

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-___

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF CORAL GABLES AMENDING THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES ETHICS CODE TO ADD SECTION 2-307, “PROHIBITION ON CAMPAIGN/POLITICAL CONSULTANTS LOBBYING” PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, REPEALER, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables continuously strives to be an example of ethical and transparent government; and

WHEREAS, allowing campaign/political consultants to lobby the City Commission and City Commissioners may lead the public’s trust in government to diminish;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES:

SECTION 1. That the foregoing recital is hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Ordinance upon adoption hereof.

SECTION 2. That Article V, “Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics,” of Chapter 2, “Administration,” of the City Code is amended to create Section 2-307, “Prohibition on Campaign Consultants Lobbying”:

Chapter 2 – Administration

* * *

Article V – Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics

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Sec. 2-307. – Prohibition on Campaign/Political Consultants Lobbying

The following restrictions shall be in place beginning with any elections held after April 1, 2021:

(a) *Definitions.*

Campaign/political consultant means any person or entity that receives or is promised economic consideration in exchange for campaign/political consulting services to a candidate for elected office in the City and shall include any individual who has an ownership interest of ten (10) percent or greater in the

campaign consulting entity and any employee of the campaign/political consultant.

Campaign/political consultant shall not include an employee of the campaign/political consultant whose duties are primarily clerical.

- (b) A campaign/political consultant shall be prohibited from lobbying the City Commission for a period of twelve (12) months following the swearing-in of any elected officials for whom the campaign/political consultant provided campaign consulting services within the past election cycle.
- (c) A campaign/political consultant shall be prohibited from lobbying the elected official for whom the consultant provided consulting services within the past election cycle, for a period of twelve (12) months following the swearing-in of that elected officials.
- (d) In addition to the penalties prescribed in section 2-302 of this Code, upon a determination by the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust of a violation of this section a fine of five hundred (\$500.00) dollars for each violation shall be imposed on every person who violates this section.

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY.

If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, then said holding shall in no way affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 5. REPEALER.

This Ordinance is intended to provide authority to the City Attorney without limiting any other authority of the City Attorney or other City officers provided in other parts of the City Charter, City Code, and Zoning Code. Accordingly, any other ordinances or parts of ordinances that provide authority to the City Attorney or other City officers are not repealed by this Ordinance.

SECTION 6. CODIFICATION.

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 a part of the City of Coral Gables Code of Ordinances; and that the sections of this Ordinance may be re-numbered or re-lettered to accomplish such intention, and the word “ordinance” may be changed to “section”, “article”, or such other appropriate word or phrase in order to accomplish such intentions.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance shall become effective retroactive to the 2021 campaign season/swearing-in.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, A.D., 2021.

APPROVED:

VINCE LAGO
MAYOR

ATTEST:

BILLY URQUIA
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL
SUFFICIENCY:

MIRIAM SOLER RAMOS
CITY ATTORNEY