

# CORAL GABLES

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

## Economic Development Board Meeting Meeting Minutes

Wednesday | June 2, 2021 | 8:00 a.m.

Location: Zoom and Public Safety Building, Community Meeting Room A  
2151 Salzedo Street, Coral Gables, FL 33134

EDB MEMBERS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	APPOINTING ENTITY
	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	
Julio Grabiel	Z	Z	Z	P	P	P							Mayor Vince Lago
Olga Ramudo, Chair	P	E	Z	P	P	P							Vice Mayor Michael Mena
Stuart McGregor	Z	E	Z	P	P	Z							Commissioner Kirk R. Menendez
Tania Cruz- Gimenez	-	-	-	-	-	Z							Commissioner Rhonda Anderson
Mary Snow	-	-	-	-	-	P							Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.
Barbara Tria	-	Z	Z	P	Z	Z							City Manager Peter Iglesias
Thad Adams	-	-	Z	P	P	P							Chamber of Commerce

A=Absent E=Excused Absence P=Present X=No Meeting Ph=Present by Phone Z=Zoom - =Former Board Member

### Staff and Guests:

Julian H. Perez, AICP, CFM, Director, Economic Development Department  
 Belkys Perez, Assistant Director, Economic Development Department  
 Zeida Sardiñas, Asset Manager, Economic Development Department  
 Francesca Valdes, Business Development Coordinator, Economic Development Department  
 Leticia Perez, International Business Development Coordinator, Economic Development Department  
 Yenis Gomez, Administrative Assistant, Economic Development Department

Ms. Ramudo brought the meeting to order at 8:16 a.m.

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Ramudo welcomed new members of the Board, Ms. Cruz-Gimenez, appointed by Commissioner Anderson, and Ms. Snow, appointed by Commissioner Fors, Jr. All members both existing and new were asked for self-introductions.

### 2. Mission of the Economic Development Board

Mr. Perez welcomed and thanked the members for their participation on the Board. He explained how the board, along with the City's business partners, the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce, BID and the Coral Gables Community Foundation, came together to help businesses mitigate the impacts of the pandemic.

Mr. Perez indicated that the city is rebounding from the pandemic. There was a major relocation in the middle of the pandemic, which was Friesland Campina, the seventh largest dairy producer in the world, which opened their Latin America Headquarters in the city. ACI Worldwide also relocated their headquarters to Coral Gables. Additionally, the City made partners in Silicon Valley, University of Miami, FIU and Google to ensure that small businesses were able to use technology to communicate with the customers as well as the supply chain. Mr. Perez explained how the Department, in collaboration with the IT Department, will leverage this new era of technology to build a technology corridor that runs through Ponce de Leon Boulevard.

Mr. Perez stated that, despite the challenges, mostly caused by the pandemic, the Department was still true to its mission:

- Assist the Development Department in formulating and implementing relevant goals and objectives.
- Make recommendations to the City Commission regarding development issues.
- Promote, consult and assist in identifying markets and developing programs for retaining existing businesses, attracting new businesses and development.

Mr. Grabiell requested to have the mission statement emailed to the Board.

**3. Review and approval of April 7, 2021, Economic Development Board Meeting Minutes. Mr. Grabiell made a motion to approve the meeting minutes and Ms. Snow seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** There was no discussion regarding the minutes.

**4. Review and approval of May 5, 2021, Economic Development Board Meeting Minutes. Mr. Grabiell made a motion to approve the meeting minutes and Ms. Tria seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** There was no discussion regarding the minutes.

### **5. Update on multinational company survey**

Ms. Perez informed the Board that the Department had finalized a survey for its multinational companies. The survey was emailed to the Board for review. Comments and suggestions would be accepted until the next day before being sent to its multinational list. The Board asked for a list of the contacts and said they would assist in reaching out to multinationals if needed.

### **6. Business Tax License Report**

Ms. Valdes updated Board members on the new and upcoming businesses in Coral Gables. The retail occupancy rate in the City is 97.2%. Miracle Mile's occupancy rate is 88.6%. There were 30 businesses that opened during Covid-19 (13 retails, 16 restaurants and 1 hotel). In addition, there are 15 restaurants and two retailers coming soon.

### **7. Open Discussion**

**Mr. McGregor made a motion to re-elect Ms. Olga Ramudo for the position as Chair. Ms. Tria seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Ms. Ramudo accepted the nomination.**

The Board elected to skip the July 7, 2021, Economic Development Board meeting and reconvene on August 4, 2021.

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There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Yenisis Gomez, Administrative Assistant, Economic Development Department.