



**City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
February 24, 2009**

AGENDA ITEM NO. _____

ITEM TITLE:

Ordinance on First Reading. An Ordinance of the City of Coral Gables amending Zoning Code Article 5, Division 19, entitled "Signs", Section 5-1909, "Campaign", by providing for the allowance of campaign and political signs within specified zoning districts, providing the size of campaign and political signs within specified zoning districts, providing for the length of time campaign and political signs are allowed in the City of Coral Gables following elections and other miscellaneous provisions; and, Article 8, "Definitions", by providing for definitions; and providing for severability, repealer, codification, and an effective date.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE CITY MANAGER/PLANNING DEPARTMENT:

Recommend approval of the proposed text amendments to the Zoning Code regarding campaign signs as presented in the Ordinance in ~~strike thru~~ / underline format (Exhibit A – Ordinance).

PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD RECOMMENDATION:

The Planning and Zoning Board on 02.11.2009 reconsidered the proposed Ordinance for a second time and recommended approval of the proposed text amendments to the Zoning Code (vote: 6-0) as presented by City Staff.

BRIEF HISTORY:

On 12.20.2008, a text amendment to the Sign code provisions, specifically with reference to "Campaign Signs", was considered and approved with a unanimous vote by the Planning and Zoning Board. The text amendments were then scheduled for City Commission consideration on 01.13.2009. The Commission requested various modifications to the provisions and approved the amendments on First Reading by a 5 to 0 vote. Specifically, the Commission requested the allowable date for installation of signs in advance of an election was reduced from 6 months to 3 months.

After further review by City Staff, additional changes were identified which, in the opinion of City staff, necessitated reconsideration of the amendments. Changes were necessary from a legal standpoint as well as technical standpoint. Therefore, City Staff is requesting reconsideration of the proposed amendments by the City Commission. Changes from the existing provisions of the Zoning Code are noted in the attached Ordinance in ~~strike thru~~ / underline format (see Exhibit A).

The City Commission previously requested City Staff insert provisions for the placement of signs on walls located at the property line(s) of single family residences. Staff has completed further research and does not support the placement of signs on walls based upon possible liability implications. The Commission also requested a reduced timeframe for the placement of signs in advance of elections from 6 months to 3 months; this change has been included.

Building and Zoning Department Staff and the City Attorneys Office will outline the proposed changes at the meeting, present its findings regarding the proposed recommendations/changes and secure further City Commission input.

Second Reading shall be 03.10.09 upon passage on 1st Reading.

Date:	Resolution/Ordinance No.	Comments
01.13.2009	Not assigned.	City Commission recommended approval (5-0 vote) with modifications.

Date	Board/Committee	Comments (if any)
12.10.08	Planning and Zoning Board	Recommended approval (vote: 4-0)
02.11.09	Planning and Zoning Board	Reconsidered the amendments with changes from last consideration and recommended approval (vote: 6-0)

Date	Form of Notification
11.25.08	Published Planning and Zoning Board Meeting Agenda in newspaper.
01.02.09	Legal Notice of Ordinance Heading on First Reading.
01.08.09	Posted City Commission memo and all attachments on City Web page.
01.31.09	Published Planning and Zoning Board Meeting Agenda in newspaper.
02.13.09	Legal Notice of Ordinance Heading on First Reading.
02.20.09	Posted City Commission memo and all attachments on City Web page.

Department Director	City Attorney (If Applicable)	Interim City Manager
Eric Riel, Jr. Planning Director	Elizabeth Hernandez	Maria A. Jimenez

- A. Ordinance – Zoning Code text amendment.
- B. 02.11.09 Planning Department Staff Report.
- C. 02.11.09 Verbatim Excerpts of Planning and Zoning Board Meeting Minutes.