



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
September 15, 2010

ITEM TITLE:

Resolution. A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Coral Gables, Florida, in accordance with the Florida Governor's Executive Order 20-69, adopting Rules of Procedure for hybrid meetings/hearings of the City Commission and city boards that take place during the pendency of the state of emergency due to the Coronavirus/COVID-19.

BRIEF HISTORY:

On March 9, 2020, the Governor of the State of Florida issued Executive Order No. 20-52, declaring a state of emergency for the entire State of Florida. Said order was issued in response to the Coronavirus/COVID-19 emergency. Coronavirus/COVID-19 spreads easily from person-to-person. Consequently, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention issued guidelines in order to slow the spread of the virus. Said guidelines advised that individuals should adopt far-reaching social distancing measures.

Adhering to social distancing posed a problem for government bodies as it is well established in opinions issued by the Florida Attorney General that in order to establish a quorum, the requisite number of members must be physically present in the room and that if a quorum is physically present, the participation of an absent member by telephone/video is permissible due to extraordinary circumstances. Recognizing the need for a local government body to meet while still adhering to principles of social distancing, on March 20, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 20-69, suspending the present-in-the-room quorum requirement and expressly allowing for local government bodies to utilize telephonic/video conferencing to hold meetings.

Executive Order No. 20-69 requires that local government bodies adopt rules of procedure for virtual meetings in accordance with section 120.54(5)(b)(2), F.S. At the March 31st City Commission meeting, the Commission adopted Rules of Procedure for virtual meetings and at the April 21st City Commission meeting, the Commission adopted Rules of Procedure for virtual quasi-judicial hearings. Executive Order No. 20-69 has been extended numerous times and is currently set to expire on October 1st.

These rules are therefore established for hybrid meetings/hearings of the City Commission (in both its legislative and quasi-judicial capacity) as well as for its advisory and quasi-judicial boards. This resolution ratifies and adopts Rules of Procedure for hybrid meetings/hearings.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- 1. Draft Resolution**
- 2. Rules of Procedure for Hybrid Meetings/Hearings**