

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, DIRECTING CITY STAFF TO CREATE AN INCOME-BASED SEWER CONNECTION GRANT PROGRAM, CONTINGENT ON THE RECEIPT OF STATE OR FEDERAL FUNDING, TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS WHO WISH TO CONVERT FROM SEPTIC TO SEWER.

WHEREAS, converting from onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (“septic tanks”) to sanitary sewer is beneficial for environmental, economic, health, and other reasons; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County recently instituted more rigorous standards for new and replacement septic systems, significantly increasing the cost of maintaining and retaining a septic tank; and

WHEREAS, nearly half of the single family homes in Coral Gables have septic tanks; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission recognizes the benefits of septic-to-sewer conversion and is pursuing state and federal funding opportunities to complete the public infrastructure work necessary to make such conversion a reality; and

WHEREAS, the City is in the process of finalizing a septic-to-sewer master plan scheduled for completion in late 2023 or early 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission recognizes that in order to achieve septic-to-sewer conversion, homeowners must undertake private property improvements to connect to City-owned main lines, and such improvements may be extremely difficult to achieve for lower income residents; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County has numerous programs offered through its Community Action and Human Services Department, that offer home improvement grants or forgivable loans to eligible individuals, however, none of these services specifically target septic-to-sewer financial assistance; and

WHEREAS the City Commission wishes to create a grant program to provide financial assistance to qualified residents using state or federal funds secured through the City’s lobbying efforts;

WHEREAS, the City Commission, via this resolution, directs staff to establish such program, taking into account income levels, scope and cost of projects, citizen’s standing in regards to code enforcement violations and outstanding debt to the City, use of a licensed and insured contractor, homestead exemption, location of residence, availability of sewer connections and other relevant considerations.

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

SECTION 1. 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 directs City staff to create an income-based sewer connection grant program, contingent on securing state or federal funding, to provide financial assistance to qualified individuals who wish to convert from septic- to-sewer.

SECTION 3. That City staff is authorized to establish an appropriate eligibility criterion, application process, grant administration process, compliance checks and to perform all other administrative functions related to the grant program, and in doing so shall consider income levels, scope and cost of projects, citizen’s standing in regards to code enforcement violations and outstanding debt to the City, use of a licensed and insured contractor, homestead exemption, location of residence, availability of sewer connections and other relevant considerations.

SECTION 4. That the City Commission hereby directs City staff to pursue a state or federal appropriation and/or grant to fund the income-based sewer connection grant program.

SECTION 4. This Resolution shall become effective _____, 2023.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS ___ DAY OF _____.

APPROVED:

VINCE LAGO
MAYOR

ATTEST:

BILLY URQUIA
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

CRISTINA SUAREZ
CITY ATTORNEY