



City of Coral Gables  
CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
May 12, 2020

**ITEM TITLE:**

**Emergency Ordinance.** An Emergency Ordinance of the City of Coral Gables, Florida, amending Chapter 27 – State of Emergency Ordinance, Section 27-4 “City Manager; Emergency Operations Center (Director of Public Safety) Powers” in order to address situations created by prolonged states of emergency, granting the City Manager the authority to expand administrative reviews and revoke Certificates of Use in certain situations, and reflecting changes to the City’s organizational chart; providing for a Repealer Provision, Severability Clause, Codification, Enforceability, and providing for an Effective Date. **(For ratification)**

**BRIEF HISTORY:**

Since March 12, 2020, the City of Coral Gables has been under a declared a state of emergency due to the Novel Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19). The Novel Coronavirus Disease continues to spread in the area and the City, County, and State remain in a state of emergency, and given the communicable nature of the virus, the City has suspended all advisory board meetings until future notice, and has suspended all quasi-judicial board meetings for the month of April. Given the indefinite nature of this state of emergency, along with the CDC recommended social distancing guidelines will continue to prohibit regularly scheduled in-person board and commission meetings for an extended period. Nevertheless, residents and businesses in Coral Gables continue to access City services and require City staff to review and approve applications, permits, and respond to resident inquiries.

This prolonged state of emergency presents unforeseeable challenges. This Emergency Ordinance, if adopted, will allow the City Manager to address some of those challenges by granting him additional authority to act in certain areas. The Ordinance grants the City Manager the authority to expand administrative reviews during prolonged states of emergency and grants the City Manager the authority to revoke certificates of use of any business which continues to operate in violation of an emergency order issued by the Governor, County Mayor, or City Mayor.

Lastly, the proposed Ordinance updates the Code to reflect that the Fire Chief oversees the Emergency Management Division and serves as head of the Emergency Operations Center, and to allows the City Manager, consistent with his or her authority in the City Charter and City Code, to delegate certain tasks and responsibilities to department directors as well as assistant city managers.

In adopting this Emergency Ordinance, the City Commission finds that the amendments contemplated in this Emergency Ordinance are necessary in order to provide the residents and businesses of Coral Gables with City services and in order to continue necessary business throughout the City during prolonged states of emergency.

Passage of this ordinance required a 4/5 vote of the City Commission and at the April 21<sup>st</sup> City Commission meeting, the ordinance was adopted by a vote of 5-5. Due to the Coronavirus/COVID-19 Pandemic, and in accordance with Resolution No. 2020-74, the April 21<sup>st</sup> 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 to allow for any member of the public who was unable to speak during the April 21<sup>st</sup> City Commission meeting to do so and for the Commission’s ratification of its adoption of the ordinance.

**1. Ordinance adopted April 21, 2020.**