



**City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
June 11, 2019**

ITEM TITLE:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT A CIVIC INTERNSHIP PROGRAM, KNOWN AS THE "CITY OF CORAL GABLES PAGE PROGRAM" FOR 15-18 YEARS OLD STUDENTS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTRODUCING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT, POLICYMAKING, AND PUBLIC SERVICE, AND TO BEGIN THE SUMMER OF 2019 (Sponsored by Vice Mayor Lago)

BRIEF HISTORY:

After establishing a similar program at the City of Miami, three students at Belen Jesuit Preparatory School approached the Vice Mayor about establishing a program in the City. The program is to be modeled after the Florida Senate "Page Program," which allows 15-18 year-old students to work closely with Senators and their legislative staff, and learn the daily functions of running a district office. Students also participate in a "mock session," in which they role-play as Senators and some have the opportunity to witness a debate on the Senate floor. The Florida Senate Page Program exposes high school students to the inner-workings of the State Legislature and provides them with the opportunity to learn how State government works.

Significantly, local governments play an important role in the quality of life of the citizens that reside in cities and towns throughout the State. Local governments provide the services that residents depend on each day, such as police, fire, and waste. Local governments are closest to the people and, as such, serve the people best.

With the establishment of the Coral Gables Page Program, high school students will have the opportunity to learn about the functions and value of local government. This resolution establishes a Page Program to begin the summer of 2019 and authorizes the City Manager to establish and implement such a program.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Draft Resolution