

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES CODE, CHAPTER 10 “ANIMALS”, TO MODIFY BIRD SANCTUARY PROTECTIONS BY EXCLUDING PIGEONS, CHICKENS, DUCKS, ROOSTERS, AND OTHER DOMESTIC FOWL; PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER PROVISION, SEVERABILITY CLAUSE, CODIFICATION, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Coral Gables has designated its territory as a bird sanctuary, prohibiting the shooting, trapping, killing, or destruction of birds or their nests within the city limits, reflecting our community’s deep appreciation for the beauty, diversity, and significance of wildlife, and our commitment to protecting and nurturing our natural environment; and

**WHEREAS**, Coral Gables values the humane treatment of all animals and strives to maintain a harmonious balance between wildlife and the quality of life of our residents, ensuring peaceful and respectful coexistence with all creatures within our city; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission recognizes the need to clarify the status of certain domestic fowl, including pigeons, chickens, ducks, roosters, and other domestic fowl, that may present health, safety, or nuisance concerns for residents; and

**WHEREAS**, in the spirit of humane treatment and in the interest of public health and welfare, the City Commission finds it appropriate to exclude certain domestic fowl from the city’s bird sanctuary protections to allow for the compassionate and regulated trapping or relocation of these animals, ensuring that any actions taken are conducted responsibly and with care; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission desires to reaffirm its commitment to humane and ethical treatment of all birds within city limits by encouraging that no City action is undertaken against any birds unless absolutely necessary, and if population control measures are required, the City shall prioritize non-lethal interventions by making three good-faith attempts to relocate the birds before considering any other measures.

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

**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.** That Chapter 10 “Animals”, is amended as attached in Exhibit A<sup>1</sup>:

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<sup>1</sup> Deletions are indicated by ~~strike through~~. Insertions are indicated by underline.

**SECTION 3.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 4.** If any section, part of section, paragraph, clause, phrase or word of this Ordinance is declared invalid, the remaining provisions of this Ordinance shall not be affected.

**SECTION 5.** 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 part of the City Code and that the sections of this “ordinance” may be changed to “section”, “article”, or such other appropriate word or phrase in order to accomplish such intentions.

**SECTION 6.** If the City Code Table of Contents or other reference portions is affected by these provisions, then changes are approved as a part of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 7.** This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. 2024.

APPROVED:

VINCE LAGO

MAYOR

ATTEST:

BILLY Y. URQUIA

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

CRISTINA M. SUÁREZ

## Exhibit “A”

**Sec. 10-1 - Bird sanctuary—Declared.**

All territory embraced within the corporate limits of the city is hereby declared to be a bird sanctuary, excluding pigeons, chickens, ducks, roosters, and other domestic fowl from these protections.

**Sec. 10-2 - Same— Destruction of birds prohibited.**

(a) Subject to the exclusions in 10-1 and in accordance with any applicable state or federal laws, it shall be unlawful for any person to shoot, trap or in any manner kill or destroy birds or their nests within the territory embraced within the city.