

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting**  
**Agenda Item E-2**  
**December 9, 2025**  
**City Commission Chambers**  
**405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

**City Commission**

**Mayor Vince Lago**

**Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson**

**Commissioner Melissa Castro**

**Commissioner Ariel Fernandez**

**Commissioner Richard D. Lara**

**City Staff**

**City Attorney, Cristina Suárez**

**City Manager, Peter Iglesias**

**City Clerk, Billy Urquia**

**Deputy City Attorney, Stephanie Throckmorton**

**Public Speaker(s)**

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**Agenda Item E-2 [Start: 11:16 a.m.]**

An Ordinance of the City Commission amending the City Code to create Chapter 62, "Streets, Sidewalks, and Other Public Places," Article VII "Special Events and Parades," Division I "Generally" Section 62-265 "Prohibition on Use of Plastic Related or Metallized Decorations and Release of Balloons" to amend the City Code to add a prohibition on the use of certain plastic related or metallized decorative material and prohibit the release of balloons by special event permittees in the City; providing for severability, repealer, codification, and providing for an effective date. (Sponsored by Vice Mayor Anderson)

Mayor Lago: Moving on to item E2, ordinances on second reading. Madam Vice Mayor.

City Attorney Suarez: E-2 is an Ordinance of the City Commission amending the City Code to create Chapter 62, Streets, Sidewalks, and Other Public Places, Article 7, Special Events and Parades, Division 1, Generally Section 62-265, Prohibition on Use of Plastic-Related or Metalized Decorations and Release of Balloons to amend the City Code to add a prohibition on the use of

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certain plastic-related or metalized decorative material and prohibit the release of balloons by special event permittees in the City, providing for severability, repeated codification, and providing for an effective date.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Thank you. Good morning, Mayor, Vice Mayor, Stephanie Throckmorton, Deputy City Attorney. This item is sponsored by the Vice Mayor. There have been a few small changes since first reading. The definition of prohibited items has been expanded to clarify that those plasticized or metalized decorations that are capable of being used repeatedly without fragmenting or scattering are not prohibited decoration items and that the City may, for special event permittees, with the express written permission of the City and payment of an associated fee, allow for the use of those prohibited decoration items in certain situations. Again, the balloon item, just to clarify, is incorporating the state law prohibition on organized balloon releases and the prohibition is intended to address the litter issues that the Vice Mayor has previously addressed.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Right, so just as a reminder, you know, when we were doing the international coastal cleanup, the impetus for this particular change came up because we were dealing with massive amounts of this glitter and it wasn't paper, you know, it was a shiny thing that gets released in a piñata or something when you're doing a reveal, etc., and it was impossible to clean up entirely unless you just did complete removal of the dirt, etc. So, you know, this was brought in. There's certainly more work to be done to be able to control this, but this is an important first step for our city parks and our green spaces to be not littered with these types of materials. Any exceptions were made for, like, you know, we have these balloon columns and things like that that are not the source of the problem. Staff supervises them and makes sure that they get picked up and cleaned up and, you know, for items such as this that are inside of a building where it's easy to sweep it up and so forth, and then as there are exemptions there, too, to not be too onerous on things. So, if we don't have any public comment, I'll move it.

Commissioner Fernandez: I'll second.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk, do we have any public comment?

City Clerk Urquia: No, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lago: All right. We have a motion and a second.

Commissioner Fernandez: Yes.

Commissioner Lara: Yes.

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Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes.

Commissioner Castro: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Lago: Thank you very much.

Deputy City Attorney Throckmorton: Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Thank you to staff.