



City of Coral Gables  
CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
June 8, 2021

**ITEM TITLE:**

**Resolution.** A Resolution of the City Commission establishing the Cavaliers Future Leaders Program, a summer internship program designed to introduce rising juniors and seniors of Coral Gables Senior High School to the inner workings of local government. (Sponsored by Commissioner Menendez)

**BRIEF HISTORY:**

The City of Coral Gables and Coral Gables Senior High School have enjoyed a history of cooperation and support for over 70 years. In furtherance of this longstanding relationship and for the benefit of youth within the community, the City Commission desires to establish the Cavaliers Future Leaders Program (“Program”).

The Program is intended to provide rising juniors and seniors with an intensive summer internship opportunity that will provide a unique perspective into the innerworkings of local government. Students in the Program will obtain real-world work experience during their internship and develop a robust working knowledge of city administration through close collaboration with the City Manager’s Office, the City Attorney’s Office, and other City departments. Program participants will have the opportunity to be involved in Commission Agenda briefings with members of the City Commission, participate in meetings concerning the City’s budget, capital improvement projects, and state and federal legislative affairs as well as learn how to draft resolutions and ordinances. During their internship, Program participants will participate in a Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors meeting and luncheon to help participants forge relationships with the City’s business community; and upon successful completion of the Program each student will receive a \$500 scholarship check, a Certificate of Completion and a letter of recommendation signed by the Mayor on official City of Coral Gables letterhead. Commissioner Menendez and the Menendez family will make a personal donation of \$2500 a year for three years beginning in 2022, to fund a total of 15 scholarships. Thereafter, funds will be sourced from the General Fund or another appropriate account at the discretion of the City Manager.

In the spirit of partnership, the City Commission desires to engage stakeholders such as Coral Gables Senior High School and its alumni association, Miami-Dade County Public School District, the Coral Gables Community Foundation, the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce, and the Coral Gables School and Community Relations Committee in the development and/or implementation of the Cavaliers Future Leaders Program.

To be eligible for the Program, a student must be a rising junior or senior at Coral Gables Senior High School, have an unweighted GPA of 3.0 or higher, furnish three (3) letters of recommendation two of which must be from a teacher, administrator, counselor, or coach at the

school, submit an essay of at least 1000 words discussing his or her college and career goals and reasons for wanting to intern with the City of Coral Gables. The City Manager or a designee will establish a selection process to determine the best candidates for the Program, which will include, if feasible, the Coral Gables Senior High School Alumni Association.

Coral Gables Senior High School, its alumni and the “Cavalier Nation” have always been a source of achievement, pride, and support for the City of Coral Gables. The establishment of the Cavaliers Future Leaders Program is one more way to continue the shared tradition of excellence between two great institutions and to educate and encourage students to become more engaged citizens.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

**1. Draft Resolution**