

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-19

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION AMENDING SEVERAL SECTIONS OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA IN CHAPTER 62, "STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES," ARTICLE VII, "SPECIAL EVENTS AND PARADES" TO CLARIFY AND IMPROVE THE CITY'S EXISTING SCHEME FOR THE REGULATION AND PERMITTING OF SPECIAL EVENTS, PARADES, AND PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES HELD IN THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, REPEALER, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Commission finds that it has important and compelling interests in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the general public and participants in special events, parades, and public assemblies held in the City; in protecting municipal and private property located in the City; in minimizing the obstruction of vehicular and pedestrian traffic in the City; in minimizing the disruption of City services and business activities in the City; and in protecting residents' right to the quiet and peaceful enjoyment of their homes and neighborhoods in the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission finds that the amendments presented in this Ordinance are content and viewpoint neutral and directs that the provisions of this Ordinance, include the amendments made herein, must always be applied to be consistent with the requirements of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and all other applicable laws; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission finds that it is necessary and expedient to amend the City Code to clarify and improve the City's existing scheme for the regulation and permitting of special events, parades, and public assemblies held in public places in the City of Coral Gables; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission desires to amend the existing Special Events and Parades Ordinance by making changes to update outdated language, provide clarity for special event permit applicants, implement additional safeguards to protect municipal property and minimize the disruption of City services and business activities in the City, and generally improve the special event permit application process;

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

SECTION 1. 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. That Chapter 62 – STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES of the City Code of the City of Coral Gables be amended as indicated in the attached Exhibit A:

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 of Coral Gables City Code and that the sections of this “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 of Coral Gables City Code Table of Contents or other reference portions is affected by these provisions, then charges are approved as a part of this Ordinance.

SECTION 7. This Ordinance shall become effective upon its passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS TWENTY-SIXTH DAY OF AUGUST, A.D., 2025.

(Moved: Castro / Seconded: Anderson)

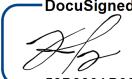
(Yeas: Anderson, Castro, Lara, Lago)

(Absent: Fernandez)

(Unanimous: 4-0 Vote)

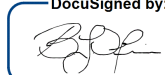
(Agenda Item: E-2)

APPROVED:

DocuSigned by:

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VINCE LAGO
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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BILLY Y. URQUIA
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

DocuSigned by:

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CRISTINA M. SUÁREZ
CITY ATTORNEY

Sec. 62-254. Definitions.¹

~~*Director of public safety* means the assistant city manager/director of public safety appointed by the city manager to provide executive level leadership for public safety matters in the City of Coral Gables, or his/her designee.~~

Events committee or special events and parades committee means the committee designated under this article to receive, process, and review ~~and approve or deny~~ applications to hold special events and parades in accordance with the provisions of this article. Permits, and any amendments to approved permits, shall be approved or denied by the designated representatives of the community recreation department, police department, fire department, and code compliance division.

Sec. 62-257. Special events and parades committee.

(b) *Committee composition.* The events committee shall be composed of the following individuals: ~~the director of public safety, the chief of police, the fire chief, the director of community recreation, representatives from the police department, fire department, parking department, development services department, public works department, the director of code enforcement, and any other designees of the city manager.~~

(c) *Approval or denial of permit applications.* The events committee shall be charged with the duties of reviewing and ~~deciding~~ providing input on whether an application for a permit to hold a special event or parade should be approved or denied under the criteria set forth in this article. Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, approval of a permit application requires signature approval from designated representatives of the police department, fire department, code enforcement division, and community recreation department.

Sec. 62-289. Application; contents.

(2) *Contents of application.* The application for a special event or parade permit shall set forth the following information:

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

t. Assurance that the applicant will not begin to set-up any stages, tents, utility poles, booths, stands, signs or any other movable fixtures ~~more than 24 hours~~ prior to the time specified on the approved permit application at which the special event or parade is scheduled to commence.

u. Assurance that the applicant will cause all stages, tents, utility poles, booths, stands, signs, and all other movable fixtures pertaining to the special event or parade to be removed immediately after the special event or parade as specified on the approved permit application.

Sec. 62-290. Time limitation for application.

(a) *Timing of application for single special event or parade.* For single special events or nonrecurring parades, an application for a permit shall be filed with the events committee, with copies to the chief of police and fire chief, at least 30 and not more than 180 days before the special event or parade is proposed to commence. The events committee may waive the minimum 30-day filing period and accept an application filed within a shorter period if, after due consideration of the date, time, place, and nature of the special event or parade, the anticipated number of participants, and the city services required in connection with the event, the events committee determines that the waiver will not present a hazard to public safety. ~~Where the events committee authorizes a single special event or nonrecurring parade to be held less than 30 days following the submission of the permit application, the applicant shall be required to pay two times the standard application fee and all actual costs incurred by the city in expediting said request, including overtime costs. Said costs are in addition to any and all other costs and charges contained in this division.~~

(b) *Timing of application for re-occurring special events or parades.* For special events or parades held on a regular or recurring basis at the same location, an application for a permit covering all such special events or parades during that calendar year may be filed with the events committee, with copies to the chief of police and fire chief, at least 60 and not more than 180 days before the date and time at which the first such special event or parade is proposed to commence. The events committee may waive the minimum 60-day period after due consideration of the factors specified in subsection (a) of this section. ~~Where the events committee authorizes a reoccurring special event or parade to be held less than 60 days following the submission of the permit application, the applicant shall be required to pay two times the standard application fee and all actual costs incurred by the city in expediting said request, including overtime costs. Said costs are in addition to any and all other costs and charges contained in this division.~~

(c) *Amendments to approved applications.* Any requests to amend a previously approved permit application must be submitted no less than 7 days prior to the event date. Amendment requests will be reviewed by the event committee and submitted for approval or denial. Failure to comply with the terms of the approved event permit may be grounds for its immediate revocation.

(d) *Enforcement of application timing requirements.* Any permit application that does not meet the timing requirements in this section may be denied. Permit applicants may appeal a denial through the appeals process set forth in Section 62-299. If a permit application is approved despite

not meeting the timing requirements set forth herein, the applicant will be required to pay an additional fee equal to 50% of the permit application fee.

Sec. 62-293. Schedule of fees, security deposits or performance surety bonds, and exemptions.

(a) *Established.* A schedule of fees, security deposits or performance surety bonds and exemptions for special events and parades shall be as established in section 1-8.

(e) Security deposit or ~~performance~~ surety bond. All persons seeking a permit to hold a special event or parade shall be required to post a performance surety bond issued by a surety company authorized to transact business in the State or pay a refundable security deposit securing their obligations to comply with the requirements of this division, including, but not limited to, the applicant adhering to all conditions of the approved permit and their obligation to clean up after the special event or parade. For events ending by 6:00 p.m., all cleaning activities shall be completed within six hours after the end of the event; and for events ending after 6:00 p.m., all clean-up activities shall be completed by 8:00 a.m. the following morning. Requests for additional time by which to complete clean-up activities shall be directed to the events committee and shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. An applicant's failure to follow the conditions of the approved permit or adequately clean-up after a special event or parade or to otherwise comply with the provisions of this article, as determined by the events committee or its designee, shall result in the forfeiture of the performance surety bond or security deposit and may result in the imposition of additional fees and charges on the applicant for costs incurred by the city. A schedule of performance surety bonds or security deposits for special events and parades shall be as established in section 1-8. Events determined to be high impact events, including events with large footprints, extensive logistical coordination, or large attendance will have surety bond or security deposit amount requirements commensurate with the size and scope of the event. Failure to make payment of the security deposit or provide the surety bond at least 7 days prior to the event will result in immediate revocation of the approved permit. If all conditions are adhered to and the event location is cleaned as approved, the bond will be released or the deposit returned in full. If all conditions are not met or additional services are required, the full or partial amount of the bond or deposit may be retained by the city. An irrevocable letter of credit, in a form acceptable to the City Attorney, may be substituted for the surety bond or security deposit.

(f) Waiver of fees, ~~and security deposit, or surety bond~~ performance bond. The city manager or his or her designee may waive or reduce one or more of the enumerated fees, ~~or the security deposit, or the surety performance~~ bond based upon experience with previous event size, duration, location, nature and the likelihood of unremoved litter or damage to property.

(g) Exemptions. The city manager or his or her designee can waive or exempt any requirements or conditions specified herein if such waiver or exemption is deemed to further or be compatible with the city's interests.

Sec. 62-300. Notice to city and other officials.

Immediately upon the approval of a special event or parade permit, the events committee shall send a copy thereof to the following:

- (1) ~~City attorney;~~
- (2) ~~Assistant city managers;~~
- (3) ~~Director of public safety;~~
- (4) (1) Chief of police;
- (5) (2) Fire chief;
- (6) (3) Director of community recreation;
- (7) (4) Director of the public works department;
- (8) (5) Director of code enforcement; and

(9) (6) Responsible head of each public transportation utility, the regular routes of whose vehicles will be affected by the route or location of the proposed special event or parade; and

(7) Event committee members.

~~Sec. 62-303. -- COVID-19 emergency business recovery special event permit.~~

~~(a) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:~~

~~*COVID-19 emergency* means the pandemic and public health crisis related to the Novel Coronavirus Disease-2019 which resulted in the issuance of various emergency orders by the State of Florida, Miami Dade County, and the city which ordered the temporary closure of certain businesses and establishments and set forth strict re-opening conditions on a phased basis, including reduced indoor capacity and social distancing measures.~~

~~*COVID-19 recovery special event* shall mean a special event as defined in this article organized to enhance economic opportunities for a business or other establishment in the city impacted by the COVID-19 emergency. It shall not include other special events unrelated to the impact of the COVID-19 emergency.~~

~~(b) The city manager is authorized to establish an expedited application and permitting process, which may include a relaxation of certain special events standards, for COVID-19 recovery special events, provided that at all times, any COVID-19 recovery special event shall comply with the requirements of the Florida Building Code, Americans with Disabilities Act, general life safety standards, and all COVID-19 regulations, including social distancing measures, set forth in state, county, and local laws, including all applicable emergency orders.~~

~~(c) The city manager is specifically authorized to relax certain requirements for COVID-19 recovery special events, as follows:~~

~~(1) *Application.* The city manager is authorized, at his discretion, to prepare a simplified permit application form specifically for COVID-19 recovery special events. The city manager retains the authority to require an applicant to submit an application that includes all of the contents set forth in section 62 289 if necessary for appropriate review of a proposed COVID-19 recovery special event.~~

~~(2) *Time limitation for application.* The city manager is authorized to accept permit applications within a reasonable time before the proposed COVID-19 recovery special event to allow for appropriate review and determination.~~

~~(3) *Review and approval of permit applications.* Completed applications for COVID-19 recovery special events shall be routed internally by staff for concurrent review and approval or denial by the chief of police, the fire chief, and the director of any other department as determined by the director of community recreation. In relation to COVID-19 recovery special events only, all of the functions delegated to the special events and parades staff committee set forth in this article are delegated to the city manager or his or her designee. The applicant shall not be required to appear at a pre-permit coordination meeting, unless required by the director of community recreation. In reviewing a permit application for a COVID-19 recovery special event, the standards and criteria for approval of application set forth in section 62 291 shall be considered by the appropriate reviewers and applied in order to impose any appropriate conditions or restrictions on the COVID-19 recovery special event permit.~~

~~(4) *Determination of time specified area will be used; maximum length of events; location and time of events.* The city manager, or his or her designee, is authorized to relax the limitations set forth in section 62 260 as to the time that a specific area may be utilized and the maximum length of events (including the allowable days of the week that special events may be allowed).~~

~~(5) *Fees.* There shall be no application fee for a COVID-19 recovery special event permit application. However, all fees for city services, including, but not limited to, cost of all police services as determined by the chief of police, costs of site plan and traffic plan, and performance bond requirements set forth in section 62 293(c), (d), and (e) shall apply. The city manager retains the authority to waive or reduce fees or the performance bond requirement as provided section 62 293(f).~~

~~(6) *Contents of permit.* The COVID-19 recovery special event permit shall include the information set forth in section 62 301, as well as any other additional information or conditions necessary to ensure the COVID-19 recovery special event complies with all social distancing regulations in place pursuant to state, local, or city laws, including emergency orders.~~

~~(7) All other requirements for special events apply. Unless otherwise addressed in this section, all other requirements for special events shall apply to COVID-19 recovery special events.~~

~~(d) The provisions set forth in this section shall be valid and applicable to COVID-19 recovery special events scheduled through January 15, 2022. This section shall expire on January 15, 2022.~~