



**City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
February 12, 2008**

ITEM TITLE:

Resolution accepting the Village of Pinecrest ballot question "Shall the Village of Pinecrest opt-out of the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue District and Contract with the City of Coral Gables for fire rescue services?"

RECOMMENDATION OF THE CITY MANAGER:

The City Manager recommends approval of this item.

BRIEF HISTORY:

In July, 2007, the Village of Pinecrest adopted an ordinance concerning the Village's intent to withdraw from the Miami Dade Fire Department District.

In August, 2007, the Village Manager approached the Coral Gables City Manager to inquire about the possibility of the City providing fire rescue service to the Village.

In September, 2007, the City Manager notified the City Commission of this request and assigned the Fire Chief the task of evaluating the possibilities of providing service. With the City Managers approval, the Fire Chief provided the Village Manager with a proposal for service including the number of personnel needed, the number of vehicles needed and the costs required to accomplish this request.

The Fire Chief and staff presented a draft proposal to a Special Meeting of the Village Council on December 12, 2007.

At the conclusion of this meeting the Village Council voted to take the question of opting out of Miami Dade's Fire service and to contract with the City of Coral Gables for that service to their residents on a Special Election.

At the January 8, 2007 Coral Gables City Commission meeting, the Commission requested that the reference to the City of Coral Gables be removed from the ballot.

In response to a Miami-Dade County request for an emergency injunction against the election, a judge ruled that Pinecrest could not hold the special election to ask voters if they want to leave the Miami-Dade Fire Services Department because the ballot's wording was unclear. The judge refused to allow Pinecrest to hold a special election asking voters if the village should opt out of Miami-Dade Fire Service unless there is a reference to an alternative provider.

Therefore, the Village of Pinecrest proposes to conduct a municipal election with the following language:
"Shall the Village of Pinecrest opt-out of the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue District and Contract with the City of Coral Gables for fire rescue services?"

This resolution is only to accept the language for the ballot. If the electorate approves this item, an interlocal agreement (see proposed agreement for information only) providing for fire-rescue services to the Village of Pinecrest by the City of Coral Gables will still need to be approved by the Coral Gables City Commission.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:N/A

Date:	Resolution/Ordinance No.	Comments

AGENDA ITEM NO. _____

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ADVISORY BOARD/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION(S):N/A

Date	Board/Committee	Comments (if any)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION: (If Applicable)N/A

No.	Amount	Account No.	Source of Funds
1.			
Total:	APPROVED BY:		

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION(S):N/A

Date	Form of Notification

APPROVED BY:

Department Director	City Attorney (If Applicable)	City Manager

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Wording of Ballot
2. Draft Interlocal Agreement (for information only)
3. E-mail dated February 1, 2008 from Kevin Gimeno, Community Mitigation Analyst, Insurance Services Office, Inc.
4. Draft Resolution