

CORAL GABLES



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Developing Business • Building Community

2019-2020
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December 6, 2019

Peter Iglesias
City Manager, City of Coral Gables
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Subject: Naming of a Park in Coral Gables

Dear Mr. Iglesias,

Since our founding in 1925, the mission of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce has been to foster and enhance the economic interests and quality of life in the Coral Gables community. This is not something we only aspire to, it is what we celebrate each day in our work on behalf of the business community.

As president of our Chamber for the past 13 years, and in honor of this legacy of service, it is my great privilege to submit this letter of support recommending the naming of a City of Coral Gables park in honor of an individual who has made extraordinary contributions to this mission over many years and was one of the most thoughtful and engaged leaders in the history of our organization.

We would be pleased to see a City of Coral Gables park named for James Barker, long-time City Commissioner, Chamber leader and business executive in The City Beautiful.

Mr. Barker served as Chairman of our Chamber of Commerce from 1971-1972. At the time, he was an executive with Bellsouth and founder of our Committee of 21, a group dedicated to growing the multi-national profile of our community. Jim's tremendous support of our Chamber, coupled with his passion for Coral Gables, are evident today in our continued success and the global business landscape that is omnipresent today.

Under Jim's leadership, he and his colleagues on the commission dais galvanized their efforts and led fellow government and business leaders to create programs, enhance services and even launch a scholarship program that was very near and dear to his heart. The City Beautiful blossomed under his leadership – and because of his passion.

I can testify from personal experience that these incredible efforts have had profoundly positive impacts in portraying our City as a place people and businesses wish to call home.

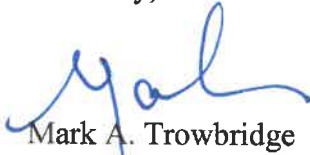
Indeed, for this and many other reasons, Jim received our Chamber's most prestigious recognition for community leadership, the George E. Merrick Award of Excellence in 2010. Over the years, he also received many other awards and recognitions for his numerous community service contributions.

James Barker, our dear friend and long-time City steward, unequivocally meets every requirement for a park naming under the City's park naming policy. Equally, if not more important, his character and integrity are impeccable, and the naming of this park in his honor will be a credit to the City of Coral Gables and our wonderful citizenry.

I can think of no other person more deserving of having this new park named in his honor than my friend and mentor, Jim Barker. I know he would be most touched, and at the same time humble, and gracious by this gesture. Thus, I respectfully request that he receives this fitting acknowledgment and recognition for all he has done to enhance our City Beautiful.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MAT', is positioned above the typed name and title.

Mark A. Trowbridge
President & CEO