

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

**RESOLUTION 2026-**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING THE CITY'S POLICY RECOGNITION THAT FIRST RESPONDERS, INCLUDING FIRE RESCUE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN IDENTIFYING VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND SEXUAL ASSAULT; ACKNOWLEDGING THAT PROPERTIES GENERATING REPEATED CALLS FOR SERVICE MAY WARRANT REVIEW THROUGH NUISANCE ABATEMENT PROCESSES IN A VICTIM-CENTERED, TRAUMA- INFORMED MANNER; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Coral Gables is committed to protecting public health, safety, and welfare while advancing policies that are trauma-informed and victim-centered; and

**WHEREAS**, victims of human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault are frequently hidden due to coercion, fear, dependency, disability, language barriers, or immigration concerns, and may not self- report crimes; and

**WHEREAS**, Fire Rescue and Emergency Medical Services personnel routinely enter private residences and facilities under medical necessity and are often the first professionals to observe injuries, environmental conditions, or behavioral indicators consistent with abuse, exploitation, or neglect; and

**WHEREAS**, repeated calls for service to certain properties may indicate underlying victimization rather than nuisance behavior, and such patterns warrant careful review rather than punitive action against victims; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida Statutes §787.06 defines human trafficking as transporting, soliciting, recruiting, harboring, providing, enticing, maintaining, purchasing, patronizing, procuring, or obtaining another person for the purpose of exploitation of that person, and recognizes that victims may be concealed within residential or commercial properties; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida Statutes §741.28 defines domestic violence to include assault, battery, sexual assault, stalking, kidnapping, and other criminal acts committed by family or household members; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida Statutes §893.138 authorizes local governments to establish administrative boards with authority to impose administrative fines and other noncriminal penalties in order to abate certain activities declared to be public nuisances; and

**WHEREAS**, jurisdictions within the State of Florida, including the City of Jacksonville, have formally recognized that excessive calls for service burden police and fire rescue resources and may warrant structured review through nuisance abatement processes; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission of Coral Gables finds that public safety and nuisance abatement policies must distinguish between perpetrators, property conditions, and victims, and must never penalize individuals seeking emergency assistance.

**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 recognizes Fire Rescue and Emergency Medical Services personnel as critical partners in the early identification of victims of human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault and prioritizes training of such personnel to address these situations.

**SECTION 3.** That the City Commission affirms that patterns of repeated calls for service may serve as indicators of hidden victimization and should be reviewed through trauma-informed, victim-centered processes that prioritize safety, referral to services, and interagency coordination.

**SECTION 4.** That the City Commission affirms that nuisance abatement procedures, when utilized, must protect victims from displacement, retaliation, or punishment and must preserve unrestricted access to emergency services.

**SECTION 5.** That this Resolution expresses policy guidance only and does not authorize enforcement actions, fees, or penalties against victims, nor does it alter existing law enforcement or fire rescue operational authority.

**SECTION 6.** That this Resolution shall become effective upon the date of its passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_\_ day of. , 2026

(Moved: )

(Yeas:

(Majority : Vote:)

APPROVED:

VINCE LAGO  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

BILLY Y. URQUIA  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND  
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

CRISTINA M. SUÁREZ  
CITY ATTORNEY