



City of Coral Gables  
CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
April 21, 2020

**ITEM TITLE:**

**Emergency Ordinance.** An Emergency Ordinance of the City of Coral Gables, Florida, amending Chapter 27 – State of Emergency Ordinance, Section 27-4 “City Manager; Emergency Operations Center (Director of Public Safety) Powers” in order to address situations created by prolonged states of emergency, granting the City Manager the authority to expand administrative reviews and revoke Certificates of Use in certain situations, and reflecting changes to the City’s organizational chart; providing for a Repealer Provision, Severability Clause, Codification, Enforceability, and providing for an Effective Date.

**BRIEF HISTORY:**

Since March 12, 2020, the City of Coral Gables has been under a declared a state of emergency due to the Novel Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19). The Novel Coronavirus Disease continues to spread in the area and the City, County, and State remain in a state of emergency, and given the communicable nature of the virus, the City has suspended all advisory board meetings until future notice, and has suspended all quasi-judicial board meetings for the month of April. Given the indefinite nature of this state of emergency, along with the CDC recommended social distancing guidelines will continue to prohibit regularly scheduled in-person board and commission meetings for an extended period. Nevertheless, residents and businesses in Coral Gables continue to access City services and require City staff to review and approve applications, permits, and respond to resident inquiries.

This prolonged state of emergency presents unforeseeable challenges. This Emergency Ordinance, if adopted, will allow the City Manager to address some of those challenges by granting him additional authority to act in certain areas. The Ordinance grants the City Manager the authority to expand administrative reviews during prolonged states of emergency and grants the City Manager the authority to revoke certificates of use of any business which continues to operate in violation of an emergency order issued by the Governor, County Mayor, or City Mayor.

Lastly, the proposed Ordinance updates the Code to reflect that the Fire Chief oversees the Emergency Management Division and serves as head of the Emergency Operations Center, and to allows the City Manager, consistent with his or her authority in the City Charter and City Code, to delegate certain tasks and responsibilities to department directors as well as assistant city managers.

In adopting this Emergency Ordinance, the City Commission finds that the amendments contemplated in this Emergency Ordinance are necessary in order to provide the residents and businesses of Coral Gables with City services and in order to continue necessary business throughout the City during prolonged states of emergency.

Passage of this ordinance requires a 4/5 vote of the City Commission.

**1. Draft Ordinance**