

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-__

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 2, "ADMINISTRATION," ARTICLE V "CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND CODE OF ETHICS," TO CREATE SECTION 2-308 "PROHIBITION ON CITY COMMISSIONERS SERVING AS CAMPAIGN/POLITICAL CONSULTANTS," TO PROHIBIT CITY COMMISSIONERS FROM SERVING AS CAMPAIGN/POLITICAL CONSULTANTS FOR CANDIDATES FOR ELECTED OFFICE IN THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, REPEALER, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, in 2021 the City Commission adopted Ordinance 2021-27 which prohibited certain campaign/political consultants from lobbying the City Commission or contracting with the City for a period of time after completion of that paid campaign/political consulting; and

WHEREAS, Section 2-307 of the City Code defines a campaign/political consultant as any person or entity that receives or is promised economic consideration in exchange for campaign/political consulting services to a candidate for elected office in the city and shall include any individual who has an ownership interest of ten percent or greater in the campaign consulting entity and any employee of the campaign/political consultant; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables continues to strive to be an example of transparent and ethical governance; and

WHEREAS, the City has a strong interest in ensuring that the members of its City Commission are held to high ethical standards, and a legitimate interest in insuring there is no appearance of any impropriety, violations of the sunshine law, or perceived conflicts of interest; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission wishes to prohibit members of the City Commission from serving as campaign/political consultants, as defined in Section 2-307 of the City Code, for any candidates for elected office in the City; and

WHEREAS, the intent of this Ordinance is to respect the freedom of expression and ability of each Commission member to participate in the campaigns of candidates for election in the City, while prohibiting the act of serving as a campaign/political consultant for economic consideration;

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

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 Ordinance upon adoption hereof.

SECTION 2. That the City Commission does hereby amend Chapter 2 “Administration,” Article V “City Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics,” by creating Section 2-308 “Prohibition on City Commissioners serving as campaign/political consultants,” as follows¹:

Sec. 2-308- Prohibition on City Commissioners Serving as Campaign/Political Consultants

- (a) City Commissioners are prohibited from serving as a campaign/political consultant, as defined in Section 2-307, for any candidate for elected office in the city.
- (b) Legally sufficient complaints alleging violations of this section shall be referred to the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust in accordance with Section 2-304.

SECTION 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. If any section, part of section, paragraph, clause, phrase, or word of this Ordinance is declared invalid, the remaining provisions of this Ordinance shall not be affected.

SECTION 5. It is the intention of the Commission of the City of Coral Gables, Florida, that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made part of the City Code and that the sections of this “ordinance” may be changed to “section”, “article”, or such other appropriate word or phrase in order to accomplish such intentions.

SECTION 6. If the City Code Table of Contents or other reference portion is affected by these provisions, then changes are approved as a part of this Ordinance.

SECTION 7. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, A.D. 2025.

¹ Deletions are indicated by ~~strike through~~. Insertions are indicated by underline.

APPROVED:

VINCE LAGO

MAYOR

ATTEST:

BILLY Y. URQUIA

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

CRISTINA M. SUÁREZ

CITY ATTORNEY

