

# THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES



Office of Vice Mayor  
Rhonda Anderson

City Hall 405 Biltmore Way  
Coral Gables, FL 33134

*The City Beautiful*

June 21, 2023

After serving two years in office, I learned that many residents do not know about city services that are available to them or city events. Unfortunately, some residents do not receive electronic notices or have the knowledge of where to find this information.

We are continuously moving forward in order to advance our City Beautiful. Many of the wonderful advancements and events in our city are a result of suggestions and ideas generated by residents like you. A good way to stay informed is through the city's weekly E-News, my quarterly reports, Instagram, postage, and the City Commission Agendas. To sign up to receive these communications, see the links and QR Codes on the last page of this letter. Below are a few of the current topics you may be interested in:

- The Commission's trips to Tallahassee in early 2022 and 2023 were successful. This year we brought back **\$3.48 million** in funding for Fire Station 4 construction, sewer repairs, roadway repaving, bridge repairs, restoration of Venetian Pool facility repairs, and Phillips Park improvements. Last year, we brought back **\$2.5 million** for infrastructure projects and historic preservation.
- The budget season begins this month. The Commission is establishing Capital Improvement Project priorities for the next three years. These projects include the items listed above, along with essential infrastructure repairs, park improvements, sidewalk upgrades, and sewer/drainage work. You can view June 14, 2023, Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Workshop and access the draft CIP budget at <https://coralgables.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.
- Moving general elections to November of even years is now under consideration. By moving the general election, the Commission could save approximately \$125,000 per election year or \$625,000 over 10 years. These savings could be used to maintain and improve our city.

- Through a proposed amendment I will be offering in the fall, the Commission will consider revising the Mediterranean Bonus Code further to ensure that only high-quality Mediterranean designs receive the bonus. See my Memorandum dated May 19, 2023, at <https://www.coralgables.com/staff/rhonda-anderson>.
- This fall the Commission will review alternatives for the Central Business District (CBD) garage/mobility hub. This project is critical to support the CBD, which currently contributes 27% of the City’s tax base. To learn more about why the garage is needed and the vision for more welcoming, shaded streets in our City, see my detailed Memorandum dated May 22, 2023, at <https://www.coralgables.com/staff/rhonda-anderson>.<sup>1</sup>
- In January, the Commission voted to post a notice on the City’s website of all historic designation decisions. A copy of the ordinance I sponsored, 0-2023-03, is available on the city’s website<sup>2</sup> and current historic designation decisions can be viewed at <https://www.coralgables.com/departments/historical-resources-cultural-arts/historic-preservation>.
- In 2022, the Commission opened its first off-leash dog park in the 200 block of Madeira Avenue. A second dog park adjacent to the Salvadore Park tennis courts will open next month.
- Over the past 18 months, the Commission has worked hard to fund sidewalk repairs and extend sidewalks along busy streets. City crews are actively repairing broken or dangerous sidewalks.
- In September 2024, the City’s septic-to-sewer design plan, funded in 2022, will be completed. I have pushed to move this project forward long before I was elected. Information regarding how homeowners can connect to the system will be available in six months to a year. For more information, periodically review <https://www.coralgables.com/news/septic-tanks> for updates on this important water quality project<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> See also Miami Herald OpEd at [https://www.miamiherald.com/article276029571.html#\\_=\\_](https://www.miamiherald.com/article276029571.html#_=_).

<sup>2</sup> See Ordinance Number 0-2023-03 on the January 10, 2023 Commission Agenda, available at Coralgables.com under the City Meetings and Agenda button or at the following link: <https://coralgables.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5980181&GUID=AFE49AFB-DD57-4FC8-A985-DC568E6E9507>

<sup>3</sup> For information regarding why septic to sewer conversion is critical for the Bay, our fisheries and water quality, see [https://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/miamiwaterkeeper/pages/4601/attachments/original/1605035201/Scientific\\_Support\\_Septic\\_to\\_Sewer\\_EK9\\_2.pdf?1605035201](https://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/miamiwaterkeeper/pages/4601/attachments/original/1605035201/Scientific_Support_Septic_to_Sewer_EK9_2.pdf?1605035201).

- At no cost to homeowners, last year the Commission approved the undergrounding of all lateral lines behind homes in residential areas. Project updates and information is available at: <https://www.coralgables.com/undergrounding-project-construction-updates>.

If you would like to discuss these or other issues, I hold open-door office hours on most Fridays; which are posted on my Instagram account. I can also be reached via email at [randerson@coralgables.com](mailto:randerson@coralgables.com) or on my city cell at (786) 529-8766.

Additional information about all Commission members' contact and availability can be found at <https://www.coralgables.com/department/city-commission>.

Coral Gables is a wonderful place to live for many reasons. I am looking forward to hearing your ideas to help make our city an even better place to live.

Best regards,



Rhonda Anderson

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## Vice Mayor Newsletter

<https://coralgables.us5.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=f4bffe61123ae3035212bd9fb&id=2918d84ff0>



## Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/rhondaandersoncoralgables/>



## CG E-News

<https://www.coralgables.com/department/communications-and-public-affairs/services/coralgables-eneews>



## Twitter

<https://twitter.com/randersoncgables?lang=en>



## Commission Agendas

<https://www.coralgables.com/department/city-clerks-office/city-meetings>

