

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-16**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA CO-DESIGNATING AUGUSTO STREET AS “EXPLORERS WAY” IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF PONCE DE LEON MIDDLE SCHOOL.

**WHEREAS**, Ponce de Leon Middle School, founded alongside the City of Coral Gables in the 1920s – known then as Ponce de Leon High School – now stands as one of the oldest educational institutions in the City of Coral Gables;

**WHEREAS**, for one hundred years, Ponce de Leon Middle School has provided high-quality education to generations of Coral Gables youth and families, deeply shaping the civic, cultural, and academic life of the community;

**WHEREAS**, the school evolved into a fully-magnet International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme in 2008, offering a globally-focused curriculum preparing students for success in a diverse and interconnected world;

**WHEREAS**, the school and IB magnet program has been recognized nationally as a Certified National Magnet School, National Demonstration School, and Top Magnet School of Excellence by the Magnet Schools of America organization, affirming its long-standing commitment to advanced academics and equity;

**WHEREAS**, the school has earned the Gold STEM School designation for its strong emphasis and production of award-winning student teams in science, technology, engineering/robotics and mathematics;

**WHEREAS**, Ponce de Leon Middle School has been recognized with the Five Star Community Service Award, celebrating its deep partnerships with parents, volunteers, civic organizations, and local institutions;

**WHEREAS**, Ponce de Leon Middle School continues to foster a culturally and linguistically diverse student body and staff, offering foreign languages such as Spanish, French, and Italian, and preparing students to be bilingual, bi-literate, and culturally competent — consistent with its mission to develop caring, open-minded global citizens;

**WHEREAS**, thousands of alumni have emerged from Ponce de Leon Middle School to become leaders in government, business, science, education, athletics and the arts, reflecting the school’s century-long impact on local and national communities;

**WHEREAS**, Ponce de Leon continues to offer a full complement of enrichment programs, including fine arts, music, digital media, physical education, and community service, contributing to the development of well-rounded students; and

**WHEREAS**, Ponce de Leon Middle School continues to embody the spirit of inclusivity, diversity, and opportunity, serving students from a broad range of cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, the school's century of service represents an immeasurable contribution to the City of Coral Gables and stands as a testament to the community's longstanding commitment to public education; and

**WHEREAS**, the school's educators and administrators have demonstrated unwavering dedication, innovation, and leadership in supporting academic achievement and student wellness over the course of a century; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout its long history, Ponce de Leon Middle School has remained a vital institution for families in Coral Gables and surrounding communities — evolving with changing educational demands while preserving its traditions of excellence, service, and community; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of Ponce de Leon Middle School's one hundred years of educational excellence, service, and community enrichment provided to the residents of the City of Coral Gables, the City Commission wishes to co-designate Augusto Street as "Explorers Way."

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY 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.** The City Commission co-designates Augusto Street as "Explorers Way" and authorizes the City Manager to erect the appropriate signage.

**SECTION 3.** That this Resolution shall become effective upon the date of its passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY OF JANUARY, A.D.,  
2026.

(Moved: Anderson / Seconded: Fernandez)  
(Yeas: Anderson, Fernandez, Lara, Lago)  
(Unanimous: 4-0 Vote)  
(Absent: Castro)  
(Agenda Item: F-2)

APPROVED:

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VINCE LAGO  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

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BILLY Y. URQUIA  
CITY CLERK

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CRISTINA M. SUÁREZ  
CITY ATTORNEY