

Minutes of Liaison Committee with City of Coral Gable's Honorable Mayor Don Slesnick and City
Officials
December 19, 2005

RE: Quality of Life Concerns for Gables Estates Club, Inc., Community Members and Their Families

Mr. Miranda thanked Mayor Slesnick, City Manager; David Brown, Assistant City Manager; Maria Alberro-Jimenez, Public Works Director; Alberto Delgado, Public Service Director; Dan Keys and Chief of Police; M.L. Mike Hammerschmidt for taking the time to meet with this appointed Committee. Items discussed:

- A. **Debris and Organic Fill Within Gables Estates (owned by the City) Waterway Canals and Insufficient Canal Depth of the Main Gables Estates Entrance Channel (owned by the City)**; Mr. Delgado stated the City had received \$500,000. in funding for the purpose of testing the main Coral Gables canal for contamination. However, the process is almost one year behind schedule due to the delays caused by the past two Hurricanes. Prior to testing, surveys must be completed, the City has not yet hired a testing company. Mr. Delgado estimated testing to begin by the end of the first quarter of 2006. The testing will determine whether disposal costs will be between \$4.00 and \$5.00 or \$60.00 per cubic yard to remove based on whether or not the material is toxic and would require conditional disposal.. The City also received \$2.2 million to begin the dredging in the Coral Gables main canal. Mr. Delgado committed to spot testing Gables Estates "finger" Canals with some of the \$500,000. funds; however, no funding has been raised to dredge the finger canals. This spot testing will determine how much material must be removed, contamination concerns and cost of removal. Mr. Brown stated that he will go before the legislator to lobby for funding to dredge the finger canals. Mr. Canel, Gables Estates Club Commodore, volunteered to attend and assist. Mayor Slesnick stated if any funding was left from the \$2.2 million, the City would use those funds to begin dredging the finger canals. In the meantime, Mayor Slesnick requested Mr. Delgado to address the navigational concerns, less than five feet of water clearance, caused by the thirty to forty foot wide hump located at the main waterway entrance between marker one and two. Mr. Delgado stated he would keep Kathleen informed.
- B. **Inadequate Maintenance of Seaweed and Debris Removal Within Gables Estates**

- Waterways;** Mr. Brown explained the City's Seawitch underwent a \$75,000. overhaul. Mr. Delgado stated the City has sufficient crew to maintain the finger canals. Mr. Bared stated the City needs a plan "B" in case the City's Seawitch needs repairs. Mr. Brown stated he would speak with John Richards from FEMA and South Florida Water Management to locate a second Seawitch. Mr. Brown explained the time table for funding a second Seawitch would be in the fiscal year 2006/07. This was agreeable to the Committee.
- C. **Poor Condition of Gables Estates Roads; Arvida Parkway, Arvida Lane, Arvida Drive, Leucadendra Drive and Casuarina Concourse (owned by the City);** Kathleen stated our records reflect that E.R.Brownell of Brownell & Associates, Inc., indicated that the improvements and repaving of our streets which took place in 1985 were constructed over mangroves, silt and other inferior material. As per your consultants, the life expectancy of these improvements was estimated at approximately ten years. Mr. Delgado stated the City's street improvement program is three to four years behind. Each year the streets are evaluated, if a street is found to be less than 70% operational improvements are scheduled in the order of greatest need. This does not include pot holes, which the City will respond to immediately. Mr. Delgado stated he will notify Kathleen of the results of the condition of Gables Estates Roads once the evaluation is completed; however, no time frame was available as of the date of this meeting.
- D. **Maintenance of Mangroves on Public Water Right of Ways;** Mr. Keys and Mr. Delgado committed to investigating and amending possible navigational hazards created by mangroves on Arvida Lane's waterway. Mr. Brown stated lack of visibility due to mangroves from the road must be approached by the surrounding private homeowners obtaining City permits.
- E. **City's Time Frame to Replace Damaged/Destroyed Street Lights;** Mr. Delgado reported 19 street light poles down and six additional lights out to Jessica Garcia from FP & L. FP & L stated installation of the replacement street light poles and lights will begin in February 2006. Kathleen stated all missing and damaged light poles have been reported to Public Works via email.
- F. **City's Time Frame to Replace Damaged/Destroyed Trees;** Mr. Keys stated the City has supervisors surveying the area for missing trees on public property. He added the City has three sizes of replacement trees for the right of ways, the standard size Oak is 12 to 14 feet at no cost to the homeowner. Homeowners will be charged \$250. to \$300. labor costs for the 14 to 16 foot replacement tree and \$700. to \$750. labor cost for the 16 to 18 foot replacement tree. If a homeowner wishes to upgrade their tree size, contact Dan Keys at the City directly. Kathleen stated all missing and damaged trees have been reported to Public Service via email.
- G. **Cost of Second Clipping Pile Pick Up;** Mr. Brown stated although the City would not be interested in providing the service due to personnel costs; the cost of the second trash pick up is approximately \$50,000. per year. He stated the City would grant a permit for a private disposal company to remove the second trash pick up for Gables Estates. Mr. Brown volunteered to negotiate with Waste Management on the Club's behalf; the scope of work, required supervision, insurance and cost of a second pick up.
- H. **Police Coverage in Gables Estates;** Chief Hammerschmidt explained the zoning of the City;

each zone is created by number of calls for service and geography, each zone within the City has an assigned officer 24 hours per day. Chief Hammerschmidt stated the goal is to keep response time very low. Mayor Slesnick committed the City's police coverage could provide adequate coverage for Gables Estates. Kathleen stated most members call our private security provider to report complaints or suspicious activity thus lowering the number of calls documented at the City giving a less than accurate account of calls for service. Mr. Bared question creating "value of property" as being included in the formula for additional officers in a zone? Mr. Miranda praised the service being provided by the Off Duty Coordinator, Officer Michael Hearn.

In conclusion, Mayor Slesnick stated the Committee may have not heard exact time frames; however, he and his staff are committed to work with this Committee and will continue to report progress and time frames as they become available. Mr. Miranda stated he was very appreciative to the Mayor and his staff for attending this meeting and of their time and effort to resolve some of these quality of life concerns for the Gables Estates community.

Bill Miranda, Chair of Liaison Committee
to the Board of Governors