

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA**

**RESOLUTION NO. -**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION DESIGNATING THE CITY OFFICE SPACE LOCATED AT 234 MINORCA AVENUE AS THE FUTURE LOCATION OF THE INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY SMART CITY RESEARCH LABORATORY AND ITS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY INNOVATION PROGRAMS WITH STUDENT INTERNS AND RESEARCH PARTNERS, AFTER THE RETURN OF THE CITY COMMISSION BACK TO ITS PERMANENT, RESTORED CHAMBERS AND OFFICES AT CITY HALL.**

**WHEREAS**, the Innovation and Technology department (CGIT) established in 2017 a Smart City Research Laboratory (the Lab) at the City's Maintenance Facilities complex, where the team conducts research and development projects with student interns and research fellows from local universities, colleges and schools; and

**WHEREAS**, CGIT connects the Lab student interns with career opportunities at local businesses and organizations through the Gables TechTank STEM incubator, launched in 2023 in collaboration with the Economic Development department, local businesses, NPOs and local education institutions; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 200 interns and resident researchers, from high school students to postdoctoral fellows, have gained hands-on experience at the Lab with emerging technologies and worked on projects that delivered real value to city departments and residents, improving efficiencies and city services in areas like public safety, mobility, sustainability, customer service and digital experience; and

**WHEREAS**, interns who completed the CGIT Lab internship received a certificate micro-credential that details the technologies and skills they mastered, helping them secure careers as software engineers, data scientists, cybersecurity analysts, and IT specialists in high-tech companies and startups, and some have even been hired by the City to continue contributing to its innovation ecosystem; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lab program and the team earned multiple prestigious awards and recognitions for their innovative work and its impact in our community, including the 2026 Smart 20 Award, the 2025 GeoGov Innovation in Education, Workforce Development, and Capacity Building Award, the 2025 Tech Talent Pipeline Workforce Development Award, and the Intelligent Community Full Certification (2025-2027); and

**WHEREAS**, the Lab has had a big impact in workforce development, STEM education, job creation, and growing the innovation ecosystem in our city and our region; and its current location outside the City's boundaries requires expansion and Coral Gables presence to accommodate the above mission, activities, needs, growth and success of the program; and

**WHEREAS**, upon the future relocation and return of the City Commission back to its permanent, restored chambers and offices at City Hall, the office space located at 234 Minorca Avenue, currently utilized as temporary Commission offices will present a strategic opportunity for adaptive reuse; and

**WHEREAS**, the city seeks to prioritize the future use of this space to support the expansion of its Innovation Technology research lab and the establishment of a technology incubator, fostering innovation, public sector problem-solving, and partnerships within the city's downtown business corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, such use will further advance the city's commitment to leveraging emerging technologies, cultivating local talent, and positioning the city as a hub for civic innovation and economic development; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES:**

**SECTION 1.** 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 designates the future use of this city office space to be the future permanent location of City's Innovation and Technology Smart City Research Laboratory and Gables TechTank STEM Incubator upon the future relocation and return of the City Commission back to its permanent, restored chambers and offices at City Hall.

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

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS**