



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
July 13, 2021

ITEM TITLE:

Ordinance on First Reading: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF CORAL GABLES AMENDING SECTION 2-305, "LOBBYING" OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES ETHICS CODE TO MAKE IT CONSISTENT WITH AMENDMENTS TO THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY LOBBYING ORDINANCE AND ADDING A "DUTY TO ANNOUNCE" REQUIREMENT, PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE, REPEALER PROVISION, CODIFICATION, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE (Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

BRIEF HISTORY:

The Miami-Dade County Ethics Code sets the minimum standard for ethics rules applying to elected officials, appointed officials, and county/city employees and, applies throughout Miami-Dade County and all municipalities within Miami-Dade County. Specifically, the Miami-Dade County Ethics Code sets forth the minimum standard for rules relating to and regulating lobbying activity.

In Section 2-305 of the City Code, the City sets forth its lobbying regulations, but it has not been substantially revised since 2006 and only partially revised in 2017. Miami-Dade County is currently making changes to the lobbying regulations in the Miami-Dade County Ethics Code.

This Ordinance amends the City's lobbying regulations to be consistent with the proposed amendments (adopted on first reading) to the Miami-Dade lobbying regulations and to ensure that all City regulations that differ, are more stringent than those imposed by Miami-Dade County.

Specifically, this Ordinance makes the following changes:

- Amends the definition of *city personnel*;
- Adds a definition for *encourage*;
- Amends the definition of *expenditure*;
- Amends the definition of *lobbyist*;
- Adds a definition for *lobbying activity*;
- Amends the definition of *principal*;
- Adds a definition for *procurement matter*;
- Amends the registration requirement section, to wit: that a principal must acknowledge that a particular lobbyist is authorized to represent the principal, adds time frames for certain requirements, amends the fee waiver provision, and strikes the procurement provision (as it is addressed later);
- Amends the contingency fee section to read consistently with the new definitions;
- Amends the exceptions to registration section to be consistent with the County's and adds a subsection relating to procurement matters, specifically;
- Adds a "duty to announce" requirement;
- Amends the reporting requirements section, to wit: changes the deadline for expenditure statements to be consistent with the County's, specifies requirements for expenditure statements,

and adds particular requirements that must be complied with by the City Clerk to be consistent with the County's; and

- Adds a "diligence requirement" that must be complied with by elected officials, appointed officials, and city employees.

The Miami-Dade Ethics Code requires that all lobbyist complete mandatory ethics training within 60 days of registering, provided by the Miami-Dade Ethics Commission. However, the Code allows for municipalities to opt out of this requirement. Direction is needed regarding whether the City Commission wishes to impose the training registration on those who register to lobby in the City.

1. Draft Ordinance
2. Attachment A