

2023-2024
Board of Directors

Chair of the Board
Sara M. Hernandez
Immediate Past Chair
Thad Adams
Chair-Elect
Addys Kuryla
First Vice Chair
Maria D. Garcia
Vice Chair
Rick Alberty
Vice Chair
Jorge Martinez
Vice Chair
Lillian Ser
Vice Chair
Drew Kern
Vice Chair
Myrna Vaca
Vice Chair
Adrian Nuñez
Treasurer
Arianna Urquiza
Parliamentarian
Winsome Blair Lee
Trustee Council Chair
Gabriela Dominguez
Chairman's Appointee
Cristina Miller

Directors
Greg Barnes
Giselle Breto
Stuart Debowsky
Amy Donner
Erin Dowd
Lauren Dowlen
Tere Garcia
Matthias Kammerer
Andre Luck
Laura Morgan Horton
Rene Negron
Elizabeth Nourse
Audrey Otero
Rosella Papale
Virginia Sanchez
Monique Selman
Anabella Smith
Cinthya Urena
Jessica Wilcox
Rosanna Weber

**Ex Officio
Board Members**
Belkys Perez
Eric Gros-Dubois
James Kohnstamm
Honorable
Melissa Castro

President & CEO
Mark A. Trowbridge

Founder
George E. Merrick



CORAL GABLES
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

October 2, 2023

Peter Iglesias
City Manager
City of Coral Gables
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Mr. Manager,

On behalf of the leadership of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce, we are pleased to offer a letter of support for the continued street closure of Giralda Plaza (100 Block of Giralda Avenue), a vital pedestrian thoroughfare that runs through the heart of our restaurant row and local business community.

Since the completion of the streetscape program seven years ago, Giralda Plaza has been an oasis for outdoor dining, public art, and community gatherings that celebrate everything from a music venue to Small Business Saturday. Giralda Plaza is unparalleled in our City in terms of its activation and engagement, and we are thrilled to see it continue to thrive.

It is our great hope that this pedestrian street will continue to rise, while sending a strong message to residents, employees and visitors that we are open for business. Our emergence from a global pandemic as a business community is rooted in the success of Giralda Plaza.

The information gleaned from our pedestrian counts, as well as the anecdotal data gathered from our business owners, shows that the outdoor dining and other added benefits make Giralda Plaza the perfect environment for economic recovery.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and please know that the membership of the Coral Gables Chamber considers Giralda Plaza one of our signature streets to convene and engage in commerce and culture.

Sincerely,


Mark A. Trowbridge
President & CEO