

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-\_\_\_\_\_**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 2-83(B) OF THE CITY CODE, TITLED, "CITIZEN INPUT; ADDRESSING THE CITY COMMISSION" TO ESTABLISH AN AFFIRMATIVE DUTY ON THE CITY CLERK TO INFORM THE CHAIR OF THE CITY COMMISSION WHEN THE ALLOTTED TIME HAS EXPIRED, AND ESTABLISHING A 3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT FOR EXTENSIONS OF TIME; AND AMENDING SECTION 2-79(E)(2) OF THE CITY CODE, TITLED, "ORDER OF BUSINESS" TO ESTABLISH AN AFFIRMATIVE DUTY ON THE CITY CLERK TO INFORM THE CHAIR OF THE CITY COMMISSION WHEN THE ALLOTTED TIME HAS EXPIRED, TO ESTABLISH A 3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT FOR EXTENSIONS OF TIME, AND TO CLARIFY THAT ONCE THE PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION IS CLOSED, IT SHALL NOT BE REOPENED; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; REPEALER, CODIFICATION; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission is committed to allowing for robust citizen input and recently added the "Open Public Comment" section to the City Code, in order to provide for a public comment period at the beginning of each Commission meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, the establishment of the "Open Public Comment" section provides those wishing to address the Commission with a specific time during which they may do so without having to wait until the item is called; and

**WHEREAS**, while hearing from the public is both valuable and necessary, it is also essential for the City Commission to be able to conduct its business in an efficient manner; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission wishes to establish clearer rules and bring greater order to the process surrounding public comments and provide the chairperson with greater tools to ensure efficient City Commission meetings;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA:

**SECTION 1.** That the foregoing "Whereas" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Ordinance upon the adoption hereof.

**SECTION 2.** The Code of Ordinances of the City of Coral Gables is hereby amended as follows<sup>a</sup>:

**Chapter 2-ADMINISTRATION**

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**ARTICLE III.-BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES**

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**Sec. 2-83. - Citizen input; addressing the city commission.**

(b) *Citizen input on a matter pending before the commission.* Each person who addresses the commission on an agenda item pending before the commission may complete a citizen's input card if requested by the chairperson and submit the card to the ~~receptionist~~ city clerk or to the chairperson. The remarks of each speaker shall be limited to no more than three (3) minutes. At the conclusion of the three minutes, the city clerk shall utilize an audible and visual signal to publicly notify the speaker and chairperson that the speaker has reached their allotted time. The chairperson has the discretion to either extend or reduce time limits, based on the number of speakers. If the time limit is extended, it shall not be extended for more than an additional three (3) minutes.

**Sec. 2-79. - Order of business.**

(e) *Open public comment.*

(2) 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 the three minutes, the city clerk shall utilize an audible and visual signal to publicly notify the speaker and chairperson that the speaker has reached their allotted time. That amount of time may be extended by the mayor, as chair of the city commission. If the time limit is extended, it shall not be extended for more than an additional three (3) minutes. 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. Once the open public comment section of the meeting is closed, whether it occurs prior to the (1) hour period or not, it shall not be re-opened.

**SECTION 3.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 4.** If any section, part of section, paragraph, clause, phrase or word of this Ordinance is declared invalid, the remaining provisions of this Ordinance shall not be affected.

**SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Commission of the City of Coral Gables, Florida, that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made part of the City of Coral Gables

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<sup>a</sup> Deletions are indicated by ~~strike through~~. Insertions are indicated by underline.

Code of Ordinances and that the sections of this “ordinance” may be changed to “section”, “article”, or such other appropriate word or phrase in order to accomplish such intentions.

**SECTION 6.** This Ordinance shall become effective upon the date of its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF SEPTEMBER, A.D., 2021.

APPROVED:

VINCE LAGO  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

BILLY Y. URQUIA  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

MIRIAM SOLER RAMOS  
CITY ATTORNEY