



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
 May 5, 2026

ITEM TITLE:

Resolution. A Resolution of the City Commission designating the City office space located at 234 Minorca Avenue as the future location of the Innovation and Technology Smart City Research Laboratory and its workforce development and community innovation programs, upon the return of the City Commission to its permanent chambers at City Hall.

BRIEF HISTORY:

The City of Coral Gables, through its Innovation and Technology Department (CGIT), established a Smart City Research Laboratory in 2017 to advance innovation, applied research, and workforce development initiatives. The Lab has successfully engaged over 200 student interns and research fellows—from high school through postdoctoral levels—who have contributed to real-world projects supporting City operations in areas such as public safety, mobility, sustainability, and digital services.

Through programs such as the Gables TechTank STEM incubator, launched in 2023 in collaboration with local businesses, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions, the Lab has strengthened the City’s innovation ecosystem and created pathways for students into careers in technology and related fields.

The Lab’s impact has been recognized through multiple national and international awards for innovation, workforce development, and community impact, reinforcing Coral Gables’ position as a leader in smart city initiatives.

Currently, the Lab operates from a location outside the City’s boundaries, limiting its accessibility, visibility, and ability to fully integrate with City operations and the local business community.

The office space located at 234 Minorca Avenue, presently used as temporary Commission offices, will become available following the Commission’s return to its restored chambers at City Hall. This presents a strategic opportunity for adaptive reuse of the facility to support the expansion of the City’s innovation and workforce development programs.

Designating this location as the future home of the Smart City Research Laboratory and innovation programs will expand capacity for research, internships, and community engagement, strengthen partnerships, support workforce development, foster civic innovation, and enhance the City’s role as a regional hub for technology and innovation.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

No.	Amount	Account No.	Source of Funds
1.			
Total:			

Fiscal Impact: There is no cost to the City as the Research Laboratory is staffed by unpaid interns.

ATTACHMENT(S): Draft Resolution