

## CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

### RESOLUTION NO. 2022-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION ANNUALLY RECOGNIZING JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup> AS “FOUNDER’S DAY IN CORAL GABLES” IN HONOR OF CORAL GABLES FOUNDER GEORGE E. MERRICK.

**WHEREAS**, Coral Gables’ founding visionary George Edgar Merrick was born June 3, 1886 in the Pittsburgh suburbs of Springdale, Pennsylvania, less than 15 years before the turn of the century; and

**WHEREAS**, The Merrick family first moved to Miami, Florida from Duxbury, Massachusetts in 1898 when George was 12 years old; and

**WHEREAS**, in October 1915, Merrick was appointed by the Governor of Florida as County Commissioner in District 1, he spent the next 15 months on the commission championing the building of roads in South Florida, including major arteries that would later serve to connect his well-planned community of Coral Gables with the fast-growing City of Miami; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 5, 1916, Merrick married Eunice Isabella Peacock, daughter of Coconut Grove pioneers, R.A.S. Peacock and Lilian Irene Frow, and built a home for his bride, located at 937 Coral Way, in Coral Gables, a designated historic landmark known as the Merrick Cottage; and

**WHEREAS**, beginning in 1922, on 3,000 acres of citrus groves and land covered in pine trees which his father had left him, Merrick began carving out a town along the lines of the “City Beautiful”; and

**WHEREAS**, he designed the new town in great detail featuring wide, tree-lined boulevards, delicate bridges and serene urban golf courses, expressing his passionate devotion to aesthetics and interest in focusing on the finest details of this town as well as the major ideas behind the project; and

**WHEREAS**, with Spanish architecture influence seen throughout the City, in 1927, Merrick was decorated by King Alfonso XIII of Spain with the “Order of Isabel la Catolica”, a Spanish civil order in which membership is granted in recognition of services that benefit the country; and

**WHEREAS**, Merrick was a man with many interests who supported civil society and places of worship, dedicating the first church built in the city, the Coral Gables Congregational Church, to his father, Solomon Merrick, who was a Congregational minister and a poet; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 3, 1925, Merrick donated 160 acres and five million dollars to establish the University of Miami, believing that all great urban areas warranted institutions of

