



CITY OF COOPER CITY AUTISM FRIENDLY CITY PRESENTATION

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 5:30 PM
City Hall Auditorium | 9090 SW 50th Place

MINUTES

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ross opened the meeting at 5:30 PM and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present were Commissioners Shrouder, Meltzer and Mayor Ross.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (4 MINUTES)

PRESENTATION

Autism Friendly City Presentation

Sylvia Gil from the University of Miami-Nova Southeastern University Center for Autism & Related Disabilities spoke on the initiative. The program will help the City with training and recommendations when becoming Autism Friendly. Autism Spectrum Disorder is a complex developmental brain disorder. Main areas affected by Autism are social communication and interaction, and restrictive and repetitive behaviors. In 2021, the CDC reported that approximately 1 in 44 children are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The best practices for creating an autism friendly community are creating a structured environment, utilizing visual supports, preparing the environment and setting expectations. Social Narratives can be used to teach social skills to children with autism. Planning for sensory difficulties is important. The main goal is to create a welcoming environment for customers and employees. Setting expectations and preparing for transitions is important. The Wallet Card is a free communication tool for teenagers and adults who have Autism Spectrum Disorder or an intellectual disability. The Wallet Card will help a person safely and quickly disclose their disability to police and first responders.

Mayor Ross thanked Ms. Gil for her presentation.

Commissioner Meltzer thanked Ms. Gil for the presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 PM.

ADA NOTICE

This meeting is open to the public. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, all persons who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this meeting because of that disability should contact the Office of the City Clerk, 954-434-4300 ext. 220, not later than two days prior to such proceeding. One or more members of the City of Cooper City Advisory Boards may be in attendance and may participate at the meeting. Anyone wishing to appeal any decision made by the Cooper City Commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence

upon which the appeal is to be based. Agenda items may be viewed online at www.coopercityfl.org or at the Office of the City Clerk, City of Cooper City, 9090 SW 50 Place, Cooper City, Florida, 33328, 954-434-4300.

DECORUM

Members of the Commission, staff members, citizens, and others are required to use civil and appropriate language when addressing the Commission or anyone present at the meeting and must refrain from using profanity, cursing, or exhibiting aggressive or threatening behavior. All comments should generally be directed to the presiding officer and not to individual members of the Commission, staff, or the audience. No personal verbal attacks toward any individual by either the Commission, staff, citizens, or others shall be allowed during any meeting of the Commission.

Any persons making impertinent or slanderous remarks or personal attacks or who becomes boisterous while addressing the Commission or who otherwise violates the decorum rules set forth herein shall be barred from further audience before the Commission by the Mayor, or by request of any member of the Commission unless permission to continue or again address the Commission be granted by a majority vote of the Commission members present.

WEBVTT

1

00:00:00.870 --> 00:00:05.970

Cooper City Hall: Recording in progress, you, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the coop.

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00:00:08.010 --> 00:00:14.610

Cooper City Hall: record actually it's a presentation meeting, we have a presentation.

3

00:00:15.809 --> 00:00:23.550

Cooper City Hall: By regarding autism, and first and foremost, let us please do the pledge of allegiance.

4

00:00:26.490 --> 00:00:38.820

Cooper City Hall: I pledge allegiance to the flag, the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all thank you have a roll call, please.

5

00:00:41.520 --> 00:00:45.510

Cooper City Hall: Commissioners router your Commissioner Meltzer here, Commissioner puccini.

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00:00:46.980 --> 00:00:47.430

Cooper City Hall: he's not.

7

00:00:51.810 --> 00:00:52.710

Cooper City Hall: Commissioner, green.

8

00:00:54.420 --> 00:01:09.780

Cooper City Hall: mirror us, and I am here or we've got a presentation, with the autism friendly sponsored by the nicu and we have with us Sylvia Gill welcome and it's all yours.

9

00:01:17.520 --> 00:01:18.390

Cooper City Hall: Maybe you should show her.

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00:01:20.490 --> 00:01:28.710

Cooper City Hall: That there you go there you go you got that on or no, is it red or green when it's right it's on okay great well Thank you so much for the introduction.

11

00:01:29.070 --> 00:01:32.070

Cooper City Hall: And thank you so much for taking the time and having us here.

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00:01:32.610 --> 00:01:38.760

Cooper City Hall: My name is Sylvia Gill and with university of Miami Nova southeastern university Center for autism and related disabilities.

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00:01:39.060 --> 00:01:46.680

Cooper City Hall: We are extremely excited for this partnership this collaboration to really work with the city to make it more autism friendly.

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00:01:47.490 --> 00:01:56.730

Cooper City Hall: So really what we're going to do is go through a presentation give you guys an overview of autism really highlighting what is the point of this initiative.

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00:01:57.660 --> 00:02:08.970

Cooper City Hall: Give that overview of autism spectrum disorder we'll talk about some best practices tips and tools and then kind of share with you some of the resources, as well as with our wallet card information.

16

00:02:10.500 --> 00:02:19.650

Cooper City Hall: So you i'm going to sue card services and our initiative highlights so card, which is stands for the Center for autism and related disabilities.

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00:02:20.220 --> 00:02:27.390

Cooper City Hall: it's a statewide technical system project meaning there's really one in seven minute okay your phone okay good.

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00:02:28.200 --> 00:02:35.610

Cooper City Hall: there's one of seven university based centers, so we are located throughout the state of Florida, we are funded by the Department of Education.

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00:02:36.030 --> 00:02:45.900

Cooper City Hall: And it was really driven by families, because for most families, you know you get a diagnosis of autism and you're not really sure what to do, none of us as parents always really know Okay, what do we do.

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00:02:46.710 --> 00:02:57.120

Cooper City Hall: With our child and not throw an autism diagnosis, you know what school do I go to what therapies, where do I go for any city supports and so what our Center does is we provide these free.

21

00:02:57.540 --> 00:03:08.700

Cooper City Hall: services throughout the state of Florida our office or which serves Miami dade broward and Monroe county and we have offices located in coral gables.

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00:03:09.180 --> 00:03:16.740

Cooper City Hall: miramar homestead as well as Davey So what is card do so, the Center for autism, we have really two main missions.

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00:03:17.250 --> 00:03:23.010

Cooper City Hall: The first mission is to really support the families kind of what we were discussing being able to show families.

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00:03:23.700 --> 00:03:31.770

Cooper City Hall: How to access services and resources within their Community so like Cooper city, so what can a family in Cooper city do.

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00:03:32.250 --> 00:03:40.920

Cooper City Hall: Where can they go what you know parks and recs Where do they have access to so we really want to work with our families, to give them access to services.

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00:03:41.340 --> 00:03:48.180

Cooper City Hall: But then also help build capacity, so you guys right one of our missions is to really help support you.

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00:03:48.540 --> 00:03:56.070

Cooper City Hall: How can you as leaders in this Community, be able to support families build your own capacity so that you can accommodate.

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00:03:56.460 --> 00:04:06.990

Cooper City Hall: Right That way, you have the tools and you feel like you have a partner within us to really be able to expand that so it's really just empowering those communities and empowering and building.

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00:04:08.010 --> 00:04:15.510

Cooper City Hall: You know communities, so that parents have someone Community members have someone to turn to to help access those services.

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00:04:16.380 --> 00:04:33.420

Cooper City Hall: So, as you can see right now we serve over 15,000 constituents between Miami dade broward and Monroe and all of our services are free of charge, so any family can access, our services as long as they have an autism diagnosis and, as you can see, every year we keep growing.

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00:04:35.220 --> 00:04:45.000

Cooper City Hall: What are some of the things that we kind of do we talk about those families support services really helping professionals with consultative services programs.

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00:04:45.480 --> 00:04:51.780

Cooper City Hall: I also focus on adult services employment we'll talk a little bit about those employment supports.

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00:04:52.080 --> 00:05:00.510

Cooper City Hall: Community outreach so maybe if Cooper city has an event we can come out there really showcase to the Community, that we are here as a support system for them as well.

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00:05:01.350 --> 00:05:07.530

Cooper City Hall: As well as some research opportunities, so why are we doing this right, so why are we trying to build.

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00:05:08.160 --> 00:05:14.940

Cooper City Hall: and friendly community and city and really the program highlights are is that you, am card breaks down goals.

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00:05:15.390 --> 00:05:20.010

Cooper City Hall: You know, we really kind of help you develop these kind of specialized trainings we help guide you.

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00:05:20.850 --> 00:05:25.980

Cooper City Hall: And having that training and education gives you the tools to help effectively plan.

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00:05:26.550 --> 00:05:38.730

Cooper City Hall: Again we provide those trainings recommendations technical assistance, so it doesn't stop here we can give you this generalized training that we are kind of sharing today, but then also you know being there along the road.

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00:05:39.540 --> 00:05:45.450

Cooper City Hall: We evaluate your progress So what are we doing now, and what can we build and how can we help you get there.

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00:05:45.900 --> 00:05:59.370

Cooper City Hall: And then really making sure we provide awareness, sometimes our Community members, so you know your citizens in Cooper city, have no idea where to go, but when you as a city say hey we're autism friendly we provide these services, and these supports.

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00:05:59.820 --> 00:06:05.100

Cooper City Hall: Please come to our events come to our camps come to our programs we offer these kinds of levels of support.

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00:06:05.520 --> 00:06:09.810

Cooper City Hall: It really opens up your Community Members to come out and join the things that you have.

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00:06:10.170 --> 00:06:22.410

Cooper City Hall: It tells these families hey it's Okay, you know we have maybe a quiet space, if your kid gets a little overwhelmed we have these social narratives and visual supports so that your kid can prepare for what to expect.

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00:06:22.830 --> 00:06:35.130

Cooper City Hall: Maybe we provide employment opportunities so adults with disabilities can actually work and have sustainable employment, so we really kind of help bring that awareness to your community as well.

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00:06:36.630 --> 00:06:48.420

Cooper City Hall: And so what's our principle here really is to promote our shared expertise or experience through empowerment education and Community engagement to create inclusive businesses cities and organization settings.

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00:06:48.810 --> 00:06:55.350

Cooper City Hall: This is not me here preaching and saying this is what I need you to do but it's us working as a partnership to say what are your city needs.

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00:06:55.650 --> 00:07:03.930

Cooper City Hall: And then how can I partner with you to really build that level of support, so your community knows what you guys are doing really empowers families.

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00:07:04.830 --> 00:07:09.960

Cooper City Hall: And really looking at, and this is with our partners that happy as well, looking at the economic impact.

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00:07:10.410 --> 00:07:20.430

Cooper City Hall: Yes, it feels good to be inclusive, it feels great to have accessibility and we want that, because that's part of our job, but also, knowing that there's always a cost to it.

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00:07:21.240 --> 00:07:28.890

Cooper City Hall: So we know that there's about 35,000 people in Cooper city and we'll go into autism a little bit that affects one in 44.

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00:07:29.760 --> 00:07:37.710

Cooper City Hall: that's a huge numbers so kind of think about how many Members how many Community people have autism, or even a related disability.

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00:07:38.370 --> 00:07:49.890

Cooper City Hall: um so really that could be about 60,000 per year per person that's about the average cost, it takes to sustain someone with a disability, whether that's SSI.

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00:07:50.160 --> 00:07:57.090

Cooper City Hall: medicaid waiver so that's what it kind of cost so you're looking at an annual cost about \$48 million just to sustain that.

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00:07:57.630 --> 00:08:02.580

Cooper City Hall: i'm happy employment benefits are really looking at it, as what is a way to reduce this class.

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00:08:03.030 --> 00:08:20.730

Cooper City Hall: And really creating some employment opportunities so just thinking of a 5% of individuals with autism had employment, you know we really could reduce how much a city is spending on supports by having them be a part of our society have a paycheck pay taxes and give back as well.

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00:08:22.830 --> 00:08:29.820

Cooper City Hall: So a little bit about an overview what is autism so are you guys, have you heard of autism know someone with autism.

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00:08:31.260 --> 00:08:39.600

Cooper City Hall: I mean a lot of people are yes right it's one in 44 and whether you have a loved one or know someone have met Community members.

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00:08:40.710 --> 00:08:49.050

Cooper City Hall: There is a kind of struggle there, and so, by doing this by taking steps what you guys have done really provide so many opportunities so.

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00:08:49.650 --> 00:08:57.180

Cooper City Hall: What is that so autism is a complex developmental brain disorder it really affects the way your social skills.

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00:08:57.570 --> 00:09:07.890

Cooper City Hall: Your communication and your behaviors across the lifespan and really we know it's really considered a spectrum so individuals with autism, we say two things that we see.

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00:09:08.820 --> 00:09:18.150

Cooper City Hall: We have social communication so is this individual socializing communicating understanding that nonverbal communication in the same way as their peers.

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00:09:18.930 --> 00:09:25.350

Cooper City Hall: And the other thing is that restricted repetitive behaviors do they like things that very certain way, or they a bit rigid.

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00:09:25.680 --> 00:09:41.130

Cooper City Hall: OCD and some of you may smile because you're thinking of either your co workers keep your loved ones right that could have some tendencies and just know that expressive language isn't really part of the diagnosis, as well as level of support needed right.

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00:09:42.270 --> 00:09:50.430

Cooper City Hall: and knowing again that it's a spectrum, so you could have individuals in your city that can be non verbal socially isolated or aloof.

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00:09:51.300 --> 00:10:07.320

Cooper City Hall: may have some significant intellectual impairment, all the way to being extremely gifted or really verbose in you know very you know I always say, like the Elon musk right you could be all the way over there, and you can also have that, so it is such a spectrum in nature.

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00:10:08.520 --> 00:10:15.870

Cooper City Hall: And we always say when you meet one person with autism you've met one person with autism, because we can scale ourselves all over this.

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00:10:16.230 --> 00:10:23.370

Cooper City Hall: And I really say that because I don't want to categorize people I don't want to box or limit individuals on the spectrum, because they are capable of so much.

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00:10:23.700 --> 00:10:33.480

Cooper City Hall: We just have to teach to their strengths and I think that really works for everybody, so a lot of the strategies, I give really could work for everyone whoops i'm ready bringing fingers.

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00:10:34.530 --> 00:10:44.310

Cooper City Hall: So how common is it right, so in 1970 we had one in 10,000 That was a diagnosis, whereas now we're looking at one in 44.

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00:10:46.020 --> 00:10:55.200

Cooper City Hall: So everyone always helped me well, why are so many people that have autism now I really think, the reality is screening tools have gotten better right.

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00:10:55.620 --> 00:11:08.820

Cooper City Hall: You know I think of when I was a child or i'm meeting so many adults, now that are just getting a diagnosis, because maybe that's socially awkward very gifted kid didn't get a diagnosis and suffered for years without supports.

72

00:11:09.180 --> 00:11:20.160

Cooper City Hall: Well now, because we have a better understanding we're we're taking moments like this to bring awareness now there's more of an increase public awareness and really improvements in early identification.

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00:11:21.060 --> 00:11:40.290

Cooper City Hall: So, as we discussed that one in 44 one in 50 school age children, and we know it affects all racial ethnic, as well as social classes, but knowing that boys are one in 34 whereas girls are one in 144, so we are seeing boys to have four times more likely a diagnosis and girls.

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00:11:42.330 --> 00:11:52.050

Cooper City Hall: And so I want you to think about to them in your Community right your work life so anyone, you know, think of your your day to day, are you encountering those on the spectrum.

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00:11:52.590 --> 00:12:03.870

Cooper City Hall: Of course you are, it can be anyone accessing your facilities your services customer service is a big part of it, maybe a Co worker has a loved one maybe a child on the spectrum or an adult.

76

00:12:04.590 --> 00:12:10.650

Cooper City Hall: Employees that may disclose, how do we handle that when someone discloses their disability or their autism.

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00:12:11.310 --> 00:12:27.360

Cooper City Hall: Maybe you have your home and personal life so you have a loved one with autism a child may have autistic friends there's a lot of inclusive opportunities and building inclusion within your city and it starts here i'm encountering autistic individuals just within your everyday community.

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00:12:28.950 --> 00:12:32.130

Cooper City Hall: Any questions about out to them things you've heard before.

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00:12:33.870 --> 00:12:43.770

Cooper City Hall: Yes, there's the common absolutely, thank you for being here this evening, thank you so much for having me you're welcome your timing is impeccable if you look at Item number 16 on our agenda this evening.

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00:12:44.250 --> 00:12:58.320

Cooper City Hall: We are hopefully going to be creating a mental health and wellness Advisory Board in the city here, which will be comprised of residents of the city, who will be able to hopefully healthcare professionals are people that are familiar with with this type of thing but.

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00:13:00.090 --> 00:13:01.470

Cooper City Hall: The hope is that we'll be able to.

82

00:13:02.670 --> 00:13:16.020

Cooper City Hall: Have these have this board accumulate and properly disseminate information such as what you're telling us tonight to the Community and allow people that need that need help guidance to be able to to get it right here in Cooper city.

83

00:13:17.100 --> 00:13:25.500

Cooper City Hall: The other thing that we're going to have and gentlemen in the back, I believe, is partially responsible for this is a health and wellness Expo coming up sometime in the near future.

84

00:13:26.640 --> 00:13:31.470

Cooper City Hall: And we'd love you to be part of that when the time comes out it's great but able to.

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00:13:31.920 --> 00:13:34.680

Cooper City Hall: Let our residents know what resources are available to this end.

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00:13:34.950 --> 00:13:46.350

Cooper City Hall: Exactly, and I think that's the biggest thing is allowing that there's this education, because there's many families, probably out there that are hearing some of these characters and saying you know, maybe my child my loved one might be on the spectrum.

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00:13:46.830 --> 00:13:51.420

Cooper City Hall: And I really just want families to understand that there are so many resources out there.

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00:13:51.810 --> 00:14:04.920

Cooper City Hall: That they can access that that the city is now taking these very formalized steps to ensure that these supports can be instilled within their Community members, so I commend all of you guys are here, we commend you as well, thank you, thank you.

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00:14:05.430 --> 00:14:11.280

Cooper City Hall: So really talking about some of the best practices for creating an autism friendly So what are some of those best practice.

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00:14:11.730 --> 00:14:22.470

Cooper City Hall: You know, as we start to plan as we start to think of things that we're offering within our Community, we really want to create a structured environment right I love how the mayor said I like to start at a very specific time.

91

00:14:22.740 --> 00:14:30.660

Cooper City Hall: We all have many things to do so great right, we are creating a very structured there's an agenda, so I know what the expectation in.

92

00:14:31.170 --> 00:14:36.630

Cooper City Hall: utilizing visual supports I already kind of look around and see a lot of visuals I can see a banner.

93

00:14:37.080 --> 00:14:43.980

Cooper City Hall: Really, because the more we can show in pictures, the better, I can understand my environment and i'll show you some examples of that.

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00:14:44.670 --> 00:14:47.340

Cooper City Hall: Preparing your environment and setting those expectations.

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00:14:48.120 --> 00:14:55.710

Cooper City Hall: I think the biggest thing is for all of us to understand that we live in a structured world, I cannot function without my ways.

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00:14:55.920 --> 00:15:06.240

Cooper City Hall: Without my calendar, I was already early running around the parking lot of thinking, I was on the other side, we all focus and have that structure, whether that's our laws and policies.

97

00:15:06.690 --> 00:15:22.440

Cooper City Hall: Schools and therapies volunteer we really use that every day on a day to day and that really just also works for individuals on the spectrum or with disabilities so again creating that structured environment, how do we do that some of our partners like young it aren't.

98

00:15:23.520 --> 00:15:31.020

Cooper City Hall: really being able to create a map, and so the the individual whether the child or the adult can really understand, maybe, if I have some sensitivities.

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00:15:31.320 --> 00:15:37.110

Cooper City Hall: I know where there's going to be some loud spots, I also know where Can I take a break so i'm hosting an event.

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00:15:37.770 --> 00:15:45.120

Cooper City Hall: Within the city, we can designate some quiet areas, and I can know where that is maybe have a map and lay that out.

101

00:15:45.870 --> 00:15:54.930

Cooper City Hall: or having rules, so if you're going to come to this event, if you were going to you know we're going to offer this service here some of the rules and expectations and creating that structure.

102

00:15:55.740 --> 00:16:05.550

Cooper City Hall: Again I kind of shared that utilizing those visual supports sometimes, the more we talk and I know i'm guilty of this, and the more we talk, the less people are you know they're checked out.

103

00:16:06.090 --> 00:16:11.100

Cooper City Hall: So really kind of breaking down and using some visual supports to get our messaging across.

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00:16:11.700 --> 00:16:17.490

Cooper City Hall: And so, these are some of the things that we've kind of worked on and have done so Take for example parks and REC.

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00:16:17.940 --> 00:16:22.980

Cooper City Hall: If i'm a non verbal individual I can utilize some of these pictures to communicate.

106

00:16:23.430 --> 00:16:33.960

Cooper City Hall: So just because i'm not verbal doesn't mean I have nothing to say so having these pictures can kind of help communicate, maybe friendships on the parks or hey I want to play with this.

107

00:16:34.680 --> 00:16:46.260

Cooper City Hall: We have great partners of broward Center for performing arts, where we do sensory friendly shows so we're utilizing visual supports to show where are these areas and what are some of the things that they can expect as well.

108

00:16:48.270 --> 00:16:54.480

Cooper City Hall: um task analysis is really just using instructions with pictures has anyone ever built an Ikea furniture.

109

00:16:55.740 --> 00:17:06.990

Cooper City Hall: nightmare right, so we have to rely on some of these breakdown pictures same thing if i'm you know, using a recipe i'm I cannot cook i'm so sorry to my family.

110

00:17:07.230 --> 00:17:17.280

Cooper City Hall: But i'm a terrible Cook, but I can use pictures to follow a recipe so sometimes breaking down these tasks can really help accomplish these skills, so if we're going to have.

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00:17:17.700 --> 00:17:26.340

Cooper City Hall: An activity, a task let's say you have parks and REC and we're going to do this activity, maybe i'm going to use pictures as instructions, rather than just verbally saying it.

112

00:17:27.000 --> 00:17:33.060

Cooper City Hall: And now i'm going to reduce some of the behaviors we're going to reduce some of that what's going on and help with the expectations.

113

00:17:33.660 --> 00:17:48.630

Cooper City Hall: And this is kind of of course i'm not going to go, step by step, of how to do a task analysis, but you know what as we work with some of the staff members that have direct contact really making sure they know how to build these visual supports so that their programming can be more effective.

114

00:17:50.400 --> 00:17:52.860

Cooper City Hall: So here's a fun and those of you that did the training.

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00:17:54.060 --> 00:18:00.330

Cooper City Hall: guys right, so how many steps do you think you need to complete to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

116

00:18:05.430 --> 00:18:05.850

Cooper City Hall: Devon.

117

00:18:07.800 --> 00:18:11.520

Cooper City Hall: Already 25 five.

118

00:18:13.740 --> 00:18:25.410

Cooper City Hall: I love how all of you are making it in your heads right you're like I get the brown I got uh huh so really there is 3030 steps to make a peanut butter sandwich.

119

00:18:26.460 --> 00:18:33.960

Cooper City Hall: And I I kind of, say, this is because, for us, we just do things right, a little bit of just it naturally comes to us.

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00:18:34.260 --> 00:18:43.230

Cooper City Hall: But for those on the spectrum, we really need to break down these tasks, we need to really help provide the tools, so they can be successful, and not just assume well.

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00:18:44.010 --> 00:18:46.440

Cooper City Hall: They don't know how to do it so that's too bad.

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00:18:46.890 --> 00:18:59.040

Cooper City Hall: No, we I think as city planners, as you know, mayors and Commissioners, you have the power to create the tools right we're going to break down that peanut butter jelly so that our staff, you know our city our.

123

00:18:59.790 --> 00:19:05.490

Cooper City Hall: Community Members can access all that we offer within Cooper city, I always think it's fun to do that right.

124

00:19:06.720 --> 00:19:14.190

Cooper City Hall: steps to clean the bathroom right, we can put this for our loved ones right for my husband if I tell my husband hey clean the bathroom do you really think he's going to clean it the way I want it.

125

00:19:15.150 --> 00:19:23.220

Cooper City Hall: No he's not right, so we can really also show pictures exactly step by step of what the expectation is.

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00:19:23.520 --> 00:19:29.820

Cooper City Hall: same thing with here, and we do this, a lot for work tasks so maybe there are some employment opportunities within the city.

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00:19:30.090 --> 00:19:37.410

Cooper City Hall: That we can even assist you in recruiting in supporting and building out all these tasks and testing maybe you guys.

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00:19:37.740 --> 00:19:47.940

Cooper City Hall: don't want to always do right that are repetitive, that we can break down and so these could be great tools to utilize for employment opportunities events activities.

129

00:19:48.720 --> 00:20:05.280

Cooper City Hall: For the Community members and then setting those expectations right our mayor likes to start right on time we set that expectation and we made sure that we were here setting those rules so that really comes crucial when it comes to our programming, especially in our parks and REC department.

130

00:20:06.630 --> 00:20:12.030

Cooper City Hall: As a Social narrative we utilize some of these social narratives within the airport that we built out.

131

00:20:12.750 --> 00:20:21.660

Cooper City Hall: Urgent cares that I work with, as well as theater programs, and what it does, is it tells you a story, and so you know let's say I.

132

00:20:22.650 --> 00:20:27.330

Cooper City Hall: what's an event or something you guys put on you to be there you go.

133

00:20:27.990 --> 00:20:37.230

Cooper City Hall: What we're going to do for the city is really break down what's going to happen right, what do I wear where do I Park, what are we going to do, how are we going to do it.

134

00:20:37.470 --> 00:20:46.260

Cooper City Hall: And you really go through the whole story, so that I someone on the spectrum can understand and how to navigate my environment, I need to be taught that.

135

00:20:46.830 --> 00:20:53.220

Cooper City Hall: I may not go to the event, maybe i'm overwhelmed because there's so many people, maybe I don't know where I need to go.

136

00:20:53.640 --> 00:21:02.910

Cooper City Hall: And so now by knowing all this information I reduce my anxiety i'm excited about it because I know what to expect, and now I can join and i'm successful.

137

00:21:03.330 --> 00:21:16.800

Cooper City Hall: So these tools become very important and we can share some of the examples that i've made before and we can do that prevent, for you know dropping off, you know, think of some of the things city Members need to do you know.

138

00:21:17.910 --> 00:21:29.490

Cooper City Hall: Often or events and creating these social narratives to have ready on your website and that way they can go on there and then they know what to expect maybe it can be done as a story, it can also be done as a video.

139

00:21:32.010 --> 00:21:42.510

Cooper City Hall: And then, one of the big components for those in the spectrum is some of the sensory difficulties, so we, there are a lot of issues when it comes to sounds and touch and smell lighting.

140

00:21:43.200 --> 00:21:54.960

Cooper City Hall: temperature and so as you plant, as we build things it's being aware of what are going to be some of the obstacles, so the obstacles we kind of talked about is maybe communication.

141

00:21:55.530 --> 00:22:03.720

Cooper City Hall: Right we're going to use visuals in a social narrative if their sensory can we develop some quiet areas can we provide headphones.

142

00:22:04.350 --> 00:22:11.760

Cooper City Hall: If you know there's touch issues, maybe gloves right if we're going to do SLIME or shaving cream right that some of us it's like.

143

00:22:12.240 --> 00:22:16.230

Cooper City Hall: I can't touch it maybe we can provide an accommodation, such as wearing gloves.

144

00:22:16.830 --> 00:22:31.530

Cooper City Hall: Maybe there's issues with smell great wear a mask we have some of those still so utilizing some of these kind of accommodations so that when you have events and you're doing planning you consider these common obstacles and we can help you with that.

145

00:22:33.780 --> 00:22:45.060

Cooper City Hall: And then assessing you know, sometimes we just don't think about these things i've gotten very good at going into events and nitpicking every little thing because we do an assessment.

146

00:22:45.450 --> 00:22:56.100

Cooper City Hall: And I kind of have this little visual for you right and we can think about it, do we have a welcoming environment does our customer service know how to communicate effectively to someone with disabilities.

147

00:22:56.640 --> 00:23:03.690

Cooper City Hall: Are there any strong smells is it going to be his summer outside and we're all going to die of a heat stroke right even we're really.

148

00:23:04.770 --> 00:23:10.380

Cooper City Hall: running across the parking lot was already sweating so maybe do we have fans do we have some cooling areas.

149

00:23:11.040 --> 00:23:22.470

Cooper City Hall: Do we have visuals did we make our social narrative and have some visual supports understand some of the lighting and noises so it's okay to have i'm not saying have these quiet events.

150

00:23:22.830 --> 00:23:31.470

Cooper City Hall: But either we can create some sensory friendly events or programming or provide accommodations where they can access that during these kind of events.

151

00:23:33.780 --> 00:23:43.380

Cooper City Hall: And that's kind of that quiet space, so this is one of my partners at Jackson urgent cares we created kind of a sensory quiet, where we can access medical care.

152

00:23:44.580 --> 00:23:46.770

Cooper City Hall: Our other area is creating.

153

00:23:48.030 --> 00:23:59.520

Cooper City Hall: At the broward Center for performing arts, so there could be full broadway shows, but if families need to take a break you don't need to write i'm that mom so if my kid kind of has a meltdown what a weren't what moms do.

154

00:24:01.980 --> 00:24:03.780

Cooper City Hall: sprint out the door because we're so embarrassed right.

155

00:24:04.590 --> 00:24:14.160

Cooper City Hall: Oh, my goodness, you know and so that's what I want to avoid like it's Okay, that your kid might have a moment here's a break area and then come back when you're ready we don't want you to leave.

156

00:24:14.700 --> 00:24:21.840

Cooper City Hall: Or we just leave the kid behind and bring the other siblings and now that kid has to stay home with grandma and now we're breaking up families.

157

00:24:22.350 --> 00:24:33.570

Cooper City Hall: And that's where I want to really showcase and say we want you to bring your children we want you to come as a family unit because everybody's welcomed here and we have these accommodations to really help you out with that.

158

00:24:35.250 --> 00:24:41.040

Cooper City Hall: So any questions comments all make sense, so far awesome.

159

00:24:42.150 --> 00:24:48.720

Cooper City Hall: tips and tools to facilitate the success all right, I think, individuals feel really welcomes when their respected.

160

00:24:49.140 --> 00:24:56.250

Cooper City Hall: um you know, asking questions, instead of making assumptions I think that's a really hard one none of us want to mess up.

161

00:24:56.730 --> 00:25:01.560

Cooper City Hall: We don't want to make someone feel bad so you're like Oh, what do I say and then sometimes that hesitation.

162

00:25:01.950 --> 00:25:20.100

Cooper City Hall: can make things worse, so we really want to make sure that sometimes we don't know the answers and that's Okay, and so, sometimes it's just better to ask what's the best way you communicate or just making an effort to better understand that person um you know and allow time for processing.

163

00:25:21.360 --> 00:25:33.960

Cooper City Hall: As you can tell i'm a talker right So if I ask a question and they're not responding i'm already like oh and i'm already jumping in for that person sometimes it's okay to just slow down ask a question and give them some time to process that.

164

00:25:35.130 --> 00:25:41.640

Cooper City Hall: Patience is exercise when finding are using other ways to communicate and that's why I, like the visuals if we have those visuals in place.

165

00:25:42.060 --> 00:25:50.520

Cooper City Hall: And i'm a front desk person now i'm giving my staff, the tools to effectively communicate with those on the spectrum or with some kind of disabilities.

166

00:25:51.210 --> 00:25:57.210

Cooper City Hall: And they may use different ways to express themselves like gestures pictures technology based communication systems.

167

00:25:57.780 --> 00:26:05.550

Cooper City Hall: and listen, you know I think the biggest thing is you smile relax and keep in mind that people with disabilities, want to experience helpful customer service.

168

00:26:06.210 --> 00:26:17.040

Cooper City Hall: Making direct eye contact and you know also know that unexpected behaviors may occur during interaction okay again that's part of those social communication deficits, where they struggle.

169

00:26:17.730 --> 00:26:28.530

Cooper City Hall: So they may not communicate clearly they may be rocking and fidgeting you know that's where we don't want to be alarmed, but we want to find a way to communicate and support that person.

170

00:26:30.510 --> 00:26:37.860

Cooper City Hall: So tips for interacting with individuals comments ask questions using plain concrete language is a big one.

171

00:26:38.940 --> 00:26:50.310

Cooper City Hall: You know, offering choices, do you want this one, or that one, and even if they're not verbal trust me they always love, we also like to choose what we want right same thing so offering choices, a great tool.

172

00:26:51.060 --> 00:27:01.920

Cooper City Hall: Offering those brakes and being patient, you may have to repeat some instructions in questions avoid sat in touch i'm like hey how are you and sometimes that might trigger.

173

00:27:02.460 --> 00:27:07.890

Cooper City Hall: Someone to have a reaction so try to avoid the sudden touch, although no one's kind of touching each other post go but sounds like a.

174

00:27:08.850 --> 00:27:16.200

Cooper City Hall: redirecting problem behaviors and again treating them like anyone their age, I think one of my pet peeves is our adult and you're like.

175

00:27:17.160 --> 00:27:29.730

Cooper City Hall: whoa why you and adults like i'm fine you know, so I think two is making sure that even if cognitively a person might be younger, we want to make sure we communicate with them like an adult if they're adults.

176

00:27:32.670 --> 00:27:42.570

Cooper City Hall: You know, and again going into setting expectations right, so this could be some employment i'm strategies so if you have someone that might be one of your employees.

177

00:27:42.810 --> 00:27:57.000

Cooper City Hall: Really always setting that expectation So what do I have to do, what should we do next right, we can use that prayer for any of our of our co workers when can we take a break, what if something goes wrong so again it's just mostly setting that expectation, for what we're planning.

178

00:27:58.680 --> 00:28:06.150

Cooper City Hall: and preparing for transitions you know, identifying changes and schedule, how many times have you planned something and then it starts to rain.

179

00:28:07.440 --> 00:28:18.840

Cooper City Hall: crushing so making sure that if we know there might be a change in an event in a schedule right maybe we were going to have a meeting here but it's somewhere else, we want to prepare for those kinds of changes.

180

00:28:19.770 --> 00:28:25.410

Cooper City Hall: You know, because preparing they can be drastic for them may may have poor responses.

181

00:28:25.830 --> 00:28:35.070

Cooper City Hall: And that can include location changes or dress codes are the types of activities, so if it's outside we're going to do this, but maybe it looks like it's gonna rain we're going to have this kind of an activity.

182

00:28:36.150 --> 00:28:46.590

Cooper City Hall: Another really cool thing that we work with our toolkit so I like having kind of this bag of tricks and so, if you have an event.

183

00:28:47.400 --> 00:28:57.660

Cooper City Hall: Where you know, for example, we worked with young at heart and families can actually check out these toolkits to have access during their event.

184

00:28:58.530 --> 00:29:05.550

Cooper City Hall: So if you are hosting something you're planning, something you have a summer camp families can use the accommodations and we can help you build that up.

185

00:29:06.150 --> 00:29:11.340

Cooper City Hall: They can utilize that and then return it at the end, maybe you want to set it up where they keep it but.

186

00:29:11.670 --> 00:29:28.110

Cooper City Hall: You know where you can have those headphones and instead of waiting for an issue to happen we're kind of being preventative so we can build out these bags where they can have access to that before behavior or there's some kind of you know, some kind of issues.

187

00:29:29.850 --> 00:29:34.200

Cooper City Hall: So, the last thing I just want to brush upon and look at that i'm even not early on time.

188

00:29:34.860 --> 00:29:40.770

Cooper City Hall: Is the wallet card, so this is one of our really great resources that we have worked with them with a disability group.

189

00:29:41.520 --> 00:29:49.470

Cooper City Hall: In terms of the wallet card, this is with disability independence group and it's a free communication tool for any teenager or adult with autism.

190

00:29:50.160 --> 00:29:57.630

Cooper City Hall: That or has an intellectual disability and it really helps a person safely and quickly disclose to a first responder.

191

00:29:58.350 --> 00:30:13.350

Cooper City Hall: So many of our adults, Dr are actively independent within the Community and they may have to respond to an emergency, they may get pulled over now, if I have some social communication issues, what do you think maybe our police officers thinking.

192

00:30:15.420 --> 00:30:21.930

Cooper City Hall: Maybe this person might be on something and now they're on high alert, so we really wanted to help kind of.

193

00:30:22.350 --> 00:30:33.240

Cooper City Hall: Have a tool, where individuals on the spectrum yes we're making great efforts to train our first responders to have this but also training our adults, our Community Members that this exists.

194

00:30:34.050 --> 00:30:44.640

Cooper City Hall: And this is something I think every Cooper city, you know Member can have the has a loved one, so a person living with a disability, that has autism, they have to be 14 years or older.

195

00:30:45.060 --> 00:30:54.990

Cooper City Hall: and must be a be verbal enough to say I can I show you my wallet card right because we don't want to go for something if we're not verbal enough so that's kind of the requirements to receive this card.

196

00:30:55.890 --> 00:31:04.230

Cooper City Hall: We also develop some communication right some kind of step by step, of how do I interact with police officers what to do during a traffic stop.

197

00:31:04.560 --> 00:31:16.560

Cooper City Hall: Or how to interact, you know with police officers for parents and caregivers so maybe even creating some tools for Community members to access where they can practice to help kind of keep everyone in our Community safe.

198

00:31:18.570 --> 00:31:25.170

Cooper City Hall: I thought I had a picture of it so what's really great, and I can make sure that you guys have access to this thing it is free.

199

00:31:26.250 --> 00:31:34.200

Cooper City Hall: You can register what's great is you can put here are some things that you know call me hear some characteristics, so it goes into detail with some of the.

200

00:31:34.590 --> 00:31:42.600

Cooper City Hall: Information and they make it individualized so you know it could be let's say Sylvia kill, you know I have autism.

201

00:31:43.110 --> 00:31:50.850

Cooper City Hall: I may display some of these may be very anxious, I mean rock back and forth, so now, the police officer understands what's going on.

202

00:31:51.750 --> 00:32:01.080

Cooper City Hall: it's a way for me to effectively communicate that and now our first responders can support me in making sure I get whatever help I need maybe calling a caregiver.

203

00:32:02.190 --> 00:32:05.370

Cooper City Hall: And, and that way, I think it really keeps everybody safe.

204

00:32:07.140 --> 00:32:11.370

Cooper City Hall: I showed you the visual and really at the end of the day, I feel like it's about our attitude.

205

00:32:11.760 --> 00:32:21.750

Cooper City Hall: And I have to thank all of you for being so supportive proactive on this partnering with you a minister car to make sure Cooper city has all the right supports.

206

00:32:22.590 --> 00:32:29.160

Cooper City Hall: You know and and you guys have a great attitude, and you know, like Commissioner Howard was saying, you know even taking some steps to build these.

207

00:32:29.670 --> 00:32:46.050

Cooper City Hall: You know groups to really talk about this to better plan for this, so there are so the Community Members know what supports are available and providing those clear expectations being consistent and providing some of that process time it always staying calm, you know, consistent and compassionate.

208

00:32:47.310 --> 00:32:53.880

Cooper City Hall: And I always leave it off that they may not remember what you said they named me they may not remember what you did, but they will always remember how they made you feel.

209

00:32:55.710 --> 00:32:56.130

Cooper City Hall: let's hit.

210

00:32:57.360 --> 00:33:06.870

Cooper City Hall: Any questions, I know I went like really went through this usually we have more than just the way this is set up um but any questions any you know experiences or.

211

00:33:09.870 --> 00:33:10.200

Anyone.

212

00:33:12.540 --> 00:33:17.130

Cooper City Hall: I want to say thank you very much, and he was enlightening to the patient and.

213

00:33:18.450 --> 00:33:29.730

Cooper City Hall: we'll we'll proceed accordingly recording albums wonderful yeah so it's it's really great starting, especially with I think what's really important with city planning is having leadership leadership support this.

214

00:33:30.300 --> 00:33:41.340

Cooper City Hall: Making sure that you are showcasing to the Community, that you are behind these initiatives to make sure that within everyone in the Community, we can provide the support so again, I thank you guys, for the time.

215

00:33:41.760 --> 00:33:51.330

Cooper City Hall: and making sure that this partnership continues to really shine within the Community, want to thank you and and we do support it we've got our.

216

00:33:52.380 --> 00:34:08.160

Cooper City Hall: fire and police here be so as in very autism friend absolutely and they'll continue to get the training, as they have in the past and we would support that as well, so thank you Thank you so much anything.

217

00:34:10.140 --> 00:34:13.740

Cooper City Hall: except to say thank you once again exam yeah.

218

00:34:14.910 --> 00:34:17.520

Cooper City Hall: Any questions from the gallery.

219

00:34:19.530 --> 00:34:24.150

Cooper City Hall: Saying none, you know go ahead and just.

220

00:34:25.350 --> 00:34:29.670

Cooper City Hall: want to make sure yep go ahead and ask or in a German motion.

221

00:34:31.650 --> 00:34:32.070

Cooper City Hall: seconded second.

222

00:34:33.120 --> 00:34:33.720

Cooper City Hall: it's okay.