



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
May 12, 2020

ITEM TITLE:

Ordinance: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 2-79 OF CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE III OF THE CITY CODE, TITLED, "ORDER OF BUSINESS" TO ESTABLISH AN OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA, IN ADDITION TO THE PUBLIC COMMENTS CURRENTLY PERMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SEC. 286.0114, F.S., THE CITIZENS BILL OF RIGHTS, AND OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS, TO ALLOW FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE CITY COMMISSION ON ANY MATTER AND PROVIDING FOR THE IMPOSITION OF TIME LIMITATIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, REPEALER, CODIFICATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Sponsored by Vice Mayor Lago) (*For ratification*)

BRIEF HISTORY:

The City of Coral Gables Commission has always complied with section 286.0114, F.S. in allowing members of the public a reasonable opportunity to be heard on a proposition before the City Commission takes final action. In addition, the City Commission provides for public comment during all items requiring a public hearing under applicable law, which includes ordinances on second reading and when the City Commission sits in a quasi-judicial capacity. Also, the City of Coral Gables Commission has also complied with section five of the Citizen's Bill of Rights, Miami-Dade County Charter, by allowing any individual who wishes to address the City Commission on a matter within the Commission's jurisdiction to be placed on the "Personal Appearance" section of the City Commission agenda and address the Commission, subject to time limitations at the discretion of the Mayor, as Chair of the City Commission.

Within Miami-Dade County, many cities allow for an open public comment portion of Commission meetings. The City of West Miami, City of South Miami, City of Hialeah, Village of Key Biscayne, Village of Palmetto Bay, City of Miami Springs, Village of Biscayne Park, Village of El Portal, Bal Harbour Village, City of Aventura, Town of Miami Lakes, City of Doral, Town of Surfside, Town of Bay Harbour Islands, North Bay Village, City of Hialeah Gardens, City of Sunny Isles Beach, City of Miami Gardens, City of Opa Locka, City of North Miami, City of North Miami Beach, and Miami Shores Village include a "Public Comment," "Public Remarks," "Comments and Questions," "Requests, Petitions and Public Comments," "Open Forum," or "Good & Welfare" section in their Commission meeting agendas.

This Ordinance changes the format for regular meetings of the City Commission, deletes the "personal appearance" section of the code and removes it from the agenda, establishes an "open public comment" section of the agenda, establishes a three (3) minute time limit and instructions for those presenting, and allows for the Clerk to establish procedures to ensure the orderly conduct of business.

This ordinance was adopted on first reading at the March 10th City Commission meeting and, with certain changes made, on second reading at the April 21st City Commission meeting. Due to the Coronavirus/COVID-19 Pandemic, and in accordance with Resolution No. 2020-74, the April 21st City

Commission meeting was held virtually and it came to the City's attention that the platform did not allow certain members of the public to access the meeting. Consequently, in an abundance of caution, the Ordinance is being placed on the Commission agenda again to allow for any member of the public who was unable to speak during the April 21st City Commission meeting to do so and for the Commission's ratification of its adoption of the ordinance.

1. Ordinance adopted April 21, 2020