

*Office of the Mayor*  
***The City of Coral Gables***

***Resolution of Condolence***

*A Resolution of Condolence on behalf of the City of Coral Gables extending its heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family of the late Felipe Valls, Sr.*

**WHEREAS**, *Felipe Valls Sr., was born on March 8, 1933, in Santiago de Cuba, and is preceded in death by his wife, Aminta Viso de Valls. He was sent to the United States to attend high school at the prestigious Riverside Military Academy in Gainesville, Georgia. Upon graduating in 1950, he returned to his hometown to begin his journey as an entrepreneur, and owned several successful businesses, including gas stations, a restaurant, and the popular Lido Supper Club; and*

**WHEREAS**, *In 1960, a 27-year-old Valls fled his beloved homeland with his wife and children. He landed a job selling used restaurant equipment and worked his way up to opening Versailles Restaurant as a small coffee shop in 1971 followed by numerous other business ventures; and*

**WHEREAS**, *today, Versailles is regarded as the World's Most Famous Cuban Restaurant and Valls Group has become one the largest family-owned food and beverage businesses in South Florida having more than 2,000 employees and thirty establishments; and*

**WHEREAS**, *a staunch fighter for freedom and democracy in Cuba, Valls was a member of the Cuban American National Foundation, the Cuban Liberty Council, and the US-Cuba Democracy PAC. He received numerous awards and accolades throughout his life, including the University of Miami Mambi Award, and the distinction of a portion of Miami's Calle Ocho (SW 8th Street) named Felipe Valls Way in his honor; and*

**WHEREAS**, *Valls until his untimely passing on November 26, 2022 is survived by his partner Natty Elias; his three children, ten grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, and*

**WHEREAS**, *it is altogether fitting and proper that the City of Coral Gables pay homage to Felipe Valls Sr., on his untimely demise,*

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA**, *that we extend our heartfelt sympathy to his bereaved family on the occasion of their great loss.*

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, *I have hereunto placed my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Coral Gables to be affixed on this thirteenth day of December A.D., 2022.*

***Vince Lago***  
***Mayor***

***Michael Mena***  
***Vice Mayor***

***Rhonda Anderson***  
***Commissioner***

***Kirk R. Menendez***  
***Commissioner***