

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-297**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION DIRECTING CITY STAFF TO CREATE AN INCOME-BASED SEWER ASSESSMENT GRANT PROGRAM, CONTINGENT ON THE RECEIPT OF STATE OR FEDERAL FUNDING, TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS TO PAY THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ASSOCIATED WITH A SEPTIC-TO-SEWER CONVERSION.

**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**, the City Commission also recognizes that certain property owners who are assessed to pay for a portion of the public infrastructure work necessary to expand the City’s sewer system to serve their properties, may be unable to pay those assessments; 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 support to qualified residents using state or federal funds, to assist them in paying for septic-to-sewer special assessments; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission, via this resolution, directs staff to establish such a program and authorizes staff to determine eligibility requirements and all other considerations associated with the grant program;

**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 assessment grant program, contingent on securing state or federal funding, to provide financial assistance to qualified individuals to pay the special assessment associated with a septic-to-sewer conversion.

**SECTION 3.** That City staff is authorized to establish the eligibility criteria and grant considerations, application process, grant administration process, compliance checks and to perform all other administrative functions related to the grant program.

**SECTION 4.** That the City Commission hereby directs City staff to pursue state or federal funding to fund the income-based sewer assessment grant program at an appropriate time, as may be determined by the timing of construction, assessments or grant criteria.

**SECTION 4.** This Resolution shall become effective upon its passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS TENTH DAY OF OCTOBER, A.D., 2023.

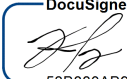
(Moved: Anderson / Seconded: Castro)

(Yeas: Castro, Fernandez, Menendez, Anderson, Lago)

(Unanimous: 5-0 Vote)

(Agenda Item: F-7)

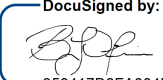
APPROVED:

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VINCE LAGO  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

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BILLY Y. URQUIA  
CITY CLERK

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CRISTINA M. SUÁREZ  
CITY ATTORNEY