

# CORAL GABLES

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

**Economic Development Board Meeting**  
**Board Meeting DRAFT SUMMARY**  
 Wednesday | February 3, 2021 | 8:00 a.m.  
 Location: Zoom

EDB MEMBERS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	APPOINTING ENTITY
	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	
Julio Grabiell	Z	Z	Z										Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli
Olga Ramudo, Chair	P	E	Z										Commissioner Michael Mena
Stuart McGregor	Z	E	Z										Commissioner Patricia Keon
Bradley Barreto	P	Z	-										Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Manuel Niebla	P	Z	Z										Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.
Barbara Tria	-	Z	Z										City Manager Peter Iglesias
Thad Adams	-	-	Z										Chamber of Commerce

A=Absent E=Excused Absence P=Present X=No Meeting Ph=Present by Phone Z=Zoom -=Former Board Member

**Staff and Guests:**

Julian H. Perez, AICP, CFM Director, Economic Development Department  
 Belkys Perez, Assistant Director, Economic Development Department  
 Zeida Sardiñas, Asset Manager, Economic Development Department  
 Francesca Valdes, Business Development Coordinator, Economic Development Department  
 Leticia Perez, International Business Development Coordinator, Economic Development Department  
 Yenis Gomez, Administrative Assistant, Economic Development Department  
 Marco de la Rosa, Fire Chief, Fire Department  
 Raimundo Rodolfo, Information Technology Director, Information Technology Department  
 Francesca Urso, Legal Intern, City Attorney's Office

NOTE: There was **no in-person quorum**; therefor, the information below is a draft summary of items discussed with those present and via Zoom.

Ms. Ramudo brought the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

**Welcome and Introduction**

Mr. Thad Adams was introduced by Mr. Perez as the new Board member appointed by the Chamber of Commerce.

**1. COVID Status & Vaccine**

Chief de la Rosa updated Board members that the guidelines for Community Vaccinations came out early December 2020. The City of Coral Gables through the Emergency Management Division applied

with the Department of Health to be a POD or a Point of Distribution for vaccines. A plan was put in place for the City and the State that was commensurate with the CDC guidelines and State on how we would be able to distribute the vaccinations.

## **2. Technology in the City Update**

Mr. Rodolfo updated Board members on the technologies that have been implemented in working together with all the city departments over the last five to six years. We also have the diesel transformation part making our City more efficient and continuously improving our process with technology. In August, the City will launch a paperless system to become more efficient. The City of Coral Gables has been recognized as a Smart City with multiple awards. We have been named one of eight Smart City's to watch nationwide.

## **3. Retail Update**

Ms. Valdes updated Board members with the latest restaurant and retail new openings in the Downtown area.

## **4. Business Tax License Report**

Ms. Valdes updated Board members of the new and upcoming businesses in Coral Gables.

## **5. Open Discussion**

Mr. Niebla inquired about the City of Miami's Mayor doing a big push on technology and attracting new talent to their City and suggested piggybacking off that since many municipalities would benefit. Mr. Perez informed the Board that we are in conversations with technology firms, hence, why Mr. Rodolfo's presentation was so important since people are looking at what we're doing from a technology perspective. They are seeing our City as being in the forefront.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Yenisis Gomez, Administrative Assistant, Economic Development Department.