

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION 2021-40 (Amended)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, ADOPTING A POLICY REGARDING REMOVAL OF TREES ON CITY PROPERTY OR CITY RIGHT-OF-WAY BY CITY STAFF.

WHEREAS, as part of the City’s stewardship of City property and rights-of-way within the City, the City may remove trees planted on City properties or rights-of way; and

WHEREAS, the removal of trees by the City may be due to the condition of the specific trees, the trees’ location, or part of a larger urban forestry plan to maintain the City’s canopy; and

WHEREAS, appropriately licensed and qualified City staff are involved in the decisions to remove trees and issue permits for the removal of those trees located on City property and rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables is uniquely known for its tree canopy and the City has been named a “Tree City USA” for the last three consecutive decades by the National Arbor Foundation, and the City Commission wishes to adopt a new policy that allows the City Commission the opportunity to review certain trees scheduled for removal as set forth in the policy for “Removal of Trees on City Property and Rights-of-Way by City Staff,” attached as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the new policy provides that when trees of certain size and canopy health are slated for removal by City staff due to its health, condition, location, potential danger, or as part of a larger City landscaping project, the City will document those trees scheduled for removal and periodically notify the Commission members of those planned removals; and

WHEREAS, following notification of those trees slated for removal members of the City Commission may place the removal of a specific tree(s) on the following City Commission agenda, at a duly noticed City Commission meeting for further direction of the City Commission, including the option to direct the City to engage an independent arborist to provide an additional evaluation of the tree(s) in question; and

WHEREAS, this policy applies only to the removal of trees by City staff or contractors, and in no way alters the procedures, including permit and other requirements, for property owners desiring to remove trees on City rights-of-way, and provides no additional appellate rights for property owners in the City;

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. That the City Commission hereby adopts the policy “Removal of Trees on City Property and Rights-of-Way by City Staff,” in substantially the form attached with such modifications as may be approved by the City Manager and City Attorney consistent with the Commission’s intent, and that said policy is incorporated and made a specific part of this Resolution and supersedes all prior policies or procedures related to the City’s removal of Trees on City Property and Rights-of-Way.

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

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS NINTH DAY OF MARCH, A.D., 2021.

(Moved: Fors, Jr. / Seconded: Lago)

(Yeas: Lago, Mena, Fors, Jr., Keon, Valdes-Fauli)

(Unanimous: 5-0 Vote)

(Agenda Item: G-2)


APPROVED:


RAUL VALDES-FAULI
MAYOR

ATTEST:


BILLY URQUIA
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:


MIRIAM SOLER RAMOS
CITY ATTORNEY