not something that is difficult. It's also another request to the Department of DTPW, Department of Public Works and Transportation, if there's a signage already out on that block or they are asking for the dead end or no through way signs, if that's something that we can put out immediately that does not require an additional traffic study, then that is something that we can request from our office to DTPW so that they come. You don't have to make or not make comments on the record of things you shouldn't say in reference to the county. Fair?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Fair, but I think the dead-end sign, it was actually for the dead-end street. That's one of the things. Those are the types of things we have to discuss.

Ms. Augustine: Right. Does the councilpersons have any questions? Vice Mayor? Mayor? No? No. Okay. Thank you so very much. You were right about the MOU with the county in reference to no longer installing or closing off streets. The county, and it's not because El Portal is asking if you guys want to go back, the county has sued other municipalities who have installed new dead-in roads or blocked off roads without county permission.

I don't think the village wants to be in that situation and the county is saying, "We're not doing that anymore."

There is history in the state as to the intention was not to slow down traffic as to why they put these in but to keep people out. We've come a long way as a county as well as a municipality. This is a village. We will work in other ways to provide safety for the village. Thank you so very much.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much, Ms. Augustine. Thank you very much to Commissioner Hardemon. Appreciate it.

Ms. Augustine: Thank you.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. Let's stick with government. Mr. Tejada, come on up, my brother, I appreciate it. South Florida Water Management District, he's our point person. I don't know if you guys know this, or you guys should know this, I put it in my mayor's report, but that Clerk Jacobi so lusciously writes out for me in every agenda. I began a coastal mayor's meeting conference that we do, and we're on number four now. I began it myself, and the first person to join me was Mayor Latham from North Bay Village.

We held it in North Bay Village was the number one, and it was right after the fish kill. That's where I began it, so all the mayors can kind of get together and speak about what we

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can do to help out with water quality, the Biscayne Bay and things like that, and everything just like with the environment in relation to like the water. It was called the Coastal Mayors. Number one, the first meeting was in North Bay Village. The second meeting we had here in Village Hall. The third meeting was in Palmetto Bay, I believe. The fourth meeting that we had was in Cutler Bay.

You were there with me in Cutler Bay for the fourth meeting. He saw that and it's very good because a lot of things that happens in government, you guys. I know this meeting is going to make us really quickly because it's kind of a long meeting, but a lot of things that happen in government, you'll see government will start an initiative and then they'll have like one meeting or two meetings and then you never hear about that initiative and it just goes away. Then years later, there'll be another initiative. For me to have started this and to gather-- Council President Michael Ward was at one of my postal mayor's meetings when we had it in here at El Portal.

For me to have started this and for me to be able to gather 20 different mayors every single time to come to these meetings is humongous. They're all active and I appreciate you for being in it when it happened at Cutler Bay. My next one I'm doing is in Key Biscayne. My next one will be in Key Biscayne will be my next coastal mayors' meeting. Welcome, my brother. How are you doing?

Mr. Tejeda: Thank you for having me. Nice to be here. Basically, I'm here mainly to hear what the village might have some concerns, anything like that. I'm also here to act mainly, like I said, as a main contact for you guys. I do have cards if anybody in the audience does have anything they'd like to discuss when it comes to storm flooding or anything that we might handle. I'm glad to speak with you as well. Mainly, like I said, I'm here to speak with everybody from the village, let you guys know that we're here for you and we're going to listen and try to help as much as we can.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Well, thank you very much. The South Florida Water Management District is something that we really appreciate and it's something that is integral to everything at El Portal with how we are in our community and the Little River. We appreciate you. Thank you very, very much.

Mr. Tejeda: Thank you.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you. Is there anybody else for good and welfare about anything at all before we get back to the agenda? Good and welfare about anything at all. Come up and say your name and address for the record.

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Mr. Scott Kobrick: Scott Kobrick, 8525 Northeast 4th Avenue Road. I actually just wasn't planning to come up about anything until I just heard the water management thing. I just wanted to actually ask, this is something that I'm actually very interested in, and wanted to ask about the trash that floats down the river a lot. I know that there's the trash picker, the surface trash catcher that is right across from where sort of Cavista is. I wanted to question whether or not it's possible to have one further down the river before maybe around North Miami Avenue or Northeast Second, so that it would collect some more of the trash from floating down there.

I know that around this area is sort of a manatee sanctuary. From what I understand, there's been a lot of actually more manatee activity in the area recently. Want to make sure that you know the pollution is under control there.

Mr. Tejeda: One of the major things that we are currently working on is that is trying to reduce the pollution levels both from runoff and from litter that's ending up in the canal. One of the main canals that you see here is the C7 canal. That one is one of our higher level of pollution canals when it comes to litter. We have had to install a tough boon system, which is mainly our trash capture systems. We have one right on 27th Avenue, right by Miami Dade College. Then we have our second one here by the structure, which is our S-27 structure.

Mainly that canal starts over by Hialeah Gardens, where that canal starts, and it floats down. We have noticed that a lot more of the trash does accumulate over on the west side as it comes down. Like I've said, we place those two points to be able to isolate more in which areas we're seeing the most. We do try to do as much cleaning as possible when it comes to those areas, maintain it as clean as possible. We pulled out some really big things out of this side nearer to the structure. It is one of the big things that we have. All throughout the system, we do some heavy cleanups but on this one mainly, we do some extra cleanups every once in a while just to make sure that we're capturing litter coming from both sides, the west side and the east side as well.

Scott: Is there a possibility of adding another one in between the two, closer to El Portal boundaries?

Mr. Tejeda: We've been looking at different ways to improve how we collect. Currently right now and more towards the future, those current systems that we have are anything that floats on top. Sometimes when there is a heavy buildup, you might see anything sneak underneath. We're looking to maybe improve that by adding some float-down netting.

The only issue with that that we've currently seen is that in case of a storm or anything that comes in, those nets would basically hold off any larger debris. If that were to break off, it would generate a way bigger obstruction when it comes to the structures. In the middle of a

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heavy storm, it's very hard when there's an obstruction like that to move any water out. We have to manage both sides. We do try to get as clean as water out there, trying to get as much litter out of it as possible so it doesn't end up in the bay.

As well we have to always manage the possibility that something may break off in a storm and block the structure and then we cannot move water. Once we cannot move water, we're realistically in a very tough situation because everything will start to back up and that could back up into neighborhoods, things like that. We definitely don't want that happening. Sometimes, we have to measure it a little bit but definitely, we're looking into multiple different options to be able to get as clean of an area as possible. We also work with the municipalities that border all of the canals to also prevent illegal dumping. Keep a lookout for anything like that, that we might see. That's mainly what we're doing.

Scott: Okay, great. I mean, I had figured maybe there was something in the works because I'm not sure if you're familiar with the building that's being built Cavista, and the potential new building, The Launch. From what I understand, part of their plan is to have kayaking and utilize the waterway there. The trash collection is right there so I was thinking maybe they were planning to work with water management to move that or something.

If that is something that is being talked about, then I think it would probably be in a lot of best interest to either add more because of course between the one on 27th Ave and this one there's probably a lot of trash that flows in there from all the properties and so on and floodings and whatnot. It would be great if there was a way to add more of those collection points. Thank you.

Mr. Tejada: Not a problem. Just just a quick little thing there since you didn't mention it. A lot of our structures that are along the coast, we are up currently going through different upgrades. Some of those upgrades do include kayak launches, fishing areas. That will help if anybody's interested in getting out there and doing any volunteering or anything like that to help clean up. I know sometimes throughout the year we do host some different organizations that do cleanups right off of the S27 structure. Obviously, that helps out getting that community out there engagement so that they see what does end up out there and a little bit of education goes a long way realistically.

Scott Thank you very much.

Mr. Tejada: Thank you. Appreciate it.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Anybody else good and welfare about anything before we move back to the agenda? Seeing, hearing none. Okay, down to resolutions and ordinances.

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G1 Ordinance, the first reading of the school zone speed detection. Village Attorney Joseph Geller.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: An ordinance into the Village of El Portal, Florida in acting sections 22-5 through 22-10, school zone speed detection systems of Chapter 22 Article 1 of the village of El Portal code, providing for purpose and definitions, authorizing the use of and providing for implementation of school zones speed limit detection systems, designated local hearing officer, determining heightened safety risks and providing for designation of school zones, providing for severability, providing for Scrivener's errors, providing for conflict, providing for inclusion within the code, providing for filing with the Department of State, providing for an effective date resolution G1.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All right. This is about school zone detection systems, you guys. It's to lower speeding and things like that, especially particularly around school zones, where kids frequent and they being a safety issue for the children. Any questions or comments from the council?

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: For benefit of those of you that don't have your computer on, the second paragraph talks about the laws of Florida enactment and assignment by the governor on May 31, 2024 won't be effective until July 1, 2024. In regard to the enforcement of school zones speed limits, and authorization, this is what we're voting on. I'm happy to tell the audience that we have one, two, three, four, five, six, seven mandates that include what's really going to happen.

This is a very important school zone speed detection systems you are right on the money. Unfortunately or fortunately, we waited before we would tell you that it's on the agenda. Anyone can look at the agenda on the website but this is in line with our frustration. This is in line with the state recognizing also that this is a problem, so kudos to everyone that came out this evening to talk with us about your concern, that you're not alone. Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much, Dr. Lightfoot-Ward.

Village Manager Alou: May I add something, Mayor?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes.

Village Manager Alou: Okay. I just want to also bring to your attention or memory that the council did approve that we selected element-- The gentleman just walked in. We selected a

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vendor to conduct the enforcement during those school hours as outlined by the state. We do have that in place. This ordinance is the formality needed by the state to submit to show that El Portal is in compliance with their school zone requirements. We have the vendor now. Now, we've got the ordinance so we're ready to move when this takes effect.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much, Madam Manager. Any other questions or comments from the council? Hearing none. Any questions or comments from the audience about the school zones speed detection? Madam Clerk-- May I put up a motion, you guys.

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

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Moved by Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward. Please have a Second. Second by Councilperson Luis Pirela. Madam Clerk, please have a roll call, please.

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

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Most definitely.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Vice Mayor Anders Urbom?

Councilperson Urborn: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Luis Pirela?

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Motion passes four to none.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. G2, resolution resilient right of ways.

Speaker 6: Mayor, may I ask that you put G2 and G4 together since they're about the same items?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Okay.

Speaker 7: We have two versions of it.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Yes, we do.

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Speaker 7: G4 is really just an earlier version.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Okay. G2, G4 resolution resilient right of ways and streets masterplan. Village Attorney Joseph Geller.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Yes, sir. I'm going to read G2 into the record. G4 being-- G1, by the way, was the first reading, of course, so we'll see it again for the final passage next meeting. This is G2 and that does include G4 because we revised it somewhat. Resolution to the village council, the Village of El Portal, Florida of Miami Dade County, Florida, approving an environmentally resilient streets master conceptual design plan and environmentally resilient stormwater master plan updates for 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. Any questions or comments from the council?

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Clarity. Only clarity. Two of these are just alike?

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: No, they're close. What we did is we had one that steers G4, but we made a few tweaks to it to clarify it further such as including in the title that was environmentally resilient, which it was but it didn't say it was. They're substantially the same but they're not identical. G2 is the later version and the revised version.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: We have to vote both of them?

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: No, we just have to vote G2 and note that G4 is covered by G2. It does the same thing but a little bit better.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Which one are we going to do, Mayor?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: G2.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: G2, all right. Thank you.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Any questions or comments from the council? Hearing none. Any questions or comments from the audience? Just go up, and say your name and address for the record.

Pascal Depuhl: Pascal Depuhl, 177 Northwest 90th Street. Am I understanding correctly that the street master plan in G4 is being discussed now too?

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Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Say it again. Is the street master plan in G4--

Pascal: Discussed now or later in the agenda?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: It's now, G2 is the item, and G4 is just the earlier version of the same item. We're not going to do G4, G2 is that.

Pascal: Got it. If we're talking about streets in general, I know it's in G2, but G4-- I know we've talked about sewer and stormwater. I know we've had talks about gas. I don't know if we're talking about redoing streets or if it's just making streets one-way or doing traffic calming. If we're talking about actually repaving or reworking streets, I'd love to make sure that we do it. If we have to put something inside the street, we do it first before we repave it because right now our street, for instance, you can go on my property and there's five inches of Asphalt that just goes layer on, layer on layer on layer that just have to be added and added.

For redoing streets, I'd love to either see that plane down or not have another layer put on top of it because we're getting flooding just because the street has been raised and raised over the decades that it just floods our driveway. I know if I make my driveway like that and I flood my neighbor's house, you guys give me a hard time because I need to control my flooding on my property. We're getting flooding because the street just has been raised and raised. I want to give Ms. Jacobi some pictures for the record and then she can pass those out to you.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: May I understand?

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: If I might. Mr. Depuhl, the thing is, this is not the paving. This resolution is designed, so your comments are very well taken as far as design and they can be passed along by the administration to the designers. This is exactly the thing that you're addressing. This isn't a contract to go out and pave them, pave them higher, or pave them different or anything. This is specifically for design and it's two things. They're put together the stormwater master plan is being updated at the same time that this resilient design for the streets is being created. I'm sure that the administration will forward your comments to the designer because that's right where we're at. For once it's not too late. This is exactly where your comment is pertinent, and-

Village Manager Alou: May I also add, the designers are here. We have Perserbio who's our urban planner. They are working with the engineering services of Craig A Smith. We're addressing the swell issues and the erosion road issues, the narrowness one-way streets possibility, those options. This is all planning and design. Certainly, if you would like to see a utility or something added, we can talk about that because this is all planning.

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Pascal: I'd love to talk about or that's why I'm bringing it up now with the design versus when we have a contract and the contractor goes, "Well, this is what I'm supposed to do." I think that's why I just wanted to show it because-

Village Manager Alou: That's Fine.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Exactly right.

Village Manager Alou: That's fine. Yes, that's fine.

Pascal: Then also just ask if we are doing, stormwater is going to go under the street, right? If we're doing stormwater, that does not go under the streets.

Village Manager Alou: We have a stormwater master plan in existence. Now, we're doing environmentally resilience. We're looking at resilience matters related to swell, stormwater and upgrading the existing master plan with these amendments that will make us more resilient. We're talking about tree planting, we're talking about materials that are allowed in the swell, pervious pavement versus impervious and those things. That's what's being addressed in there.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Drains are not underneath, for instance. The drains have to-- if they were under, they wouldn't catch anything. So-

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: But we're not talking about putting--

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Utilities had nothing to do with the design aspect of the project because utility if you want to run gas lines to that street, you have to pay yourself-

Pascal: Right, but if we're doing sewer conversions-

Councilperson Luis Pirela: -and stuff like that, but not-- Well, that's something down the line-

Pascal: That's going to go---

Councilperson Luis Pirela: -that's nothing to do with this, exactly. This is just a design not-

Pascal: It does. Sewer goes under the street. Right?

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Of course. I don't think they put it all over the roof. No.

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Pascal: I'd like to have the village pay attention to that and say with the option of-- we just talked about how long it takes to do things, to be able to say if we're doing sewer and we're starting with that west of Horace Mann, that we're not planning to pave the street now and tear it up in a year to put sewer underneath it and repave it again and grab a crappy job.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: That's not what's being done right now-

Pascal: I understand.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: -because first of all, we have no money to pave the street because there's over \$5 million to do the whole village. It's just planning and conceptual planning for resiliency and stormwater.

Pascal: I just want to ask you guys while you're planning, think ahead and say, hey, we are doing sewer. We may do some other utilities, whatever, that we're not doing streets spending \$5 million on it, and then in two, three, four, five years tear everything back up again and get a crappy job on it just because we're patching stuff.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Right. Exactly.

Village Manager Alou: I will also add that we have a sanitary sewer master plan as well. That's already in place. That's on our village website. If you would like to take a look at the phases and what is required of that. We do have these master plans in place for what you're discussing, but the one that we're addressing is more of that-

Pascal: Got it.

Village Manager Alou: Okay. Thank you.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: If anybody's confused out there [laughs] good to see everybody. Basically, these guys very quickly, this is how this happened. Shout out to Orlando Rubio from Craig A Smith, shout out to Perserbio. The way this happened, special shout out to the sustainability and resiliency task force. That's the way this happened. I'm the liaison for the Sustainability and Resiliency Task Force. Madam Manager attends those meetings, and Chairperson Carpenter, who's a resident, Elizabeth Carpenter who's a resident, she's a chairperson of our Sustainability and Resiliency Task Force. The vice chairperson is Kristen McLean. Kristen McLean, who was a resident here who's now a resident of Biscayne Park.

We have two consultants, Mr. Collins, the consultant, Mr. Hugh Gladwin was a consultant for that. This is what happened basically. We were talking about--because it's a Sustainability and Resiliency Task Force, so everything we look at, we look at how can we do it in a more

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sustainable, more resilient way. We were looking at our stormwater master plan and wastewater master plan. We're in the meeting, this was a while ago. Chairperson Carpenter came to myself and Manager Alou, about, "Hey you guys, is there any way that we can adjust our stormwater or wastewater master plans to try to include more environmentally friendly aspects to it?"

Right now, it's just all stone and all concrete and everything like that." She said, "We need to think in the future, we need to think ahead." We left that meeting and it just stayed there. Once we got off that meeting, I called Christia and it was Christia and Mr. Rubio. I was like, "You know what you guys," I said. Different people look at this from different angles, from different, from their expertise. Our chairperson, Mrs. Elizabeth Fata Carpenter, she's the executive director of the Everglades Law Center. She's also a resident right here in Sherwood Forest. She looks at it from a purely environmental standpoint, but after that meeting was over, what I said was, "Well, you know what you guys," because as mayor, I look at things from a standpoint of I'm trying to get money, funding to do all the stuff that needs to be done in the village.

That's where I come from. That's my train of thought. I said, "You know what?" I said, "We should do--" We kept our original stormwater master plan. I said we should do an additional one that focuses more on environmentalism and green and resiliency. I said, "The reason why we should do this," well, myself as mayor thinking about it from a funding point of view. I said, "We have both so we can go after not only traditional stormwater master plan money, but we can go after environmental stormwater, master plan money. Whichever one comes through, it helps out for the village."

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Either way.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Either way. It's just more funding opportunities and that's how this came to be. All right? All right. Clarity, I love it. Any other questions or comments from the audience regarding resolution G2? Hearing, seeing none. Do I have a motion to approve resolution G2?

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

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

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Second.

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

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

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

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Anders Urbom.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Luis Pirela

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Motion passes four to none.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. Moving onto G3, this resolution, second avenue mobility, and traffic study. Village Attorney Joseph Geller.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: G3, a resolution of the village council, the village of El Portal of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approving Northeast 2nd Avenue mobility study and traffic study in the village. Providing for incorporation of recitals, providing for an effective date.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much, I appreciate that. Madam Manager, do we want to do any-- We just want to move, and just keep going? Are we good?

Village Manager Alou: I don't have anything to add unless you all want me to.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: No, we good.

Village Manager Alou: I can always talk.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Just making sure. Northeast 2nd Avenue mobility and traffic study, any questions or comments from the council?

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: He's talking about reimbursement of engineering services?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: This is particularly, Madam Manager?

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Village Manager Alou: Okay, so yes, we are asking for-- Well, first of all, the Northeast 2nd Avenue mobility study, we received that study through a grant provided from Miami-Dade County. We contracted with David A. Plumber and associates, and Mr. Juan Espinoza is here. He's the one who's been representing it this whole project for us with Miami-Dade County. We did the study. We sent it into Miami-Dade County, we're ready to move and do some traffic calming on Northeast 2nd.

We just have one after the other in terms of roadblocks. The formality of actually passing a resolution and then increasing the service, because now they've got to now do the work of the planning and submittals and what have you. Mr. Espinoza's here tonight, he can talk more it if you want that. If you are okay, we're fine, but this is just the next step.

Now that we've got the study, now we're going through permitting and we're going through plan submittals and getting the permission needed to start the road diets and the items that have been listed in our study.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: It is not by coincidence that the first round of what we were talking about in G1 is lining up with what we're just talking about. This is the reality of what's happening to why we are doing this type of funding, this type of activity. This is why, so while we had this very informative first, from the-- that's why we like you to come, we want you to come. We want to hear from you.

Now you see that we're more than one step ahead of the game. All we're trying to do is make sure we don't miss out on the opportunities of county, state, or federal funding for the things that we need to have in our little village called El Portal.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much, Madam, Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Thank you.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Any other questions or comments about G3 from the council? Hearing, seeing none. Any questions or comments about the traffic study from the audience? Hearing, seeing none. Do I have a motion to approve G3?

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: So moved.

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

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Moved by Vice Mayor Anders Urbom. Second by Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward, Madam Clerk, may I please have rollcall, please?

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Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Roll call. 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.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Motion passes four to none.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. G5 resolution and film inter-local agreement. Village Attorney Joseph Geller, we have to do this almost every year I think?

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Yes. Resolution G5. Resolution for village council to go to the El Portal Miami-Dade County, Florida, running for the approval of the film permitting inter-local agreement between 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. Any questions or comments from the council about the film inter-local agreement?

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

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Did the film we saw the other day have anything to do with this ordinance?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: No, this is something that we have to do every year. It's just to be in compliance with the-

Village Manager Alou: We have an inter-local agreement, or we have a relationship with Miami-Dade County whenever a film is being shot in Miami, they may want a location here in El Portal, and the permitting is done through Miami-Dade County. We just couldn't afford-
- If we didn't have the inter-local, we'd just have to run it ourselves, and we don't have the

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resources or the draw from a national, or international movie-making market to bring people here.

If we're associated with the county, they have us on the website, they have pictures of El Portal on the website, so people can say, "Oh, I want to shoot in El Portal." The county gives/issues a permit and then we just provide the off-duty police, or a trap, those-- Whatever is needed from the filming of the movie. That's what it's for.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: The movie that we saw this week is part of this?

Village Manager Alou: No, that was a way [unintelligible 01:34:59].

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: That was just, yes. I ask because I wasn't the only one that was thinking, but I know we have this every so often, I know that. I was thinking, "Well, maybe somebody got upset and decided we needed a law," but we already do what we do. Thank you, ma'am.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward. Any other questions or comments from the council? Hearing, seeing none, any questions or comments from the audience? Please come up and say your name and address for the record.

Pascal: Pascal Depuhl, 177 Northwest 90th Street. Just super quick, the ninth paragraph talks about guidelines in this and the 11th paragraph talks about fees. Do we know off the top of your head what we charged for fees for permits here?

Village Manager Alou: The county is the fee. We don't take the fees. We only provide off-duty police for this.

Pascal: Right, but if I'm shooting in Miami-Dade, I'm paying a \$0 fee, I don't know if-- If I'm sitting in the city of Miami Beach, I'm paying \$100 fee.

Village Manager Alou: I don't know what the fees are.

Pascal: Okay. Who determines if we charge an extra fee as the village?

Village Manager Alou: We aren't allowed to charge an extra fee because we have the inter-local with the county. The county makes the money from the permit. We only provide off-duty officers.

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Pascal: Okay, and in the guidelines, what do they refer to? They refer to when you can start, when you can stop, if you need a cop or not.

Village Manager Alou: Absolutely, it means time, location, the hours, what have you. Those typical of noise and the things that we have. Those kinds of things.

Pascal: I'm just asking because on my street we have four filmmakers living on the street, so so much not having a draw here.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much, appreciate it.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Mr. Mayor, we have to renew this every now and then, don't we?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Every year. Any other questions or comments from the audience? Hearing, seeing none, do I have a motion to approve G-- When you do like this, I thought you were fixing that beautiful hair of yours. I see you, my brother. Motion to approve G5?

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Moved.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Motion by Councilperson Luis Pirela. Second?

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Second.

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

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Roll call. Councilperson Dr. Anna E. 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 Omarr C. Nickerson?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes.

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Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Motion passes four to none.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. Madam Manager, you're up with your report.

Village Manager Alou: Okay, I'm going to be brief. I have my manager's report for February 2024 is on the village website, but I just want to give everyone just an update about what's happening in Tallahassee with legislative asks. As reported, we did not make it through to any budget lists that were presented to the House or the Senate. We got cut off pretty early, but our legislative team says that we still got a shot at it.

We went through this process last year, and this same thing happened. We were able to get in at the budget conference, which happens in two weeks. They're going to have a close of the session, March 8th, and at that time a budget conference will possibly reconcile funding differences between the House and the Senate, which seemed to be centered around environmental initiatives. Perhaps we can get in under that.

We're going to try for the funding for the police station renovations, which is the village hall, as well as any stormwater improvements that we can get as well. We'll continue, but in the meantime, we're continuing to pursue federal funding and any grants. As you know, I'm always looking for funding, and even today I had an onboarding meeting for the vulnerability assessment grant funds that we received from FDEP for \$150,000 is going to fund some of the--

Well, actually, it's going to fund a lot of what we discuss tonight. We'll continue to push forward, and if we don't make it a successful year this year in the legislature, we will keep trying other avenues. I will keep you posted, and I'm staying in touch with our legislative team. Moving on, we did talk about the traffic and speeding issues in the village, and that our El Portal police department has undertaken the--

It was unprecedented amount of police officers. It was amazing to see the detail that came out of here from Florida Highway Patrol, and the other agencies all over Miami-Dade County that came to help our police officers out. As the mayor mentioned earlier, our officers have to go through the traffic training, but those who were able to do it from other departments came out to help. They issued a lot of tickets, a lot.

There will be revenue obviously associated with that, and administrative matters related to it. Nonetheless, we're going to have another exercise soon. I don't know the date, but just know it'll happen again soon. We'll continue to try to do things like this where we have to reciprocate because they're helping us. Our team will help them as well, but it's a good thing

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to have those relationships because everything really hinges on having that good rapport with other departments that can kind of fill in where you need them.

I will also mention that-- Let me just go right back to police. We have just had two officers attend crisis intervention training. Our corporal, Torrens, as well as Major Harrison, were sworn in for-- they're on a task force, a statewide task force for human trafficking so they will be a part of a very important state operation related to that. I think that's really good news and a credit to the department that they have taken that line to pursue that kind of training.

It adds to the ability of our police department. We have two new full-time police officers. We had to say goodbye to two, and we filled those positions very quickly. Our department has changed significantly in that we are a place people want to come work. It's a good team with good management, and we've got a lot of reserve officers, which we haven't had since I've been working here as the manager.

We now have a lot of reserve officers who are really pulling through for the village and being present and lending their expertise. Some people have come out of retirement to give 20 hours a month for the village. I'm impressed and I attribute all of that to Chief Alex Mendez's leadership and again, his relationships that he's made throughout his very illustrious career at the city of Miami before coming here to El Portal.

We're seeing good things happen and we'll just continue to work on the speeding matter because it is a sad-- it's terrible and we all see it every day, but we're trying to do what we can. Speaking of police, in March, we are to bring on two new police officer positions because we will see some people coming to the village in the Cavista. We should be getting its certificate of occupancy by the end of this month, early next month, and they hope to start rental.

That's a 300-unit building so we'll be seeing more residents in El Portal. We will need that additional police to address the needs that are going to be on the other side of the railroad tracks. That's coming. As I said, my report is on the village website, but I'm just going to give you some quick snippets that are more visible. I understand the FPL LED light conversion is underway. We have 151 FPL-owned street lights.

That's most of our street lights are owned by FPL and maintained and so they're doing the conversion. They were to do a 3,000 Kelvin warm yellow light conversion. I'm getting reports that not all of the lights are matching what we ordered so I will be working with our public works director to address-- Also, please, if you see anything that doesn't look like a warm yellow, just give us an address so we can report that to FPL too because I'd like to get a list together and address those needs.

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Also, the family ADA-compliant bathroom that's supposed to be installed in the village's top lot, it is almost ready, but we're trying to get the last bit of the ADA-compliant requirements installed and that takes a bit of time. We have to build the ramp, we have to get some things done internally and that has been the delay. The contractor's delay in not being approved through the building department because it has to be ADA compliant.

We apologize for the delays, but we want it to be right and it has to be right. We appreciate your patience.

I know we had the event here on Saturday and we weren't able to use the bathroom, but we will keep working with the contractor to get that cleared and approved by our building department and have it accessible to all residents and visitors. Let's see, what else? I think I'm going to just leave it off for now. If anyone ever has any questions, take a look at the Village Manager's Report. Feel free to contact me and I'm open to answer any questions you may have. That concludes my report.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much, Madam Manager. You guys see my report, the Mayor's report. Everybody has my contact information. Everybody has my phone number. If you have any questions about anything at all, ever, text, call me, and I'm always there for you guys. Moving on, Village Attorney Joseph Geller.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Yes, unusually, I have a report. Tallahassee is doing terrible things, as usual, but worse than usual. I sent everybody an email late today with an update. There's a League of Cities update that the manager flagged for me end of last week. Thank you, Madam Manager. Then an organized local group put out another update on it just yesterday. They are preparing to pass-- I know the law is already bad and we've talked about it, but they're about to make it worse.

It's not certain that it's going to pass, but we're getting urgent alarms from the League of Cities and from coalitions of local government groups that they're going to pass something that would-- we don't have a lot of authority over short term rentals under the existing law that's been in place. They take a whack at it every couple of years to see if they can figure out a way to screw it up even more but this one is apparently truly alarming.

I sent it around. It's in your inbox if you haven't already seen it.

It was late in the day and I copied Madam Clerk and Madam Manager. Call your legislator, complain, but the reality of the situation is that it's preemption again and they want to be the only ones that get to say how things happen. Whatever they do, we will adapt to it. We will have a final ordinance, but we didn't want to pass something. They say they're going to do it every year, sometimes they make minor tweaks, but this is serious.

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We just didn't want to pass an ordinance that we would have to amend before the ink was dry on it, because Tallahassee has changed the law yet again. That's the situation.

There's probably not a lot we can do to prevent it but bills that look like they're going to pass sink beneath the waves all the time in the last two weeks of session. The House will pass it, the Senate will pass it. There'll be some minor differences between the two and they find that neither one wants to retreat and they can't work out the language.

Hopefully, that's what will happen to this bill, is it just won't make it across the finish line, but if it does, we'll get a report on it, exactly what it says to you. We will draft around it, and we will do whatever we can to try to protect the residents of this village. Also, protect the property rights of people who own property and are trying to, and then you can use that property to turn a profit. That's the report. If there are any questions, I'm happy to answer.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you, Village Attorney Joseph Geller. Appreciate it. We had good and welfare before, but if anybody has any last thing they want to say, now's the time. Hearing, seeing none. Do I have a motion to adjourn?

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

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

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Second.

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

All Members: Aye.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All opposed say nay. Hearing none. The regular council meeting for Tuesday, February 27th, 2024 is adjourned at 8:49 PM.

[01:49:01] [END OF AUDIO]

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