



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
November 18, 2014

ITEM TITLE:

Ordinance on First Reading. An Ordinance of the City of Coral Gables Commission creating in accordance with the City Code, Article III, Division 1, Section 2-64, the Hopkins/Cooper Scholarship Committee and setting forth guidelines by which such Committee shall be governed; providing for severability, repealer, codification and an effective date.

DEPARTMENT HEAD RECOMMENDATION:

Approval.

BRIEF HISTORY:

The attached Ordinance provides an opportunity for the Commission to formalize the administration of the Donald R. Hopkins and William A. Cooper Scholarship Program.

The program has thus far been administered by an informal committee comprised of scholarship founder, Commissioner Jim Barker, William Cooper (deceased), Leona Cooper, Edwina Prime and Leona Cooper Baker. The surviving members of the committee would like to continue their participation in the administration process.

The Donald R. Hopkins and William A. Cooper Scholarship Program, formerly known as the Mayor Emeritus Scholarship Program, was established in 1989 by the City of Coral Gables to help student-residents complete their educational and career goals.

The scholarship is based on several factors, including residency in the MacFarlane Homestead or Golden Gate neighborhoods, financial need, academic performance, enrollment in Coral Gables Senior High School, and a minimum 2.5 GPA. The Committee has traditionally worked closely with staff and administration from Coral Gables Senior High School to identify and encourage scholarship candidates to apply. This close working relationship is encouraged to continue for the benefit of all parties involved.

The scholarship is available on a competitive basis with awards generally ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000 annually. The maximum award possible is \$5,000 per year. The scholarship fund for FY2015 contains \$5,000.00, allocated from the General Fund budget. The Committee traditionally had the right to reject all applicants if none prove qualified and deserving and to recommend that the City Commission not fund the scholarship for a given year.

The original award amount may be renewed for up to three additional years provided all requirements and conditions of the scholarship continue to be satisfied and documented. In order to maintain the scholarship through a four-year college period, the recipient must attend college full-time, maintain a 2.5 GPA, continue residency in Coral Gables, and reapply for the scholarship each year by submitting evidence of course work, GPA, and residency. The award amount will be sent directly to the college or university in which the student is enrolled and should be used to defray expenses in the following areas by priority: tuition, room and board, textbooks, and personal needs.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION: (If Applicable)

No.	Amount	Source of Funds
001-0100-511-8100	\$5,000.00	General Fund

APPROVED BY:

Department Director	City Attorney	City Manager
		

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Draft Ordinance