



**City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
July 29, 2009**

ITEM TITLE:

Ordinance on First Reading. An Ordinance of the City Commission of the City of Coral Gables, Florida; relating to the provision of fire rescue services, facilities, and programs throughout the incorporated areas of Coral Gables, Florida; authorizing the imposition and collection of fire rescue assessments against property; providing certain definitions including a definition for the term "fire rescue assessment"; establishing a procedure for imposing fire rescue assessments; providing that fire rescue assessments constitute a lien on assessed property upon adoption of assessment roll; providing that the lien for a fire rescue assessment collected pursuant to sections 197.3632 and 197.3635, Florida Statutes, upon perfection shall attach to the property on the prior January 1, the lien date for ad valorem taxes; providing that a perfected lien shall be equal in rank and dignity with the liens of all state, county, district, or municipal taxes and assessments and superior in dignity to all other prior liens, mortgages, titles, and claims; authorizing the imposition of interim assessments; providing authorization for exemptions and hardship assistance; providing a procedure for the collection of fire rescue assessments; providing a mechanism for the imposition of assessments on government property; providing for severability; and providing an effective date.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE CITY MANAGER:

Approval.

BRIEF HISTORY:

On July 8, 2009, the City Commission held a workshop to discuss the imposition of fire rescue assessments. On July 29, 2009, the Commission will consider on first reading the adoption of the Fire Rescue Assessment Ordinance (the "Ordinance").

The Ordinance is a procedural document that is necessary for the City to impose fire rescue assessments under its constitutional home rule powers. Many of the procedures included within the Ordinance are those necessary to meet statutory requirements for collecting special assessments pursuant to ss. 197.3632 and 197.3635, Florida Statutes (the "Uniform Assessment Collection Act"). The Ordinance sets forth the annual process for imposing and collecting fire assessments and does not set the rates for the assessments or adopt the methodology used to calculate those rates.

The Ordinance is scheduled to be heard on second reading at the Commission's August 25, 2009 meeting for final approval. Also at the August 25, 2009 meeting, the Commission will consider approval of the Fire Rescue Initial Assessment Resolution, which will establish estimated assessment rates, authorize the City Manager to prepare the initial assessment roll, and approve mailing and publication of the notices required by the Ordinance.

After approval of the Initial Assessment Resolution, the City Commission will be required to approve a Final Assessment Resolution at a noticed, public hearing in order to impose the fire rescue assessments. The public hearing on the Final Assessment Resolution is scheduled for September 22, 2009.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

Date:	Resolution/Ordinance No.	Comments
	N/A	

ADVISORY BOARD/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION(S):

Date	Board/Committee	Comments (if any)
	N/A	

FINANCIAL INFORMATION: (If Applicable)

No.	Amount	Account No.	Source of Funds
Total:	N/A	APPROVED BY:	

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION(S):

Date	Form of Notification

APPROVED BY:

Department Director	City Attorney (If Applicable)	City Manager