

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting**  
**Agenda Item F-2**  
**May 11, 2021**  
**City Commission Chambers**  
**405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

**City Commission**

**Mayor Vince Lago**

**Vice Mayor Michael Mena**

**Commissioner Rhonda Anderson**

**Commissioner Jorge L. Fors, Jr.**

**Commissioner Kirk R. Menendez**

**City Staff**

**City Manager, Peter Iglesias**

**City Attorney, Miriam Ramos**

**City Clerk, Billy Urquia**

**Deputy City Attorney, Cristina Suarez**

**Public Speaker(s)**

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Agenda Item F-2 [Start: 11:12 a.m.]

An Ordinance of the City Commission of the City of Coral Gables, Florida, amending Chapter 62, Article VII “Special Events and Parades,” Section 62-303 “Covid-19 Emergency Business Recovery Special Event Permit,” of the City Code to extend its applicability and expiration through January 15, 2022 in order to safely continue to expand economic opportunities to businesses in the City impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic; providing for severability clause, repealer provision, codification; and providing for an effective date. (Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

Mayor Lago: Item F-2.

City Attorney Ramos: F-2 is An Ordinance of the City Commission of the City of Coral Gables, Florida, amending Chapter 62, Article VII “Special Events and Parades,” Section 62-303 “Covid-19 Emergency Business Recovery Special Event Permit,” of the City Code to extend its

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applicability and expiration through January 15, 2022 in order to safely continue to expand economic opportunities to businesses in the City impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic; providing for severability clause, repealer provision, codification; and providing for an effective date. This is a public hearing item. Ms. Suarez.

Mayor Lago: Madam Suarez.

Deputy City Attorney Suarez: Good morning Mayor and Commissioners. For the record, Cristina Suarez, Deputy City Attorney. This item is an amendment to the special events streamline process for Covid-19 Business Recovery Special Events. It simply extends the availability of this process through January 15, 2022. And there is a finding in the ordinance that it does comply with the Governor's recent Executive Order 21-102, because this is actually an expansion of economic opportunities and is not a restriction or a mandate on any business.

Mayor Lago: Thank you. Mr. Clerk do we have anyone who wishes to speak on this item?

City Clerk Urquia: No, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Before we open it up to the Commission. If any of my colleagues, I want to do something a little different that hasn't been done before, if any of my colleagues would ever like to co-sponsor an item, this is a great example. I am the sponsor of this item, but I welcome my colleagues on the Commission floor if they'd be interested in sponsoring, co-sponsoring something like this, which I think is only beneficial for the community. Its going to be good things for our business community, which has struggled so hard over the last year and change, and I see the light at the end of the tunnel. I want to make sure that everyone understands that. I welcome that, at least items that I sponsor, I welcome people to co-sponsor with me, if they so please. Are there any comments from the Commission?

Commissioner Anderson: My only comment is, I think this is an excellent proposal. They emolliate the conditions that we've been faced with, with Covid. Hopefully it's the last time we have to be faced with these types of conditions. It shows that this outdoor dining concept is something that we need to move forward to in future designs of projects and Giralda Plaza was an excellent example of how it just really made it available for everybody at that point in time. And I'm excited about supporting the business community in this fashion.

Mayor Lago: I think the Vice Mayor mentioned this a while back ago. I think it was maybe Commissioner Fors, maybe both of them mentioned it. I think this is something that we need to really have staff look at; and I know it's difficult, because we have certain areas like, for example  
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Boshor, which is a pleasure to go and dine at. I go there probably 3-4 times a week. I take my family there every Sunday. There are places like Giralda, like you mentioned, but there are certain businesses that after January, if and when we go back to the way that we used to conduct ourselves, patrons who still are hesitant may not want to visit those establishments. And I really, really enjoy eating outside when the weather permits, obviously, and I think that with the guidance of this Commission, I think that we need to have staff really find solutions, find real solutions, to see how – again, it may not be as prolific as we have right now, but we need to find solutions for restaurants and for entities that again, may not be as flexible, in regards to their outdoor dining, and find a solution for them in the future.

Vice Mayor Mena: And I think one thing we've seen is just the sort of creativity and some of the ingenuity we've seen from certain restaurants. You know, you've seen like Zucca has that outdoor space where they use a couple of parking spaces, very nice; Havana Harry's has been creative, we were just talking about that, with a lot of outdoor space. I applaud the City Manager and his office, because when this all started we really asked you to be flexible with what's permitted and you guys made sure that you were and that you enabled these businesses to continue to operate and to survive the situation that was at hand, but its kind of interesting, you know, having now experienced it to kind of learn from it a little bit and see what type of things like this we can have, maybe on a seasonal basis, you know. Maybe it's the type of thing that God willing, you know, that Covid-19 is in the rearview mirror and is a thing of the past, in a year, or two years, or three years, whenever it is. I think we can be flexible on certain things. Maybe that type of outdoor seating can be permitted during winter months, when its cool out and people want to sit outside. For me, its been a very sort of, interesting to observe all of the possibilities that maybe we didn't consider before and I hope that the Mayor's point that we look at this and really study it going forward to see what else we can do to support our business community, because I think its gone a long way.

Mayor Lago: We are going to have to face it.

Vice Mayor Mena: Yes.

Mayor Lago: Some people may not like it, but at the end of the day, we are going to have to really find solutions in our downtown and with that comes ADA solutions, issues with our sidewalks, issues with our parking. We are going to have to take a serious look at this. Mr. Clerk, do we have anyone who wishes to speak on this item?

City Clerk Urquia: No sir.

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Vice Mayor Mena: I'll make the motion.

Commissioner Anderson: Second.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk would you call the roll.

Commissioner Fors: Yes

Vice Mayor Mena: Yes

Commissioner Menendez: Yes

Commissioner Anderson: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes

[End: 11:17 a.m.]