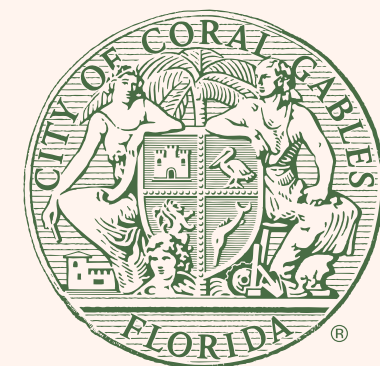
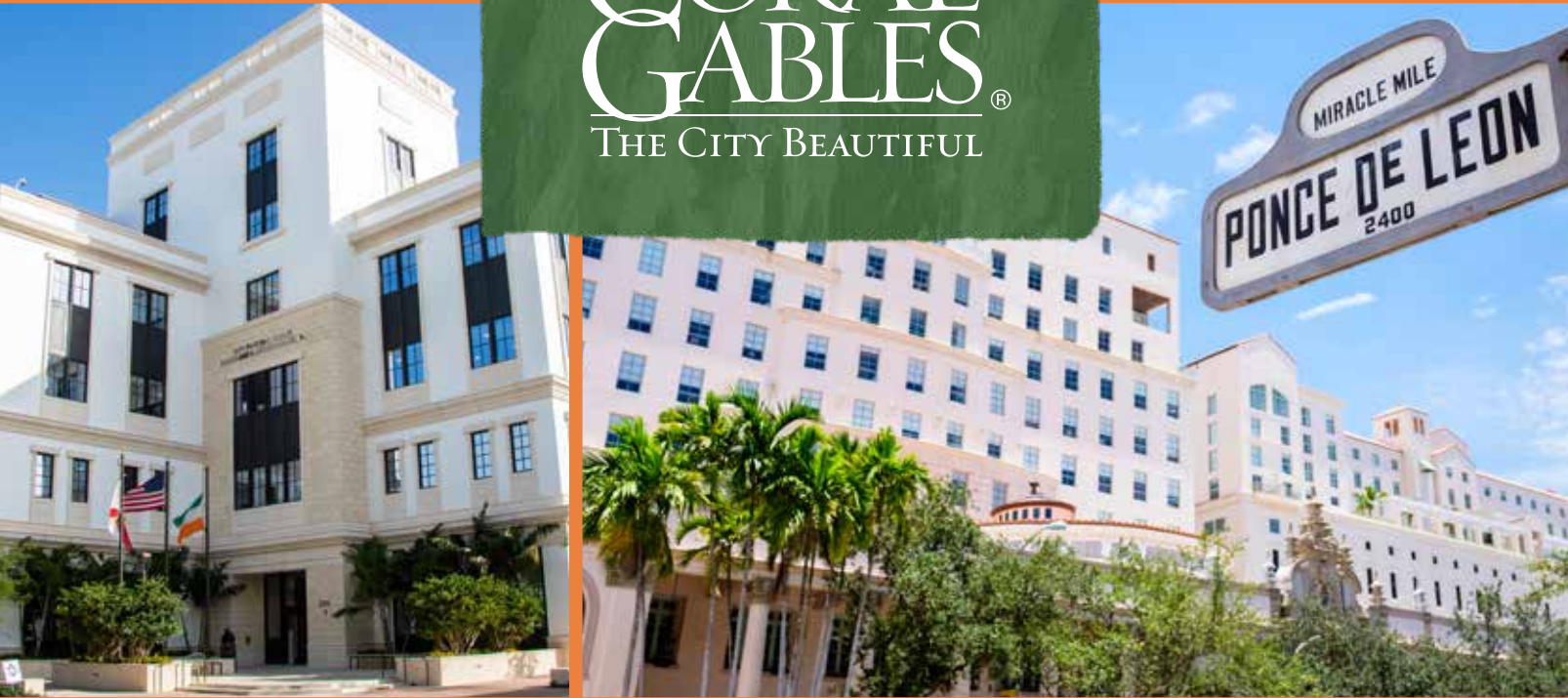
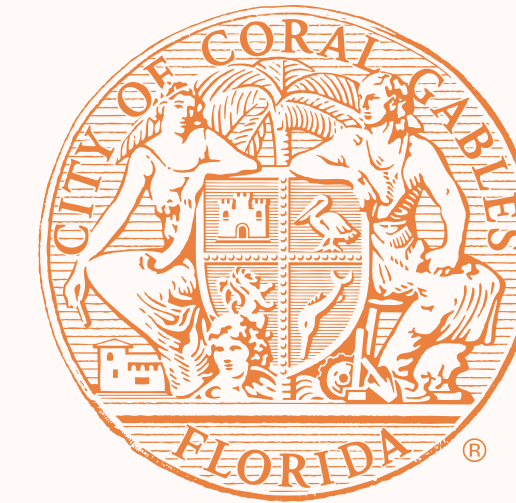


**CORAL GABLES**  
THE CITY BEAUTIFUL



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*City of Coral Gables*  
2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



*City of Coral Gables*  
COMMISSION



Raúl Valdés-Fauli  
Mayor



Vince Lago  
Vice-Mayor



Pat Keon  
Commissioner



Michael Mena  
Commissioner



Jorge L. Fors, Jr.  
Commissioner





## 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### POLICY ISSUES

#### PRESERVATION OF HOME RULE & PREEMPTION OF LOCAL REGULATIONS

- Oppose legislation that would preempt local governments from legislating, regulating, or acting on matters of local concern in the interest of the health, safety, and welfare of their communities.

#### BERT HARRIS ACT

- Oppose changes to the Bert J. Harris Jr. Private Property Rights Protection Act that would disadvantage local governments and limit the ability of cities to quickly resolve claims.

#### SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

- Oppose legislation that would increase the \$300,000 per-occurrence limit on the collectability of judgments against government entities and/or eliminate the \$200,000-per-claimant limit contained in Section 768.28, F.S.

#### COVID-19 RELATED LEGISLATION

- Oppose legislation that would limit a local government's ability to enact and enforce emergency orders, institute curfews, restrict commercial activity, mandate facial coverings, suspend special events, or take other action in furtherance of the health, safety, and welfare of the community during a pandemic or related state of emergency.

#### BISCAYNE BAY

- Support legislation that prioritizes the health and protection of Biscayne Bay and allocates needed funding for the Bay's conservation.

#### COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES TAX AND LOCAL BUSINESS TAX PROTECTION

- Support legislation that protects general revenues collected from the communications services tax and the local business tax.

#### ASSAULT WEAPON AND HIGH CAPACITY MAGAZINES

- Support legislation that would ban the sale of semi-automatic assault weapons in the State of Florida.
- Roll back the arduous penalty provisions in Section 790.33, Florida Statutes including but not limited to, the declaratory judgement provision, civil fine provision, limitation on the use of public funds, termination of employment provision and personal cause of action provision.
- Amend Section 790.33, Florida Statutes to allow municipalities to enact common-sense zoning regulations that encompass firearms businesses.

#### PRINCIPLES OF INCLUSION

- Support legislation that promotes principles of inclusion, including but not limited to, respect for the inherent dignity of individuals, non-discrimination, equality of opportunity, accessibility, equality between men and women, respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

#### POLYSTYRENE AND SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS

- Support the amendment of Section 403.7033, Florida Statutes and Section 500.90, Florida Statutes to eliminate preemptions of local law relating to the regulation of auxiliary containers, wrappings, disposable plastic bags and polystyrene.
- Support legislation that would prohibit the use of single-use plastic bags and polystyrene containers statewide.



#### ZONING AUTHORITY AND BUILDING DESIGN ELEMENTS

- Oppose legislation that preempts a local government's authority to enact zoning regulations, including regulating building design elements for structures of any kind, including one- or two-family dwellings.

#### TRANSPORTATION

- Support legislation that preserves local control of transportation planning and provides for a more equitable transportation funding formula between municipalities and counties, including additional dedicated revenue options for municipal transportation infrastructure and transit projects. Support legislation that allows municipalities to receive transportation infrastructure grants and moneys directly from the State, bypassing distribution on a County level. Support legislation and appropriations to fully fund the Underline Project, support fully funding the Miami-Dade SMART plan and reject efforts to extend SR-836, known as the "Kendall Parkway".

#### SMALL CELL WIRELESS

- Support legislation that preserves the City's ability to exercise its home rule authority to control use of its rights-of-way for communications facilities including small cell facilities, and supports the City's ability to exercise authority over City-owned poles in the rights-of-way. The City opposes any legislation that would expand the preemption of City home rule authority already within the Advanced Wireless Infrastructure Deployment Act.

#### RISK PROTECTION ORDERS

- Support legislation that preserves the City's ability to enhance public safety by restricting firearm and ammunition possession by a person who poses a significant danger to himself or herself or others, and support legislation that requires persons under Risk Protection Orders to demonstrate there is no further significant danger to himself, herself, or others before a Risk Protection Order is terminated.
- Support legislation that broadens the categories of individuals who can seek Risk Protection Orders based on biological or legal relationships.

#### PROTECTION OF CITY'S TREE CANOPY

- Support repealing Section 163.045, Florida Statutes as it is an attempt to preempt the City's efforts to preserve its lauded and historic tree canopy and prevents the City from mitigating losses to the City's tree canopy, the preservation of which is a priority of City residents and the City Commission.

#### CLARIFICATION OF "BEST EFFORTS" TO SUPPORT THE ENFORCEMENT OF FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LAW

- Support the repeal of Section 908.104, Florida Statutes or in the alternative support legislation that clarifies the term "best efforts" of a local law enforcement agency.

#### EXPANSION OF PACE PROGRAMS TO FINANCE SEPTIC TO SEWER CONVERSION

- Amend Section 163.08 to expand the list of qualifying improvements that may be financed through Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs to include conversion from septic tanks to sewer systems and other sewage treatment improvements.

#### MDCPS- POLICY PRIORITIES

- The City of Coral Gables supports Miami-Dade County Public School Board's top priorities including:
  - Holding school district operational funding harmless by mitigating any FTE enrollment declines experienced by districts and any impact of state budget shortfalls by fully funding districts based on the 2019-2020 fourth FTE calculation and minimally providing per student funding at 2020-2021 levels or \$7,793.01 (statewide) and \$7,941.46 for Miami-Dade;
  - Waiving all sanctions related to the Florida Statewide Assessment Program, including but not limited to third grade promotion, end-of-course calculations, graduation test requirements, performance evaluations of instructional and administrative staff, and school and district grades;
  - Continuing the Funding Compression and Hold Harmless Allocation formula established during the 2020 legislative session to address inequities of the current District Cost Differential calculation;
  - Supporting funding to offer an extended school day and year beyond 180 days for all students to address learning loss as a result of required school closures due to COVID-19; and
  - Continuing to invest in teacher salaries by continuing to fund the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation

#### FUNDING

- **Coral Way and Granada Boulevard Intersection Improvements**  
The City proposes to convert this intersection to a hardened span wire to maintain the historic character of the plaza while adding exclusive left turn lanes and safe pedestrian crossings. These improvements will help increase capacity of the roadway, to move traffic more efficiently through the area, especially during hurricane evacuations. The project will benefit over 20,000 commuters a day who traverse this intersection.
- **Galiano Street & Madeira Avenue Stormwater Improvements**  
The proposed project consists of improvements to the drainage system along Galiano St. (Madeira Ave. to Zamora Ave.) and Madeira Ave. (Ponce De Leon Blvd. to Galiano St.) within the City of Coral Gables. The goal of the project is to improve water quality by redirecting roadway stormwater runoff. Rather than discharging roadway runoff into the Coral Gables Waterway, runoff waters would be directed into an underground porous limestone layer and treated through exfiltration trenches. This project will also have the added benefit of increasing drainage capacity, alleviating area flooding, and recharging the Biscayne Aquifer with fresh rainwater.