

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-__

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GRANTED BY THE DADE COUNTY HOME RULE AMENDMENT (ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 6 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION OF 1968), CONFLICTING WITH, MODIFYING, AND NULLIFYING THE PREEMPTION OF POLYSTYRENE REGULATIONS IN CHAPTER 2016-61, LAWS OF FLORIDA (TO BE ENCODED AS SECTION 500.90 OF THE FLORIDA STATUTES), TO THE EXTENT THAT SUCH PREEMPTION IS A LOCAL, SPECIAL, OR GENERAL LAW APPLICABLE ONLY TO THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, AND DETERMINING THAT THE CITY'S POLYSTYRENE REGULATIONS ARE NOT PREEMPTED AND REMAIN ENFORCEABLE, AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, REPEALER, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, in the most recent legislative session, the Legislature adopted Chapter 2016-61, Laws of Florida (to be encoded as section 500.90 of the Florida Statutes), which purports to preempt certain regulations of polystyrene products to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, while grandfathering local ordinances adopted before January 1, 2016. The statute was approved by the Governor on March 16, 2016 and would take effect on July 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Coral Gables City Commission, on February 9, 2016, passed Ordinance No. 2016-08, on second reading, which prohibited the use of polystyrene within the City; and

WHEREAS, the Coral Gables City Commission, on December 8, 2015, had the authority to enact legislation to protect and promote the public health, safety and welfare of its residents and visitors by reducing litter and pollutants on the land and in the waters of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Coral Gables City Commission, however, postponed the enactment of the legislation in order to obtain comments from the City's Business Improvement District; and

WHEREAS, the Coral Gables City Commission, on March 15, 2016, adopted an emergency ordinance that retroactively established December 8, 2015, as the effective date of its polystyrene regulations; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission supports and ratifies the retroactive establishment of December 8, 2015 as the effective date of its polystyrene regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature enacted Chapter 2016-61, and the Governor approved Chapter 2016-61, after the City had already changed the effective date of its polystyrene regulations to December 8, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the City has been informed that its retroactive establishment of December 8, 2015 as the effective date may be challenged in court. The City is prepared to defend the validity of this ordinance; and

WHEREAS, even if a court were to determine that February 9, 2016 was still the effective date, however, the City's polystyrene regulations would not be preempted based on the Dade County Home Rule Amendment (Article VIII, Section 6 of the Florida Constitution of 1968); and

WHEREAS, the Dade County Home Rule Amendment establishes Home Rule for Miami-Dade County and municipalities in Miami-Dade County, and establishes that the Legislature may not adopt local, special, or general laws of local application to Miami-Dade County and its municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Dade County Home Rule Amendment authorizes conflict with, modification of, and nullification of such local, special, or general laws of local application; and

WHEREAS, Coral Gables Ordinance No. 2016-08 was one of several municipal ordinances regulating polystyrene in the State of Florida that was in existence at the time Chapter 2016-61 was enacted and approved, including ordinances from Bal Harbour, Bal Harbour Islands, Hollywood, Key Biscayne, Miami Beach, North Bay Village, and Surfside; and

WHEREAS, Coral Gables Ordinance No. 2016-08 was the only municipal ordinance in the State of Florida, however, that the Legislature purported to preempt through Chapter 2016-61, as it was the only municipal ordinance adopted after January 1, 2016 but before Chapter 2016-61 was enacted and approved; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables is in a closed class for purposes of evaluating whether the polystyrene preemption and grandfathering provision in Chapter 2016-61 is a local, special, or general law of local application in this matter, as it would be the only municipality with an active and valid ordinance that was purportedly preempted; and

WHEREAS, the Dade County Home Rule Amendments therefore authorizes the City of Coral Gables to conflict with, modify, or nullify the polystyrene preemption and grandfathering provision as a local, special, or general law of local application.

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

SECTION 1. That 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. The City Commission supports and ratifies the retroactive establishment of December 8, 2015 as the effective date of Ordinance No. 2016-08 and its polystyrene regulations.

SECTION 3. As an additional basis for the City to enforce its polystyrene regulations, and even if a court were to determine over the City's objection that the effective date of Ordinance No. 2016-08 remained February 9, 2016, the City ordinance and polystyrene regulations would not be preempted based on the Dade County Home Rule Amendment.

SECTION 4. Accordingly, the City hereby exercises its Home Rule powers under Article VIII, Section 6 of the Florida Constitution of 1968 to conflict with, modify, and nullify the polystyrene preemption and grandfathering provisions of Chapter 2016-61, Laws of Florida because the preemption is a local, special, or general law of local application as to the City of Coral Gables in Miami-Dade County as it relates to Ordinance No. 2016-08 and the City's polystyrene regulations.

SECTION 5. City staff is directed to enforce the polystyrene regulations consistent with the schedule established in Ordinance No. 2016-08.

SECTION 6. 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 7. REPEALER.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith, are hereby repealed.

SECTION 8. 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 renumbered or relettered 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 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, A.D., 2016.

APPROVED:

JIM CASON

ATTEST:

WALTER J. FOEMAN
CITY CLERK

MAYOR

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL
SUFFICIENCY:

CRAIG E. LEEN
CITY ATTORNEY