

***WHEREAS,** Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than one million trees in Nebraska City, Nebraska on April 10, 1872, an idea that was first proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture by J. Sterling Morton. This event later evolved into a holiday that is celebrated and sponsored annually since 1985 by the City of Coral Gables, in conjunction with the City’s Landscape Beautification Advisory Board and the Coral Gables Garden Club, as a reminder of the significance of our City’s trees; and*

***WHEREAS,** trees provide countless benefits to our community, including environmental, public health, social and economic benefits by improving our air quality, providing us with shade, enhancing our parks and public spaces, filtering and reducing stormwater runoff into our waterways, providing a natural habitat to our neighborhood wildlife while simultaneously increasing property values, and enhancing the vitality of the City’s business areas while beautifying our community and business areas alike; and*

***WHEREAS,** Coral Gables Founder George Merrick recognized and emphasized the importance of the natural beauty of this tropical landscape, and consequently hired Landscape Architect Frank Button, designer of Lincoln Park in Chicago, to design the grand vistas and tree-lined streets that still convey a quality of centuries-old permanence; and*

***WHEREAS,** 2023 marks the ninety-eighth anniversary of the founding of the City of Coral Gables, as well as the thirty-eighth year as a “Tree City USA,” accentuating the City’s commitment and involvement of our citizenry, board members and employees alike, in furtherance of conserving our City’s picturesque landscape;*

***NOW, THEREFORE, I, VINCE LAGO,** as Mayor of Coral Gables, along with the members of our City Commission, do hereby proclaim April 28, 2023 as:*

“ARBOR DAY IN CORAL GABLES”

***IN OBSERVANCE THEREOF,** I call upon the citizens of the City of Coral Gables to join me in recognizing this annual noteworthy occasion – while concomitantly continuing our endeavor to preserve our City’s valuable tree resource heritage, by supporting those efforts aimed at promoting our environment.*

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto placed my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Coral Gables to be affixed on this twenty-eighth day of April A.D., 2023.*

Vince Lago
Mayor

Rhonda Anderson
Commissioner

Melissa Castro
Commissioner

Ariel Fernandez
Commissioner

Kirk R. Menendez
Commissioner