



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
August 24, 2021

ITEM TITLE:

Ordinance on Second 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, ADDING A "DUTY TO ANNOUNCE" AND A "DUTY TO LIST" REQUIREMENT, AND ESTABLISHING A MANDATORY TRAINING 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 has adopted an ordinance amending the lobbying regulations in the Miami-Dade County Ethics Code.

This Ordinance amends the City's lobbying regulations to be consistent with the amendments 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 following changes have been made between first and second reading:

- Addition of a "duty to list" requirement which establishes that the City Clerk must list, on the City Commission agenda, the name of each registered lobbyist and the principal which the lobbyist represents, under each City Commission item that relates to a development project or procurement item.
- Addition of a training requirement for lobbyists that follows Miami-Dade County's training requirement.

1. Draft Ordinance
2. Attachment A