

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION 2021-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, ADOPTING A POLICY REGARDING REMOVAL OF TREES ON CITY PROPERTY OR CITY RIGHT-OF-WAY BY CITY STAFF.

WHEREAS, as part of the City’s stewardship of City property and rights-of-way within the City, the City may remove trees planted on City properties or rights-of way; and

WHEREAS, the removal of trees by the City may be due to the condition of the specific trees, the trees’ location, or part of a larger urban forestry plan to maintain the City’s canopy; and

WHEREAS, appropriately licensed and qualified City staff are involved in the decisions to remove trees and issue permits for the removal of those trees located on City property and rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables is uniquely known for its tree canopy and the City has been named a “Tree City USA” for the last three consecutive decades by the National Arbor Foundation, and the City Commission wishes to have additional evaluation and documentation prior to the removal of certain trees as set forth in the policy for “Removal of Trees on City Property and Rights-of-Way by City Staff,” attached as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the new policy provides that when trees of certain size and canopy health are slated for removal by City staff due to its health, condition, location, potential danger, or as part of a larger City landscaping project, the City will engage an independent arborist from a pool of pre-qualified arborists to conduct an independent examination and produce a report regarding the tree scheduled for removal, and should the independent arborist disagree with City staff’s recommendation, a tie-breaking evaluation from a second independent arborist also be procured; and

WHEREAS, the policy provides that members of the City Commission be notified of those trees on City property or rights-of-way scheduled for removal by the City and that the members of the City Commission be given a specified amount of time during which they may place the removal of the specific tree(s) on a City Commission agenda, at a duly noticed City Commission meeting; and

WHEREAS, this policy applies only to the removal of trees by City staff or contractors, and in no way alters the procedures, including permit and other requirements,

for property owners desiring to remove tress on City rights-of-way, and provides no additional appellate rights for property owners in the City.

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

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 Resolution upon adoption hereof.

SECTION 2. That the City Commission hereby adopts the policy “Removal of Trees on City Property and Rights-of-Way by City Staff,” in substantially the form attached with such modifications as may be approved by the City Manager and City Attorney consistent with the Commission’s intent, and that said policy is incorporated and made a specific part of this Resolution and supersedes all prior policies or procedures related to the City’s removal of Trees on City Property and Rights-of-Way.

SECTION 3. That City staff is directed to immediately begin the procurement process to select the pool of ISA licensed, TRAQ certified arborists as detailed in the policy. While the full extent of the policy cannot be implemented until the pool of qualified arborists is retained by the City, staff shall immediately implement all other aspects of the policy and no tree removals shall be delayed for failure to obtain an independent evaluation pending the procurement process, unless otherwise directed by the City Commission.

SECTION 4. That this Resolution shall become effective upon the date of its passage and adoption herein.

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

(Moved by _____, Seconded by _____)
(Passed 0/0 vote)

RAUL VALDES-FAULI
MAYOR

ATTEST:

BILLY Y. URQUIA

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

MIRIAM SOLER RAMOS
CITY ATTORNEY