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**2020-2021**  
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**President & CEO**

*Mark A. Trowbridge*

August 9, 2021

Peter Iglesias

City Manager

City of Coral Gables

Coral Gables, FL 33134

Mr. Manager:

On behalf of the leadership of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce, we are pleased to offer a letter of support for the continued street closure of Giralda Plaza (100 Block of Giralda Avenue), a cherished pedestrian thoroughfare that runs through the heart of our restaurant row and local business community.

Since the completion of the streetscape program four years ago, Giralda Plaza has been an oasis for outdoor dining, public art, and community gatherings that celebrate everything from a curated light festival to Small Business Saturday. Giralda Plaza is unparalleled in our City in terms of its activation and engagement, and we are thrilled to see it thrive.

It is our great hope that this pedestrian street will continue to rise from the ravages of COVID-19, while sending a strong message to residents, employees and visitors that we are open for business. The information gleaned from our pedestrian counts, as well as the anecdotal data gathered from our business owners, shows that the outdoor dining and other accoutrements make Giralda Plaza the perfect environment for economic recovery.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and please know that the membership of the Coral Gables Chamber considers Giralda Plaza one of our signature streets to convene and engage in commerce.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Trowbridge  
President & CEO

cc: Stephanie Throkmorton, Assistant City Attorney