

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2019

## 'Our democratic process is being crushed by our elected officials'

**This letter was sent out this morning by Marcelo Fernandes, chair of the Village Council. ([Here is the Grapevine report on the Jan. 24, 2019 meeting](#)).**

I am reaching out to my fellow council members as well as to many other residents to encourage participation at our upcoming Village Council Meeting this Monday – January 28 at 6:30 at City Hall – 3500 Pan American Drive.

You may or may not be aware that last night the City Commission meeting included the agenda item of the city's proposed changes to our NCD code. The item lasted over 3 hours with hundreds of concerned residents speaking for and against this issue. The process for this item for the past three years, as well as last night, has been a great example of our democratic process. Hundreds of residents and policy makers working together to create a better place for us all. I have been extensively involved in this entire process and was amazed at how it all fell apart under the direction of our City Commissioners. It is unacceptable that our Commissioners, holding the highest positions of our city government, completely disregard due process and blatantly refuse to do their jobs. I encourage those that did not attend to please take the time to watch the recorded video of the meeting. See the link below to access the city's meeting videos (not update yet for last night's meeting):<http://miamifl.igmm2.com/Citizens/Media.aspx>

As Chair of the Village Council I will be proposing to issue a letter to the city officials outlining the serious disrespect and lack of due process exemplified by our commissioners at last night's meeting. I would like to share a draft of this letter with everyone at our meeting to receive comments and constructive feedback. This is not about any specifics of the legislation or about the results of last night's vote. It is to ensure that our government leaders stop playing dirty politics and serve their powerful position by following the law and its due process. This letter is NOT to be a smear campaign against any one person but an effort to identify improper actions and process that is being allowed to take place while our democratic process is being crushed by our

elected officials holding the highest position in our local government.

Please share this email request to attend our meeting and participate with as many of your neighbors as possible.

Your Village Council is committed to our mission statement to advocate for all residents and business owners of the Grove and we need your participation.

*Regards,*

*Marcelo Fernandes, Chair*

*Coconut Grove Village Council*

POSTED BY GRAPEVINE AT [9:25 AM](#) 