

City of Coral Gables

405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134
www.coralgables.com



Agenda - Final

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

9:00 AM

City Hall, Commission Chambers

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago
Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Commissioner Melissa Castro
Commissioner Ariel Fernandez
Commissioner Richard D. Lara

Peter J. Iglesias, P.E., City Manager
Cristina M. Suárez, City Attorney
Billy Y. Urquia, City Clerk

The City of Coral Gables will be holding its Regular Meeting on October 14, 2025 commencing at 9:00 a.m. Members of the public may participate in person, but are also able to participate via the Zoom platform. Members of the public may join the meeting via Zoom at (<https://zoom.us/j/3054466800>). In addition, a dedicated phone line will be available so that any individual who does not wish (or is unable) to use Zoom may listen to and participate in the meeting by dialing: (305) 461-6769 Meeting ID: 3054466800. To speak prior to the City Commission taking action on an Agenda Item, please "Raise your Hand" or send a message to one of the meeting hosts using the Zoom Platform. If you joined the meeting via telephone, you can "Raise your Hand" by pressing *9. The public may comment on an item on the agenda using the City's already-established e-comment function which may be found on the City's website at: www.coralgables.com/commissionmeetings) once the meeting's agenda is published or by sending an email to cityclerk@coralgables.com prior to the start of the meeting. The Meeting will also be broadcasted live for members of the public to view on the City's website www.coralgables.com/cgvtv) as well as Channel 77 on Comcast.

CALL TO ORDER**ROLL CALL****INVOCATION****PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****MERRICK MOMENT****A. PRESENTATIONS AND PROTOCOL DOCUMENTS**

- A.-1. [25-9838](#) Presentation of a Certificate of Condolence to the bereaved family of Betsy Adams.
- A.-2. [25-9043](#) Presentation of a Proclamation declaring October 14, 2025 as "Junior League of Miami Day" in Coral Gables.
- A.-3. [25-9755](#) Presentation of a Proclamation declaring October 15, 2025 as "Murnor Studio Day" in Coral Gables.
- A.-4. [25-9756](#) Presentation of a Proclamation declaring October 2025 as "Kiwanis of Little Havana Month" in Coral Gables.

Agenda Items A-5 and H-1 are related

- A.-5. [25-9853](#) Presentation of a Proclamation declaring October 2025 as "Disability Acceptance Month" in Coral Gables.
- A.-6. [25-9908](#) Presentation of a Proclamation declaring October 2025 as "Italian Heritage Month" in Coral Gables.
- A.-7. [25-9893](#) Congratulations to Detective Casey Rivera, recipient of the City of Coral Gables "Detective of the Quarter," for the 2nd quarter of 2025.
- A.-8. [25-9895](#) Congratulations to Officer Melenni Alzate, recipient of the City of Coral Gables "Officer of the Month," for the month of April 2025.
- A.-9. [25-9904](#) Congratulations to Officer Dashiell Garcia, recipient of the City of Coral Gables "Officer of the Month," for the month of May 2025.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

During this portion of the meeting, an individual may address the City Commission on an item that is on the agenda or on a matter which is not on the agenda, but within the scope of the City Commission's jurisdiction. If the individual wishes to address the City Commission on an item that is on the agenda, the individual shall not be given an opportunity to speak again once the item is called. An individual who wishes to speak during a public hearing where the City Commission is sitting in a quasi-judicial capacity, must speak during the public hearing for that item.

Individuals who speak during the open public comment portion of the meeting shall be given three (3) minutes during which to address the City Commission. At the conclusion of one (1) hour, if the open public comment section of the meeting has not ended, it shall end automatically, in order to proceed with the rest of the agenda.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed within this section entitled "Consent Agenda" are considered to be self-explanatory and are not expected to require additional review or discussion, unless a member of the City Commission or a citizen so requests, in which case, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered along with the regular order of business. Hearing no objections to the items listed under the "Consent Agenda", a vote on the adoption of the Consent Agenda will be taken.

- D.-1.** [25-9840](#) A Resolution of the City Commission confirming the appointments of Ivana Liberatore (Student Government President), Bartu Sevil (Interfraternity Council President), and Chief Trevor Shinn (Police Chief), Patricia Whitely (VP of Student Affairs), and Maite Alvarez (VP of Government Relations) all nominated by the University of Miami, to serve as members of the City of Coral Gables/University of Miami Community Relations Committee, for a two (2) year term which began on June 1, 2025 and continues through May 31, 2027.
- D.-2.** [25-9839](#) A Resolution of the City Commission accepting the recommendation of the City Manager to waive the competitive bid process of the Procurement Code as a "Special Procurement/Bid Waiver" with Sherp USA to purchase a high-water rescue vehicle, pursuant to Section 2-691 of the City's Procurement Code for an estimated amount of \$212,045.00.
- Lobbyist: N/A
- D.-3.** [25-9830](#) A Resolution of the City Commission confirming the appointment of Donna Heisenbottle (Nominated by the Board-As A-Whole) to serve as a member of the Landmarks Advisory Board, for a two (2) year term which began on June 1, 2025 and continues through May 31, 2027.
- D.-4.** [25-9510](#) A Resolution of the City Commission authorizing the execution of a contract with Fire Code Pro, Inc. for Fire Plans Review Services Pursuant to Section 2-607(24) of the Procurement Code.
- Lobbyist: N/A

- D.-5. [25-9890](#) A Resolution of the City Commission authorizing the execution of a contract with Robert Nance for Fire Plans Review Services pursuant to Section 2-607(24) of the Procurement Code.

Lobbyist: N/A

- D.-6. [25-9910](#) A Resolution of the City Commission confirming the appointment of Carlos Castillo (nominated by Commissioner Castro) to serve as a member of the Emergency Management Division, for a two (2) year term that began on June 1, 2025 and continues through May 31, 2027.

1. Presentation of Boards and/or Committees minutes requesting no action from the City Commission:

- 1.-1. [25-9766](#) Budget Audit Advisory Board Meeting of August 20, 2025.
- 1.-2. [25-9905](#) Budget Audit Advisory Board Meeting of September 17, 2025.
- 1.-3. [25-9776](#) City of Coral Gables Advisory Board on Disability Affairs Meeting of September 3, 2025.
- 1.-4. [25-9788](#) International Affairs Coordinating Council Meeting of August 18, 2025.
- 1.-5. [25-9822](#) Parking Advisory Board Meeting of August 20, 2025.
- 1.-6. [25-9682](#) Planning and Zoning Board Meeting of August 13, 2025.

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS

All Individuals testifying in a quasi-judicial proceeding shall be sworn in.

Presentations made to the City Commission are subject to the City's False Claims Ordinance, Ch. 39 of the City of Coral Gables Code.

APPEALS

Agenda Item E-1 has been deferred to the October 28, 2025 City Commission Meeting

- E.-1. [25-9846](#) An Appeal to the Coral Gables City Commission from the decision of the Historic Preservation Board on September 18, 2025, to deny a claim of undue economic hardship and a certificate of appropriateness for demolition for the property located at 1258 Obispo Avenue, a contributing resource in the Obispo Avenue Historic District, legally described as Lots 1 and 2, Block 3, Coral Gables Section "E," according to the Plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 8, at Page 13 of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida.

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

- E.-2. [25-9800](#) An Ordinance of the City Commission amending City Code Chapter 2, "Administration," Article III "Boards, Commission, Committees," Section 2-83 "Citizen Input; Addressing the City Commission," to add additional rules of decorum for public meetings; providing for severability clause, repealer provision, codification, and providing for an effective date.
(Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING**Agenda Items E-3 and E-4 are related**

- E.-3. [25-9713](#) An Ordinance of the City Commission amending the Future Land Use Map of the City of Coral Gables Comprehensive Plan pursuant to Zoning Code Article 14, "Process," Section 14-213, "Comprehensive Plan Text and Map Amendments," and small scale amendment procedures (SS. 163.3187, Florida Statutes), from "Religious or Institutional" to "Multi-Family Low Density" for Lots 15, 16, 17 and 18, Block 33, Coral Gables Biltmore Section (627 and 635 Anastasia Avenue), Coral Gables, Florida; providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, and providing for an effective date. (09 17 25 PZB recommended approval with conditions, Vote 5-1)

Lobbyist: Joe Jimenez
- E.-4. [25-9715](#) An Ordinance of the City Commission making zoning district boundary changes pursuant to Zoning Code Article 14, "Process," Section 14-212, "Zoning Code Text and Map Amendments," from "Special Use(s)" to "Multi-Family 3 (MF3)" for Lots 15, 16, 17 and 18, Block 33, Coral Gables Biltmore Section (627 and 635 Anastasia Avenue), Coral Gables, Florida; including required conditions; providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, and providing for an effective date. (09 17 25 PZB recommended approval with conditions, Vote 5-1)

Lobbyist: Joe Jimenez
- E.-5. [25-9282](#) An Ordinance of the City Commission amending Article 16, "Definitions," City of Coral Gables Official Zoning Code, by amending the definition of freeboard to modify minimum and maximum freeboard requirements within special flood hazard areas; amending Section 2-101, "Single-family residential (SFR) District, "Subsection (b), "Height," to incorporate required freeboard and floodplain management standards for residences in flood hazard areas; and adding garage floor elevation standards that align with flood-resistant construction requirements; providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, codification, and an effective date. (09 17 25 PZB recommended approval, Vote 6-0)

- E.-6. [24-8338](#) An Ordinance of the City Commission providing for text amendments to the City of Coral Gables Official Zoning Code Article 5, "Architecture" Section 5-510, "Trussed Rafters," to provide requirements for metal trusses; providing for repealer provision, severability clause, codification, enforceability, and an effective date. (09 17 25 PZB recommended approval, Vote 6-0)
- E.-7. [25-9842](#) An Ordinance of the City Commission amending the Code of the City of Coral Gables, Florida, Chapter 26, "Fire Prevention and Protection," to add a new Section 26-7 to require electronic reporting of fire protection system reports, providing for severability clause, repealer provision, codification, and providing for an effective date.
- E.-8. [25-9847](#) An Ordinance of the City Commission providing for text amendments to the City of Coral Gables Official Zoning Code, Article 5, "Architecture," Section 5-309, "Trellises;" Section 5-310, "Wood decks," and Section 5-311, "Pavers and walkways," to incorporate composite recycled materials as an approved material for trellises, decks, and walkways; providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, codification, and providing for an effective date.
(Sponsored by Vice Mayor Anderson)
- E.-9. [25-9843](#) An Ordinance of the City Commission amending City Code Chapter 2, "Administration," Article III "Boards, Commission, Committees," Section 2-79 "Order of Business," to amend the City Code to add a financial cap for items placed on the consent agenda and further clarify what items may be placed on the Consent Agenda; providing for a severability clause, repealer provision, codification, and providing for an effective date.
(Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

F. CITY COMMISSION ITEMS

- F.-1. [25-9902](#) Discussion regarding banner, City Hall colors, interfaith event, community unity, and promoting peace.
(Sponsored by Commissioner Castro)
- F.-2. [25-9909](#) A Resolution of the City Commission authorizing participation in a lawsuit seeking, among other things, to declare that Senate Bill 180's imposition of a blanket statewide prohibition on the exercise of Home Rule Authority over land use and zoning regulations, is unconstitutional and should be enjoined, and retaining Weiss Serota Helfman Cole + Bierman, PI to prosecute the lawsuit; and providing for an effective date.
(Sponsored by Vice Mayor Anderson)
- F.-3. [25-9841](#) A Resolution of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida urging the Florida Legislature to establish a cap on special assessments that may be imposed on homesteaded condominium units.
(Sponsored by Vice Mayor Anderson)
- F.-4. [25-9801](#) A Resolution of the City Commission adopting Mayor Lago's 2025-2027 Strategic Priorities Plan.
(Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

G. BOARDS/COMMITTEES ITEMS

- G.-1. [25-9848](#) A Resolution of the City Commission granting approval of a residential waiver (by a four-fifths vote of the City Commission) for Estrellita Sibila (Nominated by the Board As A Whole), in accordance with Section 2-52(b)(2) of the City Code, to serve as a member of the International Affairs Coordinating Council, for a two (2) year term, which begins on June 1, 2025 and through May 31, 2027.

H. CITY MANAGER ITEMS

Agenda Items A-5 and H-1 are related

- H.-1. [25-9855](#) A Resolution of the City Commission declaring principles of inclusion for all individuals with disabilities, and urging action by national, state, and local governments, businesses, and residential communities consistent with these principles.

I. CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

None

J. CITY CLERK ITEMS

None

K. DISCUSSION ITEMS

This time is for informal discussion among the City Commissioners, the City Manager and the City Attorney

ADJOURNMENT

NOTE

Any person who acts as a lobbyist pursuant to the City of Coral Gables Ordinance No. 2006-11, must register with the City Clerk, prior to engaging in lobbying activities before city staff, boards, committees and/or the City Commission. A copy of the Ordinance is available in the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall.

Any person, or persons, wishing to appeal any decision made by the City Commission with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, will require a verbatim record of the proceeding upon which the appeal is based. Interested persons should, therefore, take the necessary steps to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made which contains the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based.

Any person making impertinent or slanderous remarks or who become boisterous while addressing the Commission, shall be barred from further audience before the Commission by the Chair, unless permission to continue or again address the Commission is granted by the majority vote of the Commission Members present. Clapping, applauding, heckling or verbal outbursts or any remarks in support or opposition to a speaker shall be prohibited. Signs or placards shall not be permitted in Commission Chambers.

Any person who needs assistance in another language in order to speak during the public hearing or public comment portion of the meeting should contact the City 's ADA Coordinator Raquel Elejabarrieta, Esq., Director of Labor Relations and Risk Management (E-mail: relejabarrieta@coralgables.com, Telephone: 305-722-8686, TTY/TDD: 305-442-1600), at least three (3) business days before the meeting.