

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES CODE BY CREATING SECTION 18-9 “CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS” RELATING TO THE REQUIRED ELECTRONIC FILING OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS WITH THE CITY CLERK; PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER PROVISION, SEVERABILITY CLAUSE, CODIFICATION, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the State legislature has enacted legislation that requires all candidates for state offices to file their campaign treasurer reports electronically with the Department of State; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners is currently considering an Ordinance that would require all candidates for County office to file their campaign treasurer reports electronically with the Supervisor of Elections in Miami- Dade County; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables has been committed to the use and implementation of technology to improve government efficiency, make government user-friendly, and whenever possible, reduce the demands on our resources; and

WHEREAS, the City has the authority under Section 106.07(a)(2), Florida Statutes, to impose electronic filing requirements for campaign finance reports required to be filed by each person, candidate, political committee, electioneering communications organization or other individual or organization required to file such reports pursuant to Chapter 106, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission believes that the implementation of a mandatory electronic filing system for campaign treasurer reports would continue the commitment referenced above; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission finds that such a system is consistent with applicable Florida laws.

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

SECTION 1. The foregoing “**WHEREAS**” clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and hereby made a specific part of this Ordinance upon adoption hereof.

SECTION 2. That Chapter 18 of the Code of the City of Coral Gables is hereby amended by adding the following:

Section 18-9 - CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS

a) Electronic Reporting.

Candidates for the Office of Mayor or City Commissioner shall file their Campaign Treasurer's Reports electronically with the City Clerk. The City Clerk shall determine the required format for the Campaign Treasurer's Reports and shall provide copies of the form upon request. For purposes of this Article, "Campaign Treasurer's Reports" or "Reports" shall mean the reports required of the campaign treasurers of candidates pursuant to Section 106.07, Florida Statutes. Reports filed pursuant to this section shall be completed and filed through the electronic filing system not later than midnight of the day designated. Reports not filed by midnight of the day designated are late filed and subject to the penalties below, and all other applicable penalties.

b) Electronic Posting.

Campaign Treasurer's Reports submitted by candidates for the Office of Mayor or City Commissioner shall be posted on the City's website by the City Clerk within three (3) business days of date of the electronic filing by such candidate. The City reserves the right, prior to posting, to review all filings and redact any material that would violate any copyright, trademark, patent or other proprietary rights of others, or any language, pictures, or symbols that in any way violate any federal, state, or local law.

c) Penalties.

In addition to any other penalties which may be applicable, any individual who violates this section shall be subject to a fine up to fifty dollars (\$50.00) per day for the first three (3) days late and, thereafter, five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per day for each day late, not to exceed twenty- five percent (25%) of the total receipts or expenditures, whichever is greater, for the period covered by the late Report. If it is determined by a court which has jurisdiction over an alleged violation of this ordinance that unusual circumstances caused the Campaign Treasurer's Report to be filed late, no fine shall be imposed by the court. As used herein, "unusual circumstances" shall mean uncommon, rare or sudden events over which the actor has no control and which directly result in the failure to act according to the filing requirements. Unusual circumstances must occur within a time period that would clearly prevent the person legally responsible for filing the Report from doing so in a timely manner.

d) Technical Assistance.

The City Clerk shall provide technical assistance to candidates regarding the electronic filing requirements herein.

SECTION 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. If any section, part of section, paragraph, clause, phrase or word of this Ordinance is declared invalid, the remaining provisions of this Ordinance shall not be affected.

SECTION 5. It is the intention of the Commission of the City of Coral Gables, Florida, that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made part of the City of Coral Gables Code of Ordinances; and that the sections of this “ordinance” may be changed to “section”, “article”, or such other appropriate word or phrase in order to accomplish such intentions.

SECTION 6. If the Official Code of the City of Coral Gables Tables of Contents or other reference portions is affected by these provisions, then changes are approved as a part of this Ordinance.

SECTION 7. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS NINTH DAY OF JULY, A.D., 2019.

(Moved: / Seconded:)

(Yeas:)

(Majority: () Vote)

(Absent:)

(Agenda Item:)

APPROVED

RAUL VALDES-FAULI
MAYOR

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

BILLY Y. URQUIA
CITY CLERK

MIRIAM SOLER RAMOS
CITY ATTORNEY