



City of Coral Gables  
CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
July 11, 2023

**ITEM TITLE:**

**Resolution.**

A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Coral Gables Florida setting forth a procedure for requesting public comment on discussion items. (Sponsored by Vice Mayor Anderson)

**BRIEF HISTORY:**

Section 2-83(a) of the City Code “recognizes the importance of protecting the right of all citizens to express opinions on the operation of city government and encourages citizen participation in the local government process. The commission also recognizes the necessity for conducting orderly and efficient meetings in order to complete city business in a timely manner.” Section 6 of the City Charter provides that “[t]he Mayor shall preside at the meetings of the Commission,” and the City Code grants the Mayor the authority, among other things, “[t]o serve as chair of the city commission including the authority to procedurally manage and administer commission meetings.” The City Commission has traditionally allowed public comment on almost every item on the agenda, including during discussion items under Commission items and, moreover, in 2020, the City Commission established an “Open Public Comment” section on each City Commission agenda during which an individual may address the city commission on an item that is on the agenda or on a matter which is not on the agenda, but within the scope of the city commission’s jurisdiction, yet the Mayor continued to allow public comment on each agenda item. The Open Public Comment section satisfies the “reasonable opportunity to be heard” requirements of Florida Statutes § 286.0114(2) and the Miami-Dade County Citizens’ Bill of Rights.

Recently, due to the extended length of Commission meetings and in furtherance of conducting city business in a timely manner, the Mayor has announced that public comment will not be automatically allowed on items that are referred to as “discussion items,” including discussions, updates, presentations, or similar items on which the Commission will not take any official action, while still allowing for public comment prior to the City Commission taking action on each item that is an ordinance, resolution, or other official action, in addition to Open Public Comment.

The proposed resolution outlines the appropriate procedure for requesting that public comment be allowed on specific discussion items in advance of the Commission meeting.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

- 1. Draft Resolution**