

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-157

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, CALLING A SPECIAL ELECTION ON THE PROPOSED BALLOT QUESTION AND CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 2016; PROVIDING FOR SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS FOR APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF A BALLOT QUESTION PROVIDING FOR CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT RELATED TO THE TRIAL BOARD; PROVIDING FOR REQUISITE BALLOT LANGUAGE; PROVIDING FOR PROCEDURE FOR BALLOTING; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CITY CHARTER; PROVIDING FOR RELATED MATTERS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Commission, on May 12, 2015, convened a Charter Review Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Review Committee made recommendations to the City Commission for proposed substantive amendments to the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission reviewed the proposed amendments recommended by the Charter Review Committee and determined which such to submit to the electors of the City; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 6.03 of the Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter, as well as the City Charter and Chapter 22 of the City Code, the City Commission is authorized to submit ballot questions to the electors of the City for approval or rejection of proposed amendments to the City Charter;

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. BALLOT QUESTION AND CODE AMENDMENT. That pursuant to section 6.03 of the Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter, as well as the City Charter and Chapter 22 of the City Code, the Commission seeks to place before the voters an amendment to the City Charter. The specific language for the amendment to the City Charter proposed by this Section is provided in Exhibit 1 to this Resolution.

SECTION 3. ELECTION CALLED. That on November 8, 2016, qualified electors of the City of Coral Gables will be presented with the ballot question provided in Section 4 of this Resolution.

SECTION 4. FORM OF BALLOT QUESTION. That the form of ballot for the question provided for in Section 2 of this Resolution shall substantially be as provided below:

AN AMENDMENT PROVIDING FOR REMOVAL OF THE TRIAL BOARD APPEAL PROCESS FOR EMPLOYEES.

Presently, City employees not represented in a bargaining unit may appeal their removal, suspension, lay-off or reduction in grade to a Trial Board made up of five (5) City of Coral Gables' citizens. Shall the City Charter be amended to remove the Trial Board and related procedure?

_____ **YES**

_____ **NO**

SECTION 5. BALLOTING. That balloting shall be conducted between the hours of 7:00am and 7:00pm on the date of the election. Absentee ballots shall be available. Early voting shall be provided in conjunction with the general election. All qualified City electors who are timely registered in accordance with law shall be entitled to vote. The City Clerk is authorized to obtain any and all necessary election administration services from the Miami-Dade County (the "County") Supervisor of Elections. The County registration books shall remain open at the Office of the County Supervisor of Elections until the date at which the registration books shall close in accordance with the provisions of the general election laws. The City Clerk and the County Supervisor of Elections are hereby authorized to take all appropriate action necessary to carry into effect and accomplish the provisions of this Resolution. This election shall be canvassed by the City of Coral Gables Canvassing Board.

SECTION 6. NOTICE OF ELECTION. That notice of said election shall be published in accordance with Section 100.342, Fla. Stat., in a newspaper of general circulation within the City at least 30 days prior to said election, the first publication to be in the fifth week prior to the election, and the second publication to be in the third week prior to the election, and shall be in substantially the following form:

“NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION”

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION NO. 2016-157 ADOPTED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, AN ELECTION HAS BEEN CALLED AND ORDERED TO BE HELD WITHIN THE CITY ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016, BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 7:00 A.M. AND 7:00 P.M., AT WHICH TIME THE FOLLOWING PROPOSAL SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY.

AN AMENDMENT PROVIDING FOR REMOVAL OF THE TRIAL BOARD APPEAL PROCESS FOR EMPLOYEES.

Presently, City employees not represented in a bargaining unit may appeal their removal, suspension, lay-off or reduction in grade to a Trial Board made up of five (5) City of Coral Gables’ citizens. Shall the City Charter be amended to remove the Trial Board and related procedure?

_____ **YES**

_____ **NO**

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVENESS.

A. That the question provided for in Sections 2 and 4 above shall become effective only if the majority of the qualified electors voting on the specific question vote for its adoption, and it shall be considered adopted and effective upon certification of election results.

B. That the City Attorney is authorized to revise the City Charter to the extent necessary to assure that the adoption of the Charter amendment provided for in this question conforms to and is properly included in the publication of the revised Charter, and to provide for transitional provisions if needed.

C. That the City Attorney is authorized to revise the exact wording of this Resolution, the ballot question contained herein, and the exhibit hereto to the extent necessary to ensure its placement on the ballot in accordance with law.

D. That following the election, the City Clerk, City Attorney and City Manager, are directed to revise and encode and take any necessary actions to implement the amendment, if approved by the voters.

SECTION 8. INCLUSION IN THE CHARTER. That subject to the requirements herein, it is the intent of the City Commission, and it is hereby provided, that any Charter amendment approved by the voters shall become and be made a part of the City Charter.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall become effective upon passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS FOURTEENTH DAY OF JUNE, A.D., 2016.

(Moved: Lago / Seconded: Quesada)

(Yeas: Keon, Lago, Quesada, Slesnick, Cason)

(Unanimous: 5-0Vote)

(Agenda Item: I-5)

APPROVED:



JIM CASON
MAYOR

ATTEST:



WALTER J. FOEMAN
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



CRAIG E. LEEN
CITY ATTORNEY

Exhibit 1 (Deletions are indicated by ~~strikethrough~~. Insertions are indicated by underlining.)

Sec. 13 – Authority Over Officers and Employees; Removal; Suspension; Reduction.

Officers and employees appointed by the City Manager or under his or her authorization may be removed, suspended, laid off, or reduced in grade by the City Manager, or by the officer by whom appointed, at any time, and for any cause that will promote the efficiency of service of the City. Such action, if by a department head, shall be subject to the approval of the City Manager. ~~Any such affected officers or employees, except common laborers, officers and employees in the service of the city for less than six continuous months, and police officers or firemen in the service of the city for less than twelve continuous months, may, within five days after such action, file with the City Manager a written request for a written statement of the reasons therefor. Such written statement shall be furnished to him or her by the City Manager within five days after such request; a sworn reply to such statement of reasons may be filed with the City Manager by such officer or employee within five days thereafter, accompanied by a demand for a hearing thereon. The failure of any such officer or employee to request the written statement of reasons, or to reply thereto within the period provided therefor, shall constitute a full waiver of any further rights. In the event of such request and reply thereto are given, the matter shall be referred to the special trial board hereinafter authorized. The trial board shall thereupon investigate and determine the propriety of such action and, once investigated, shall render a decision or verdict, which shall be final. The trial board may, in its discretion, conduct hearings, summon witnesses and hear evidence. In its decision the trial board may determine whether such officer or employee is entitled to a compensation, allowance or adjustment. The board's decision shall likewise be final.~~

~~For the purpose of effectuating this section, the Commission shall, by ordinance, provide for the establishment of a special trial board to be composed of five citizens of the City of Coral Gables, none of whom shall be officers or employees of the City; two of whom shall be appointed or elected by the City employees; two shall be appointed or elected by the City Commission; and the fifth shall be selected by the four members so chosen, as provided for and prescribed in said ordinance. In the event that the four members shall fail to agree on the fifth member, such member shall be appointed by the County Judge of Miami Dade County, Florida.~~

Ballot Wording

An Amendment Providing for Removal of the Trial Board Appeal Process for Employees

Presently City employees not represented in a bargaining unit may appeal their removal, suspension, lay-off or reduction in grade to a Trial Board made up of five (5) City of Coral Gables' citizens. Shall the City Charter be amended to remove the Trial Board and related procedure?

New Provision for Suspension of a Member of the City Commission for Reason of Incapacity

Presently the City Charter does not address incapacity of a member of the Commission. Shall a provision be added allowing for a temporary suspension of a member of the Commission for incapacity?

An Amendment Providing that the Mayor Appoints the Vice Mayor and Any Replacement Thereof

Presently Commission practice is for the Mayor to appoint the Vice Mayor and any replacement thereof, who shall perform the duties of the Mayor during his or her absence. Shall the City Charter be amended to require that the Mayor appoints the Vice Mayor and any replacement for the Vice Mayor?

Amendment Providing Procedures for Removal of City Commissioners Consistent with Gubernatorial Procedures Under State Law

Presently the Charter allows a member of the Commission to be removed by a four-fifths vote for misconduct in office or neglect of duty. Shall this provision be amended to allow the Commission to censure its own members and require that any removal of members be tied to suspension procedures under State law?

An Amendment Providing for Run-Off Elections in City Commission and Mayoral Races

Presently the Mayor or a Commissioner may be elected with a plurality vote (the most votes) even if this does not constitute a majority. Shall this provision be amended to require a run-off between the two candidates with the highest vote totals where no candidate received a majority (50 percent plus 1)?