



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
June 9, 2020

ITEM TITLE:

Emergency Ordinance. An Emergency Ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida, amending Chapter 62, Article VII “Special Events and Parades” of the City Code to create section 62-303 “Covid-19 Emergency Business Recovery Special Event Permit” to streamline the special event process in order to safely expand economic opportunities to businesses in the City impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic; providing for severability clause, repealer provision, and codification; waiving pre-publication; and providing for an effective date and an expiration date.

BRIEF HISTORY:

In response to the Novel Coronavirus Disease-2019 (“COVID-19”), on March 12, 2020, Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli declared a state of emergency for the City of Coral Gables, Florida (the “City”) and on March 25, 2020 issued a “Safer at Home” Emergency Order. The Miami-Dade County Mayor has issued a series of emergency orders, collectively known as the “Safer at Home” protocols pursuant to Emergency Order 12-20. The Governor has issued a series of executive orders, including Executive Order Nos. 20-112, 20-120, 20-122, and 20-123 setting forth the terms for the gradual reopening of businesses throughout the state. Based on the Governor’s Executive Orders, Miami-Dade County Mayor issued Emergency Order 23-20, as later amended, allowing for the re-opening of restaurants and certain retail establishments with specific conditions, requiring certain measures if an employee tests positive, and expressly allowing for municipalities to impose more stringent standards.

On May 16, 2020 Mayor Valdés-Fauli issued an Emergency Order Allowing for the Limited Reopening of Restaurants and Certain Establishments with Conditions which amended the City’s Safer At Home Order, as later amended, to allow for the re-opening of restaurants and certain retail and other establishments with conditions (the “Limited Reopening Order”). The Limited Reopening Order authorizes the City Manager to provide expanded opportunities for outdoor/open-air dining in the right of way, private property, and city-owned properties by relaxing the requirements in Section 4-206(B)(4) and 5-119 of the Zoning Code; to relax requirements related to signage; and to relax standards related to uses on a temporary basis.

As the City returns to a new normal in the wake of the COVID-19 public health crisis, the City Commission has tasked staff with finding additional creative ways to support businesses and encourage individuals to participate in the local economy.

The proposed Emergency Ordinance provides an avenue to enhance economic opportunity for impacted businesses by streamlining and expediting the review and approval of special events; waiving the application fee; and relaxing certain other requirements. Specifically, the review of permit applications will be conducted by the police chief, the fire chief, and any other department necessary as determined by the parks and recreation committee.

Given the emergency nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and its ongoing impact on businesses in the City, the proposed ordinance is presented on an emergency basis.

1. Draft Ordinance