



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

ITEM TITLE:

Ordinance on First Reading:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 74, "TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES" OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES CODE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS AND PROHIBIT PRIVATELY-OWNED, METERED SURFACE PARKING LOT OPERATORS FROM ISSUING PARKING VIOLATIONS TO MOTOR VEHICLES PARKED IN SAID PRIVATELY-OWNED, METERED SURFACE PARKING LOTS, AND CHAPTER 1, "GENERAL PROVISIONS", SECTION 1-7 ENTITLED "PENALTIES" TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF CHAPTER 74; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, REPEALER, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

(Sponsored by Vice Mayor Lago)

(Sponsored by Commissioner Mena)

BRIEF HISTORY:

The City of Coral Gables has received numerous complaints alleging that certain private parking lot owners and operators have been placing fake parking tickets on the windshields of their customers who either did not pay a parking fee or whose time for parking elapsed.

These fake parking tickets are designed to look like real Miami-Dade County parking tickets in form and appearance and in some cases, even have the orange stripe that is identical to the official Miami-Dade County Uniform Parking Citations issued by the City of Coral Gables. Even after some private owners and operators made changes to the design of the fake parking tickets, confusion has persisted.

There is no basis in the City of Coral Gables City Code or the Miami-Dade County Code for a privately-owned, metered surface parking lot owner or operator to issue any such fake parking violations thereby rendering the parking tickets null and void; and often the penalty and late fees stated in the violations exceed posted parking rates many times over.

The City understands that while privately-owned, surface parking lot owners and operators must have a way to collect payment from patrons; there are alternatives available to the owners and operators, including physical barriers, the presence of attendants, in addition to the ability to boot and tow pursuant to Sections 74-85 and 74-86 of the City Code. As such, it is in the best interests of the City to prohibit the practice of the issuance of parking tickets by privately-owned, metered surface parking lot operators. Chapter 1- General Provisions, is being amended to add penalties for violations of Chapter 74 as amended by this Ordinance.

1. Proposed Ordinance