

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-74

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION ENCOURAGING THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TO REFORM DECADES-OLD ECONOMIC SCREENING PRACTICES IN SETTING ENERGY SAVINGS GOALS FOR FLORIDA ELECTRIC UTILITIES TO COMPORT WITH NATIONAL BEST PRACTICES IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THE SMARTER USE OF ENERGY, THROUGH EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS, TO FLORIDA'S COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS.

WHEREAS, the City Commission has a strong commitment to sustainability and “green initiatives,” as evidenced through City Commission Resolutions and Ordinances, the City’s white paper on sea level rise, and the City’s long-term commitment to encouraging solar and other renewable energy use within the City; and

WHEREAS, the City has encouraged energy efficiency in commercial and residential properties through programs such as Property Accessed Clean Energy (“PACE”), the passing of Resolution No. 2021-16 that waives City permit fees for energy efficiency upgrades to residential properties, and requiring all new City facilities or private development 20,000 square feet and above to be built to LEED Silver or equivalent; and

WHEREAS, the City also has made large scale investments in energy efficiency through the conversion to LED Lighting in City facilities and streetlights and replacing older HVAC units with high efficiency ones that have resulted in our City-wide energy consumption to decrease by 14% since 2013; and

WHEREAS, in Resolution No. 2017-160, the City Commission established a goal of 100-percent clean, renewable energy in the City of Coral Gables, and supported the establishment of that goal in communities across the United States; and

WHEREAS, in Resolution No. 2019-21, the City Commission encouraged the Florida Public Service Commission (“PSC”) to set meaningful, impactful, and ambitious energy efficiency goals and requirements for utilities under its authority; and

WHEREAS, energy efficiency is widely understood to be the cleanest, quickest and most cost-effective resource in meeting electricity demand and addressing the climate change challenge; and

WHEREAS, energy efficiency measures constitute a low-cost resource that helps residential and commercial building owners use less energy, save money on bills, and

reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while providing additional economic and societal benefits, including potential local job creation and economic growth; and

WHEREAS, Florida is understood to be vulnerable to the impacts of climate change including rising sea levels, damaging hurricanes and storms, and extreme temperatures and increasing energy efficiency will both mitigate the drivers of climate change and facilitate adaptation to some effects; and

WHEREAS, the efforts undertaken by utilities and building owners in Florida to expand renewable energy installations would be even more effective in meeting electricity demand if that demand were first reduced through energy conservation; and

WHEREAS, by reducing electricity demand, energy conservation reduces the need for the construction of new power plants and the operation of existing fossil fuel plants, not only lowering costs to customers but reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and air pollution that have a negative effect on public health; and

WHEREAS, low to moderate income residents pay a disproportionately higher percentage of their income on power bills and this energy burden has only been exacerbated by the economic downturn related to the Covid-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature passed the Florida Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act (“FEECA”) in 1980 to reduce peak electricity demand and energy consumption; and

WHEREAS, the PSC is statutorily required to establish conservation goals for FEECA utilities and review such goals every five years, at a minimum; and

WHEREAS, in turn, the utilities are required to develop cost-effective demand-side management plans that meet those goals and submit them to the PSC for approval; and

WHEREAS, in the most recent conservation goal setting proceeding in 2019, several large utilities filed proposed energy savings goals of zero or near zero; and

WHEREAS, the utilities’ proposed goals were established by relying on economic screens such as the Rate Impact Measure (RIM) test and the 2-year payback screen that no other state in the nation relies upon for setting goals; and

WHEREAS, the PSC has established a rulemaking docket to consider changes in the process by which conservation goals are set and customer programs are approved in the future; and

WHEREAS, this rulemaking process affords the PSC the unique opportunity to modernize its FEECA rules to end its reliance on these outdated economic screens and to increase the focus of conservation goals and programs to address energy savings

opportunities at the utility system level and reduce the energy burdens of low to moderate income customers; and

WHEREAS, reforming goal setting and approval of customers programs to national best practices will generally lead to more robust energy efficiency programs offered to residential and commercial customers that will reduce energy waste and provide economic and environmental benefits;

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

SECTION 1. 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 urges the PSC, through its conservation goal setting rulemaking process, to reform decades-old conservation goal setting practices to comport with national best practices in order to help the City of Coral Gables meet its clean energy goals and move the State of Florida on a path to significant economic, environmental, and public health benefits.

SECTION 3. That the City Commission of Coral Gables directs the City Clerk to provide copies of this Resolution to the commissioners and clerk of the PSC and authorizes filing of this Resolution in the FEECA rulemaking docket before the PSC.

SECTION 4. If any section, subsection, clause, or provision of this resolution is held invalid, the remainder shall not be affected by such invalidity.

SECTION 5. That this Resolution shall become effective upon the date of its passage and adoption herein.

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


(Moved: Anderson / Seconded: Fors, Jr.)

(Yeas: Menendez, Anderson, Fors, Jr., Mena, Lago)


(Unanimous: 5-0 Vote)

(Agenda Item: F-4)


APPROVED:

DocuSigned by:

53B880AB93824A5...
VINCE LAGO
MAYOR

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

358417D2FA884FF...
BILLY Y. URQUIA
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

DocuSigned by:

03A0CB1421E64AC...
MIRIAM SOLER RAMOS
CITY ATTORNEY