

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-__

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 74, "TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES," OF THE CITY CODE, CREATING ARTICLE X – "GOLF CARTS"; AUTHORIZING AND REGULATING THE OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS ON DESIGNATED CITY STREETS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, REPEALER, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 316, Florida Statutes, local governments are authorized to regulate traffic and designate certain streets for the operation of golf carts within their municipal boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission recognizes that golf carts, when properly regulated, may serve as a limited, low-speed mobility option for short trips within residential neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission further recognizes the importance of balancing neighborhood mobility options with the preservation of public safety, pedestrian access, and the City's historic, walkable urban character; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission intends that golf cart operation be limited to designated local streets with appropriate speed limits, and expressly excluded from sidewalks; and

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 adoption hereof.

SECTION 2. Chapter 74 of the City Code, is amended as attached in Exhibit A¹:

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 All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.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 Code and that the sections of this

¹ Deletions are indicated by ~~strikethrough~~. Insertions are indicated by underline.

“ordinance” may be changed to “section”, “article”, or such other appropriate word or phrase in order to accomplish such intentions.

SECTION 6. If the City Code Table of Contents or other reference portions is affected by these provisions, then changes are approved as a part of this Ordinance.

SECTION 7. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, A.D. 2026.

APPROVED:

VINCE LAGO

MAYOR

ATTEST:

BILLY Y. URQUIA

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM

AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

CRISTINA M. SUÁREZ

CITY ATTORNEY

Exhibit “A”

ARTICLE X. – GOLF CARTS

Sec. 74-400. Legislative intent.

It is the intent of this article to permit and regulate the operation of golf carts on designated local streets within the City of Coral Gables in a manner that promotes public safety, protects pedestrians, and minimizes conflicts with vehicular traffic.

Sec. 74-401. Definitions

For purposes of this article, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:

Designated Streets means those local streets with a posted speed limit of 25 miles per hour or less.

Golf Cart A motor vehicle designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes as defined in F.S. § 316.003(27).

Permit An official authorization designating that the Golf Cart to which the authorization is affixed meets the requirements of state law and the City Code.

Sec. 74-402. Authorized use.

(a) Only those Golf Carts which have been inspected and issued Permits by the Coral Gables Police Department may be operated on all Designated Streets within the City.

(b) A Permit to use a Golf Cart on a Designated Street does not permit entry onto private property or semi-private property, including private roads. Access to these areas may be regulated by property owners and/or property managers.

Sec. 74-403. Prohibited Use

The operation of a golf cart within the City is prohibited under the following conditions:

- (a) By any person who does not possess a valid driver's license;
- (b) On any street, roadway, or right-of-way not designated pursuant to this article;
- (c) On sidewalks, bicycle paths, swales, landscaped areas, parks, or golf courses except where expressly authorized;
- (d) In violation of any state, county, or City traffic law;
- (e) While obstructing or impeding normal vehicular or pedestrian traffic;
- (f) While carrying more passengers than the golf cart is designed to carry.

Sec. 74-404. Permit and inspection.

(a) Each golf cart operated pursuant to this article shall be inspected by the City Police Department or its designee.

(b) Prior to issuance of a Permit, the owner shall submit a completed application, proof of insurance meeting minimum requirements of Florida law, and payment of a permit fee established by resolution of the City Commission.

(c) A Permit shall be issued upon successful inspection and shall be affixed to the golf cart in a conspicuous location at all times.

Sec. 74-405. Required equipment.

A golf cart operated pursuant to this article shall be equipped with, at a minimum:

1. Efficient brakes;
2. Reliable steering apparatus;
3. Safe tires;
4. At least one rearview mirror;
5. Headlights and taillights;
6. Brake lights and turn signals meeting applicable state standards;
7. Reflective warning devices on the front and rear;
8. A slow-moving vehicle emblem;
9. Seat belts for each seating position; and
10. An audible warning device.

Golf carts operated pursuant to this article shall not be wrapped, covered, or altered with vinyl, graphics, decals, or other materials that materially change the exterior appearance of the vehicle from its manufacturer-issued condition, except for safety markings, registration decals, or permits required by law.

Sec. 74-406. Operators.

Only persons holding a valid driver's license may operate a golf cart on Designated Streets within the City.

Sec. 74-407. Traffic laws.

(a) Operators of golf carts shall comply with all applicable traffic laws as if operating a motor vehicle.

(b) All occupants shall comply with applicable seat belt and child restraint requirements under Florida law.

(c) Golf carts shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians at all times.