



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
February 9, 2016

ITEM TITLE:

Ordinance on Second Reading. An Ordinance of the City of Coral Gables, Florida, amending the City of Coral Gables Code by:

- Creating Section 2-801, “Prohibition on Use of Expanded Polystyrene” in Article VIII Procurement Code; and
- Amending Section 62-230, “Prohibition on Use of Expanded Polystyrene” in Article VII Special Events; and
- Amending Article VIII “Sale, Use or Distribution of Expanded Polystyrene by Businesses within the City” in Chapter 34 Nuisance, of the City Code;

Providing for severability, repealer, codification, and an effective date.

BRIEF HISTORY:

The City Commission of the City of Coral Gables declares that it is in the best interest of the public health, safety and welfare of its residents and visitors to reduce litter and pollutants on the land and in the waters of the City. Expanded polystyrene, a petroleum by-product commonly known as Styrofoam, is neither readily recyclable nor biodegradable and takes hundreds to thousands of years to degrade in the environment. Products made from expanded polystyrene have little value and are not accepted into single stream recycling facilities. Expanded polystyrene is a common pollutant, which fragments into smaller, non-biodegradable pieces that are ingested by marine life and other wildlife, thus harming or killing them. Polystyrene food service materials such as cups, plates, coolers, ice chests and food containers, constitute a portion of the litter in the City’s streets, parks, public places and waterways. Due to the physical properties of expanded polystyrene, the EPA states “that such materials can also have serious impacts on human health, wildlife, the aquatic environment, and the economy.” As an environmental leader among local governments in the State of Florida, the goal of the City is to replace expanded polystyrene items with reusable, recyclable or compostable alternatives whenever possible.

In order to accomplish these goals, first, the City will not purchase or use any items made from expanded polystyrene. Second, the City will not allow the use of expanded polystyrene containers by City vendors or contractors. Third, the City will not allow the use of items made of expanded polystyrene by any special events permittee. Lastly, the City will not allow the use of expanded polystyrene containers by food service providers and stores located within the City.

Two changes were made to the ordinance between first and second reading. They are underlined in the attached version.

REVIEWED BY:

City Attorney	City Manager
	

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Draft Ordinance