

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting**  
**Agenda Item E-8**  
**October 14, 2025**  
**City Commission Chambers**  
**405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

**City Commission**

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

**City Staff**

**City Attorney, Cristina Suárez**  
**City Manager, Peter Iglesias**  
**City Clerk, Billy Urquia**  
**Planning and Zoning Director, Jennifer Garcia**

**Public Speaker(s)**

---

Agenda Item E-8 [Start: 11:45 a.m.]

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)

Mayor Lago: Moving on to item E-8.

City Attorney Suarez: E-8 is an ordinance to the City Commission providing for tax amendments to the City of Coral Gables Official Zoning Code, Article V, Architecture, Section 5-309, Trellises, Section 5-310, Wood Decks, and Section 5-311, Papers and Walkways to incorporate composite recycled materials as an approved material for trellises, decks, and walkways providing for repeated provisions, severability clause, codification, and providing for an effective date.

*City Commission Meeting*

Planning and Zoning Director: Jennifer Garcia, Planning and Zoning Director. Just a little intro, and then I'll hand it off to you.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes, no problem.

Planning and Zoning Director: So currently, the Zoning Code limits the type of materials you can have. The elements are next to the waterway. So, trellises, for example, are only limited to wood, metal, as well as composite, and then decks, which decks lead up to a dock. So, they're right next to, usually, typically a waterway. They're limited to solid wood. And furthermore, Zoning Code requires that those elements be painted or stained to match or to be harmonious with the main structure. The issue with that is that there's many studies that prove that paint has microplastic shedding that can happen, that can affect the quality of our water in our waterways. And having the Zoning Code basically limited to those kinds of materials is an issue. So, what is proposed for you for now, today, is to allow recycled composite materials to be used for trellises, decks, again, which are right next to the waterway, as well as paved walkways on site, which also would lead to the waterway, as well. So, what we're requiring today is that the recycled material content would be 60 percent recycled. And again, for the trellises, the decks, as well as the walkways.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, I have to confess that a very passionate resident did a lot of the research behind this and brought this to my attention. It didn't seem intuitive to me that the composite materials would shed less microplastics than the paints that are used on the wood decks. So that was eye-opening. So, we worked on language, and Ms. Garcia was very instrumental in this, as well, to make sure that we're requiring the best materials that were going to last going forward, and that our staff can also oversee the strength of the materials and so forth and guide appropriately. There's more than one manufacturer that produces the material, so that's, it's not like we're directing the business in any particular way. I think this is a great opportunity. I mean, I love my rocking chairs in front of my house. They're out of composite material, and no termite embeds themselves in it. So, it's a great opportunity. So, with that, I'd like to move it.

Commissioner Fernandez: I'll second.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk, do you have any public comment?

City Clerk Urquia: No, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Thank you, Madam Director.

Commissioner Fernandez: Yes.

Commissioner Lara: Yes.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes.

*City Commission Meeting*

Commissioner Castro: Yes.

Mayor Lago: Yes.

(Vote: 5-0)