

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-320

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION READOPTING THE CIVILITY CODE FOR MEMBERS OF THE CITY COMMISSION, EXPANDING ITS APPLICABILITY AND PROVIDING PROCEDURES AND CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATION OF THE CIVILITY CODE.

WHEREAS, in 2016 the City Commission adopted Resolution 2016-279 setting forth a civility code for members of the public, outlining rules of participation and behavior for City meetings; and the City's Civility Code, outlining a Civility Code ; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 the City Commission adopted Resolution 2021-187 adopting a Civility Code for members of the City Commission as well as a Civility Code for employees of the City; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Civility Code for elected officials is to establish rules of decorum and civility for elected officials during all interactions with each other, the public, and in all situations; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission wishes to clarify that the Civility Code for elected officials applies during any and all meetings that are open to the public, not only those official City meetings, and includes ribbon-cutting ceremonies, town halls, and other events open to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Civility Code for elected officials is intended to facilitate an open, orderly, and respectful environment for all those in attendance and to foster an atmosphere of fairness, courtesy, and respect for differing points of view, emphasizing that a member of the commission should not disrespect another member in any form or public setting including but not limited to; interviews, mailings, social media, alternate forms of communication, electronic communication, radio, and television appearances, and applies to all interactions between elected officials; and

WHEREAS, the Civility Code is intended to ensure that each member of the commission portrays and represents the City with the utmost integrity and respect, ensuring that each public official, while in office, behaves in a way that represents the City with pride; and

WHEREAS, currently there is no consequence for violations of the Civility Code for elected officials and this resolution outlines procedures for finding a violation of the Civility Code and lays out consequences for said violations;

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 hereby re-adopts the Civility Code for members of the City Commission as amended:

All members of the City Commission shall:

- Work to foster an atmosphere of respect and civility among colleagues, City employees, and members of the public;
- Be professional and respectful in all interactions with each other and members of the public;
- Work to promote, in the general public, an understanding of the role of elected officials and accurate information regarding City matters;
- Attempt not to abruptly interrupt each other or members of the public;
- Refrain from using profanity or other disparaging remarks towards each other or towards members of the public in all public settings and communications;
- Refrain from making comments, references, or statements regarding the race, gender, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation of a colleague or member of the public; and
- Refrain from yelling or screaming at each other or a member of the public.

SECTION 3. That a Commissioner may bring forth a motion for consideration finding that a member of the City Commission has violated the Civility Code for members of the City Commission. Following a majority vote finding there was a violation of the Civility Code a member of the City Commission shall be subjected to consequences as outlined in this Resolution.

SECTION 4. That following a finding by the City Commission of a first violation of the Civility Code the member of the Commission shall be issued a formal written reprimand from the City Commission. During the two-week period immediately following that reprimand the Commission member is urged to refrain from appearing in his/her official capacity at public events.

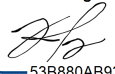
SECTION 5. That if there is a finding of a subsequent violation the member of the Commission may be directed by a majority vote of the City Commission to issue a formal public apology for violation of the Civility Code for elected officials and may subject themselves to a motion to censure.

SECTION 6. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon the date of its passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS TWENTY-FOURTH DAY OF OCTOBER,
A.D., 2023.

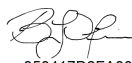
(Moved: Fernandez / Seconded: Castro)
(Yeas: Menendez, Castro, Fernandez)
(Nays: Anderson, Lago)
(Majority: (3-2) Vote)
(Agenda Item: F-5)

APPROVED:

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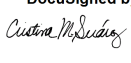
VINCE LAGO
MAYOR

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

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BILLY Y. URQUIA
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

DocuSigned by:

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CRISTINA M. SUÁREZ
CITY ATTORNEY