

# City of Coral Gables Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) Public Comments - Verbatim (04 19 05)

	Date	Name & Address	Email Address	Verbatim Comments
1.	04 12 05	Richard Namon	rn@miamimiami.com	<p>Giving a one week notice, Coral Gables officials scheduled an evening public meeting to discuss our Comprehensive Land Use Plan. They picked the day following our City Election. It looks as if the short notice and date were intended to slip this important issue under the table. It is true, the public was invited to speak on the issue. <b>Hopefully, this meeting is the first of many and not the only one.</b> We need an open forum to evaluate our future growth based on the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.</p> <p>The Comprehensive Land Use Plan projects and allows Coral Gables growth over the next seven years. The current review is mandated by state law, so our commission cannot ignore this issue. Leaving the Plan untouched will guarantee further development in our city. Expanding the Plan will encourage more growth than currently envisioned. However, this is also an opportunity to slow growth.</p> <p>The important question in reviewing the Comprehensive Land Use Plan is: In the last seven years, has the current Plan given the residents of Coral Gables a better place to live? I have seen more traffic and parking congestion, and overcrowded schools. Additional construction is currently under way, so these problems will get worse. Is this what we want from Coral Gables growth?</p> <p>Should Coral Gables shape its land use growth plans to meet developer needs? Or should it reflect Coral Gables residents' wishes? Coral gables was built as a single family residential city. Regardless of some underlying commercial zoning, it was not intended to be a high density metropolis. It was the small town atmosphere that attracted Coral Gables residents here in the first place. Not thoughts of annexing surrounding areas, or building many giant high-density office and residential buildings.</p> <p>Now we have a chance to review our Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Coral Gables residents should seize this opportunity to let elected officials know our vision for the future. If we sit quietly, a new plan outlining more growth will be in place before the end of summer. Our city officials seem intent on making Coral Gables "The Developer City." Let them know the residents have a vision to keep it "The City Beautiful." Richard Namon Coral Gables</p>
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