- **WHEREAS**, Earth Day is celebrated annually, in April, to help increase awareness about the importance of the environment and the conservation of our natural resources; and
- WHEREAS, we must continue to work to protect our environment and preserve our natural resources; and
- **WHEREAS**, all people, regardless of race, gender, or income, have the right to a healthy environment; and
- **WHEREAS**, the City through its Sustainability Management Plan has set goals of a 20% reduction in energy, water, fuel, and greenhouse gas emissions by 2025; and
- WHEREAS, the City has significantly enhanced sustainability efforts, including adding 72 electric vehicles to the fleet, installing 58 charging ports with ongoing expansion plans, reducing facility energy and water consumption by over 16% per square foot since 2013, expanding the Keep Coral Gables Beautiful Program, organizing over 147 events with 24,800 participants, implementing water quality initiatives for Biscayne Bay, and hosting 18 recycling drive-thru events diverting over 466,000 pounds of electronic, household hazardous waste, paper and clothing from potentially ending up in the landfills or the environment; and
- **WHEREAS**, through Keep Coral Gables Beautiful program a year-round battery recycling program was launched in July 2021, which has expanded to six City facilities and recycled over 2,900 pounds of batteries; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, VINCE LAGO, as Mayor of Coral Gables, along with the members of the City Commission, do hereby proclaim April 2024 as:

"EARTH MONTH IN CORAL GABLES"

IN OBSERVANCE THEREOF, I encourage the residents, businesses, and visitors to use Earth Month to think about environmental preservation and inspire everyone to take action to reduce their impact on the environment and create a more sustainable and resilient "City Beautiful" for current and future generations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of Coral Gables to be affixed on this sixteenth day of April, A.D., 2024.

Vince Lago Mayor

Rhonda Anderson Vice Mayor Melissa Castro Commissioner

Ariel Fernandez Commissioner Kirk R. Menendez Commissioner