



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
March 9, 2021

ITEM TITLE:

RESOLUTION. 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 (Sponsored by Vice Mayor Lago)

BRIEF HISTORY:

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.

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.

The policy also 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.

The proposed 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 trees on City rights-of-way, and provides no additional appellate rights for property owners in the City.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Draft Resolution.
2. Exhibit A: “ Removal of Trees on City Property and Rights-of-Way by City staff”