



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
December 6, 2016

ITEM TITLE:

Ordinance on Second Reading. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, CREATING ARTICLE VIII, UNDER CHAPTER 14 OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES CODE PROHIBITING HOURLY HOTEL/MOTEL RENTALS, PROVIDING FOR REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, ENFORCEABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Sponsored by Commissioner Lago)

BRIEF HISTORY:

Article 8 of the City of Coral Gables Zoning Code provides that all hotel/motel rentals within the City must be daily, weekly or monthly. In fact, in CAO 2016-064, the City Attorney’s Office opined that the Zoning Code, “does not permit the hourly rental of hotels within the City as a whole; thus, hotels...within the City may not be designed or utilized for hourly rentals.

The public policy reasons for prohibiting hourly rentals are compelling. It is well established that hotels/motels that allow for the hourly rental of rooms, are frequented by individuals engaged in prostitution and/or human sex trafficking, as well as other illegal activity. The U.S. Department of State estimates that as many as 600,000 to 800,000 individuals are trafficked across our nation’s borders every year, with Florida receiving a high percentage of those victims. Victims of human sex trafficking are often exposed to serious health risks, including sexually transmitted diseases, drug and alcohol addiction, broken bones and burns, memory loss, miscarriages or forced abortions, as well as PTSD, anxiety, fear and psychological trauma. Individuals engaged in prostitution are exposed to similar physical and psychological effects.

This Ordinance adds to the City Code a prohibition that reflects the one in the Zoning Code, prohibiting hotel/motel room rentals by the hour. The Ordinance allows for the imposition of a fine against or arrest of an individual who takes payment for an hourly rental. It also allows for the imposition of fines against the owner or operator and potential revocation of the business’ certificate of use. The Ordinance further provides for a fine of up to \$15,000, potential revocation of the business’ certificate of use and forfeiture of the building, for an individual/business found to have facilitated illegal activity.

APPROVED BY:

City Attorney	Assistant City Manager	City Manager

ATTACHMENT(S):

- 1. Draft Ordinance