



## **BLASTING CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**October 17, 2024**

**6:30 P.M.**

A meeting of the Blasting Citizens Advisory Committee took place on Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 6:40 p.m. at the City of Miramar Parks & Recreation conference room, 2200 Civic Center Place, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Miramar, Florida 33025.

### **I/II. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

The following member was present:

Chairperson Ryan Millay, Sunset Falls  
Vice Chairperson Patricia Lara, Nautica  
Edward Daizovi, Sunset Lakes  
Jorge Solis, Riviera Isles  
Melissa Thomas, Huntington  
Audrey Tomlinson, Miramar Resident (Late 6:49 p.m.)

The following member was absent:

Rose Thompson, Miramar Resident

A quorum was achieved.

City staff present:

Candice Cobb, City Attorney  
Salvador Zuniga, Staff Liaison  
Leah deRiel, Recording Secretary

**Transcriber's note: Due to issues with the audio, some portions of the dialog were either inaudible or unintelligible.**

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- September 19, 2024

Deferred to the next meeting.

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(Unintelligible 1:37), Miramar resident, stated he lived in Sunset Lakes; he tried to become a board member, but he was told Sunset Lakes already had a representative on the board. His property, too, suffered from the vibrations from the blasting since 2004, and even more so since he retired, and began working from home. He thought the City should ask White Rock Quarries how long they anticipated their blasting activities would last.

Chairperson Millay responded there was information on when the blasting might end that the board would discuss later in the meeting, noting members of the public were always welcome to attend the board's meeting, and give feedback.

(Unintelligible 4:11), Miramar resident, stated she lived in Nautica since 2003, remarking on realtors' failure to disclose the blasting to purchasers of homes in the Miramar communities that suffered from the effects of the blasting vibrations.

Vice Chairperson Lara said the blasting was disclosed in the property's purchase documents, but there was no verbal disclosure.

Ms. ?? said she attended board meetings sporadically, but saw no progress being made, and she was attending the present meeting, as she now saw cracks in her house caused by the blasting vibrations.

Vice Chairperson Lara explained the problem was the blasting was taking place in Dade County, not Broward County where blasting was not permitted.

Ms. ?? felt this did not matter; that was just an excuse not to take action.

Chairperson Millay clarified finding a solution required following an established process, and, at present, the board had a call to action to meet with the City's elected officials.

Ms. ?? remarked suffering for 20 years was too long.

Vice Chairperson Lara mentioned the board working the Miami Lakes Blasting Advisory Board, which had taken numerous steps toward addressing the blasting

issue. She attended their meetings, and they were making more progress now than they ever had in the past, so this was a plus.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairperson Millay stated, since the past summer, the board was following the example of the Miami Lakes Blasting Advisory Board, and the board and staff were working on formalizing the structure of a call to action in order to communicate with Miramar's elected officials. The latter entailed getting an agenda item on a commission meeting to make a presentation to the Commission, which he would willing to undertake. He urged board members to give their input on the draft document, so it could be finalized.

Mr. Solis thought the board should focus on the ask for Miramar, and engage in more conversations with city officials to garner their support. He reviewed some of the contents of the report he presented at a previous meeting, including efforts to lower the acceptable blasting level.

Ms. deRiel stated Google Earth had a feature called Time Lapse that showed an aerial view of the area in Miramar affected by the blasting in dating from 1989 to today; she played the video of the area, which the meeting attendees viewed. She pointed out that where the blasting started coincided with when residents began feeling and seeing the effects of the blasting, and came to the Commission to request action to help with getting legislation changed to lower the blasting levels; the City began passing legislation at that time.

Chairperson Millay asked if the areas where a body of water was shown indicated those areas were no longer being mined.

Ms. deRiel affirmed that once the material was blasted and removed, the area had no further mining viability.

Chairperson Millay pointed out there was a point of diminishing returns, whereby, White Rock Quarries would make an corporate decision based on a number of variables, such as political pressure, licensing, there being no further limestone to mine in the subject area. Though this was not sufficient to allay residents' concerns at present, it gave some sense of hope that the blasting will end, and he agreed that there needed to be more political action, and more organizational action. The report Mr. Solis created was easy to comprehend, so board members should read it, so there could be further discussion as to how more pressure could be applied on the state government to make changes to protect residents affected by blasting activities. He observed White Rock Quarries to be very politically connected, well organized, and they had strong legal

representation. The report was a good work product that was not yet completed, or approved by the board, but it was a good starting point.

Ms. Tomlinson believed White Rock Quarries recently renewed their mining contract.

Mr. Solis questioned the reason why more stakeholders, such as residents, were not at the table advocating for change. He felt the board could do more to engage residents, such as speaking at HOA meetings raise awareness of the board, and the actions that could be taken. The board needed to work on keeping Miramar's elected officials engaged, providing them with recommendations for actions the City could take; the same applied to engaging state representatives, including those representing Miami Lakes, as they were already actively working to find solutions to address the blasting affecting the residents they represented. He said the state representatives for Miramar and Miami Lakes needed to communicate with each other, so there was a concerted effort. Mr. Solis commented that the metrics shown from the data collected from the seismographs should be published for the public to access, so they were aware of what was happening, and they can join the fight to get the State Legislature to reduce acceptable blasting levels to .15. State representatives, and others need to go to the homes of residents to experience the blasting vibrations firsthand, and look at the cracks on residents' property, so they had a true understanding of what residents were experiencing. He noted Miramar lobbyists should be charged with working on getting traction with the blasting issue on the residents' behalf, this included White Rock Quarries agreeing to meet with residents and city elected officials to discuss the blasting situation, and find some compromise.

Ms. 44:35 thought when engaging with the state representatives, it would be more effective if they were shown pictures of damage to residents homes and properties; the visual effect could be more impactful. She said, along with cracks in her walls, she replaced her driveway five times, because the surface kept buckling. The photographic examples could include at least pictures of at least two affected properties in each community represented on the board.

Chairperson Millay responded that this could be added to the documents for presentation to elected officials. His approach was for the board to create a procedure by which it wished Miramar's elected officials to advocate for city residents affected by the nearby blasting. The intent was to ask a member of the City Commission to attend the board's monthly meeting on at least a quarterly or bimonthly basis, as attend HOA meetings, so elected officials could hear from the residents themselves about the effects of the blasting. He felt sure every member of the Commission was well aware that Miramar residents and their

homes were being adversely affected by the nearby blasting in Miami, but it was incumbent upon the board to create a process by which the effects of the blasting was brought home more significantly to them. The Commission could be asked to give the board feedback on the report created by Mr. Solis as to how to make it more impactful, so the board could work further on finalizing a report more specific to Miramar's experiences, and the solutions to address the issues.

Mr. **48:00** asked if, along with the structural impact of the blasting, there should be information should be included as to the economic and/or financial impacts; detailing emotional and psychological impacts were important as well.

Chairperson Millay concurred, stating his wish to have a finalized report to the City Commission by the end of the year, so board members needed to forward their feedback to staff, so the report could be completed, and voted on by the board.

Mr. **50:27** remarked on asking the mining company to provide an estimate as to how long they anticipated mining in the subject area.

Mr. Solis said Mayor Messam made an effort to set up a meeting with White Rock Quarries representatives, and the latter declined to meet; the most recent effort was made by Vice Mayor Davis when she tried to set a meeting with the mining company, and that meeting, too, failed to happen.

Mr. **53:39** commented that mentioning impacts to home values would achieve nothing, as regardless of the blasting, his home's value had doubled since he purchased it, and the homes in his community were selling quickly whenever they were put up for sale. He thought what might be more impactful was entire showing how the blasting vibrations caused the Home Depot building to move two inches.

Chairperson Millay believed when the board got buy in from at least one city commissioner, he wished to invite them to attend an HOA meeting for each impacted community to hear directly from affected residents what they were experiencing. The homeowners were their constituents, so they needed to her firsthand what how the blasting was affecting them and their properties.

Vice Chairperson Lara commented on Mayor Messam's enthusiasm with getting the board established, but his interest seemed to waned over time, and she was unsuccessful in getting him, or other city elected officials to attend a board meeting; she hoped Mr. Millay succeeded in convincing an elected official to attend a board meeting.

Chairperson Millay reiterated that in the interim before the November 21 board meeting, members should review report, and send comments to Ms. deRiel, and be prepared to for more discussion, possibly a vote, at that meeting, reminding board members not to broadcast their communicate their comments to other board members in any way other than at the monthly meeting. It was important for board members to attend the next meeting in order to achieve a quorum if the board wished to vote. Before considering getting rid of the board, he made a promise to himself that he would put his best effort forward first in 2025.

Vice Chairperson Lara mentioned the board normally took the month of December off, so if the board could vote to cancel its December meeting.

Mr. Solis made a motion to approve the cancellation of the board's December 2024 meeting; Mr. Daizovi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Tomlinson noted if the board voted at its November meeting to finalize the report created by Mr. Solis, when would Mr. Millay approach the City's elected officials.

Chairperson Millay indicated he would approach them as a private citizen.

Chairperson Millay made a motion to approve the board's finalizing the call to action report created by Mr. Solis at the November 21, 2024, meeting, so he could proceed with communicating with the City's elected officials; Mr. Solis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**V. OPEN DISCUSSION: NONE**

**VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION: NONE**

**VII. ADJOURNMENT:**

Next meeting: November 21, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

  
Ryan Millay, Chairperson  
RM/cc