

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting**  
**Agenda Item H-2**  
**October 13, 2015**  
**City Commission Chambers**  
**405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

**City Commission**

**Mayor Jim Cason**  
**Commissioner Pat Keon via Telephone**  
**Commissioner Vince Lago**  
**Vice Mayor Frank Quesada**  
**Commissioner Jeannett Slesnick**

**City Staff**

**City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark**  
**City Attorney, Craig E. Leen**  
**City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman**  
**Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia**  
**Assistant Director Development Services, Charles Wu**

**Public Speaker(s)**

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Agenda Item H-2 [Start: 11:40:33 a.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida, amending Ordinance No. 2015-17, as amended, to revise certain fees by the Development Services Department; providing for severability and an effective date.

Mayor Cason: H-2.

Mr. Wu: Thank you Mayor, for the record, Charles Wu, Development Services. This is a follow up to the last time we amended the fee schedule related to becoming an ordinance and officiating all the fees by that ordinance. The Commission challenged us to relook at some of our fees and the result of that is bringing forth a resolution to you, a package. I will go through three major points and would like to add one additional fee at the end. One, we discussed maybe for small renovation projects to have a consideration for reduced permit fees. The example we use is, if

someone wants to replace a \$500 exterior door, that permit is a little bit over half the price of that door. It would be \$260 and change. What we would like to do is to reduce that to five percent, as opposed to fifty percent, we'd like to reduce the permit fee to five percent, at a rate of \$25 all inclusive. That will include the county and the state required fees and the BOA fees, if it's required. Again, for a \$500 cost of a small renovation job or less, the flat fee of \$25, that is the first proposal.

Mayor Cason: Could you clarify what construction value means. If I have a door and then you get somebody to come in and they charge you \$400 to put it in, and the door cost \$250, is it the value of the door or is it the door plus the labor that went into putting it in?

Mr. Wu: I believe it's the door plus.

Mayor Cason: Plus labor – and they would show that by a bill of some sort?

Mr. Wu: You can show us a bill of the door or an estimate from the contractor.

Mayor Cason: So it's both. OK. If you put it in yourself then it's less than \$500 no problem.

Mr. Wu: And we as staff can gauge the value itself how accurate it is. We have professional staff that can do that.

Mayor Cason: OK.

Mr. Wu: The second one is good news. We are going to eliminate and streamline five zoning permits; one is awning repairs, chain link fence repairs, pool resurfacing, single family duplex, residential flooring, and kitchen cabinets. All those we are proposing to eliminate. We've had sporadic permits with some of them, but the main one is really pool resurfacing and we've had 50 requests in the past. We are going to eliminate that since there is really no zoning of the link permits review for those permits. The third, we are very proud of is to propose a senior resident permit waiver for those seniors who are undergoing a Code violation that...or they have to extend the permit. Such a senior has to be 65 years or older and have to live in the residence for the past five years. This mirrors the false alarm fee waiver for all local senior citizens. The second part of number three is consistent with the Victims Assistance Program is that if a

homeowner is the subject of a burglary or home invasion and typically what happens is a door or window is damaged and there is an emergency permit to repair those. For those properties that are damaged as part of the property damage violation, those permits will be waived. Again, so Victims Assistance Program, we are proposing to waive the repair damage work related to that property. The fourth one we would like to propose that is not in the resolution, but since you did approve at Second Reading was to waive the partial inspection fee. In hindsight we decided that the...permit fee did incorporate partial inspections. We would like to propose that to waive that as well as an add-on to the resolution. That concludes staff's presentation.

Mayor Cason: Discussion? I think this is great. This is exactly what we want to reduce the fees, particularly on smaller – we've been discussing this for four years. I think this will remove a lot of the burden and help keep the property values up. People will be more likely to fix things. It would be nice, I think, at some point to have a brochure or something that we can either send, when we send letters to new residents or make available about starting off saying, here's what you can do without a permit because we have – make it very clear, what you need to do are things that are related to the Florida Building Code basically. Here's what you do not need a permit for, start off with that and then come up with some of these changes, so that it's much clearer to residents what you do or don't have to do in terms of permits.

Commissioner Slesnick: Yes. I agree. Our residents want to be compliant in that. Again, if you have permits pulled and the City inspects it, really helps in the general overall condition of the property and keeps the property values up.

Mayor Cason: Alright. Anybody else wants to comment on this? Make a motion?

Mr. Wu: As amended by staff.

Mayor Cason: Yes. Commissioner Lago makes the motion, Commissioner Slesnick seconds, and Commissioner Keon wants to say something.

Commissioner Lago: Commissioner Keon?

Commissioner Keon: I think it's a great idea. Thank you very much.

Mayor Cason: City Clerk.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes

Commissioner Slesnick: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Mayor Cason: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

[End: 11:46:12 a.m.]