

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, RENAMING THE CITY OWNED PROPERTY CURRENTLY NAMED WILLIAM A. COOPER PARK LOCATED AT 4920 WASHINGTON DRIVE, TO INCLUDE WILLIAM COOPER'S WIFE AND LONG-TIME COMMUNITY ACTIVIST, LEONA COOPER, WITH THE NAME "WILLIAM AND LEONA COOPER PARK."

WHEREAS, the City Commission adopted a revised park naming policy via Resolution No. 2020-237; and

WHEREAS, the park naming policy allows the City Commission to nominate individuals for a naming honor and to waive any part of the parking naming process at their discretion; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission unanimously recognized via Resolution No. 2022-275 that Leona Cooper was an extraordinary individual who contributed to the fabric of the City and that it is appropriate and fitting for a park to be named after her; and

WHEREAS, Leona Cooper was born in Nassau, N.P., Bahamas in 1932 and migrated to south Florida as a teenager. Leona's untimely passing was on November 4, 2022 and was preceded in death by husband William Cooper of 58 years; and

WHEREAS, upon her graduation from Miami's Booker T. Washington High School, she began an over 40-year career in medical technology in clinical laboratories at local hospitals, retiring in 2002 from the Miami Veterans Administration Medical Center as a Supervisory Microbiologist; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Cooper was a long-time Coral Gables resident who served on several boards in the city, and with her late husband, became very active in the Lola B. Walker Homeowners Association. A life-long Roman Catholic, she founded in 1986 the St. Martin de Porres Association, an organization committed to improving the status of Black Lay Catholics in the Archdiocese of Miami; and

WHEREAS, in December 1992, Leona was presented with the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Award from Pope John Paul II, in addition to receiving numerous other awards for her professional, civic, and religious accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, the Community Recreation Department together with the input from the Cooper family, propose the renaming of the city owned property currently named William A. Cooper Park located at 4920 Washington Drive, to include William Cooper's wife, Leona Cooper; and

WHEREAS, this name designation is in accordance with the City's Park Naming Policy and has been reviewed and recommended with a unanimous vote by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES:

1. The foregoing "Whereas" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution upon adoption hereof.

2. That the city owned property currently named William A. Cooper Park located at 4920 Washington Drive in Coral Gables, FL 33134, be renamed “William and Leona Cooper Park.”
3. That this resolution shall become effective upon the date of its adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS TWELFTH DAY OF MARCH 2024.

(Moved by _____, Seconded by _____)
(Passed 0/0 vote)

VINCE C. LAGO
MAYOR

ATTEST:

BILLY Y. URQUIA
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

CRISTINA M. SUAREZ
CITY ATTORNEY