



City of Coral Gables

CITY COMMISSION MEETING

September 10, 2025

ITEM TITLE:

A Resolution of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida, urging the Florida Legislature to amend Florida Statutes, specifically section 163.05, to impose civil and criminal penalties for fraudulent or false statements in arborist or landscape architect reports; to establish a clear process to protect the health, safety and welfare of individuals and property during tree removal and stump grinding; and to provide definitions clarifying when permits are not required for emergency tree pruning or removal of dangerous trees that pose an immediate risk; and directing that such legislative amendment be included among the City's legislative priorities for the 2025-2026 legislative session.

BRIEF HISTORY:

The City of Coral Gables, known as the "City Beautiful," prioritizes the preservation of its tree canopy as vital to cultural identity, environmental sustainability, and quality of life. While Florida Statute §163.05 restricts municipal regulation of tree removal, it does not provide sufficient enforcement against fraudulent or false arborist and landscape architect reports. Such misleading reports erode public trust, lead to unnecessary tree loss, and put both public safety and private property at risk. This resolution seeks to amend sections of the statute to impose civil penalties on fraudulent reports.

1. **Draft Resolution**
2. **Florida Statute 163.05 Proposed Amendments**