

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE EXPANSION OF DEFENSIVE TACTICS TRAINING FOR CORAL GABLES POLICE OFFICERS AND POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL.

WHEREAS, the nature of police work can call upon officers to employ defensive tactics to restrain persons or protect themselves and others from physical attack; and

WHEREAS, in various scenarios, police officers are called upon to employ defensive tactics without the use of a lethal weapon; and

WHEREAS, in such scenarios, police officers are required to rely on their training in defensive tactics skills; and

WHEREAS, training in defensive tactics without the use of lethal weapons involves developing physical fitness, self-confidence, humane use of intermediate weapons such as the baton, self-protection skills, and psychomotor skills; and

WHEREAS, since the early 1990s, the City has required an element of defensive tactics training as part of the mandatory trainings police officers are required to complete on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, it is commonly understood and generally accepted that persons apply skills more effectively in real-life scenarios when they have practiced said skills with frequency; and

WHEREAS, there may be various reasons police officers do not independently pursue defensive tactics training, including lack of time, cost, fear of injury, and lack of understanding of defensive tactics styles; and

WHEREAS, officers who more frequently train in defensive tactics styles such as Jiu Jitsu, wrestling, Judo, and others, may be less likely to injure themselves and suspects during a combative encounter and less likely to use intermediate or lethal weapons because of their training; and

WHEREAS, expanded defensive tactics training would be beneficial to the Police Department by improving officers' ability to safely and effectively engage in control and escape techniques, grappling techniques, and physical control and survival tactics, among other skills; and

WHEREAS, defensive tactics training may also be beneficial for civilian Police Department personnel such as Neighborhood Safety Aides; and

WHEREAS, expanded defensive tactics training would increase the availability of, and improve the curriculum of training offerings to police officers; and

WHEREAS, in the age of the internet, increased video footage of police officers employing defensive tactics ineffectively or unsuccessfully in the field, sometimes with deadly consequences, has highlighted the benefit of increased training in this area, the City Commission finds it appropriate to express its support for expanded defensive tactics training in an effort to ensure the proper and effective use of these methods for the safety of both officers and suspects.

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

SECTION 1. That 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.

SECTION 2. That the City Commission of Coral Gables hereby supports the expansion of defensive tactics training for Coral Gables police officers and Police Department personnel.

SECTION 3. That this Resolution shall be effective upon the date of its passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF MAY, A.D. 2021.