

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

MEMORANDUM

TO: William Ortiz, Code Enforcement Director

FROM: Miriam S. Ramos, Deputy City Attorney *MSR*

CC: Craig Leen, City Attorney
Peter Iglesias, Assistant City Manager
Walter Foeman, City Clerk and Supervisor of Elections

DATE: January 2017

Sign Code applicability during elections at Coral Gables Library

The Coral Gables Library is used as a polling place during City and County-wide elections. During the last election, questions arose regarding the placement of political signs around the library building: in the parking lot, green areas and on the City swale. According to the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Coral Gables and Miami-Dade County, executed December 8, 2008, the City leases to the County the library building and the entire grounds inside the sidewalk. Based on this, the County, through the library manager, is responsible for enforcing County sign regulations in the library building and in all grounds located inside the City's sidewalk.

Where the City receives a complaint relating to the number of signs posted on or around the library property, while it is being utilized as a polling place, the County and City's requirements pertaining to signs apply. Specifically, no signs are permitted outside of the City's sidewalk in the City's right of way. In balancing the interest involved and because this is a polling place where campaign materials and signs are not permitted within 100 feet of the front doors, Sec. 5-1909(A)(3.) and (4.) shall not apply at this location during these times.

When a complaint is received and a violation is confirmed, a warning should be issued to the campaign whose sign is in violation and they should be given a brief time to comply. If compliance is not obtained in the allotted time period, the campaign should be cited. If the violation is pervasive, the County should be notified and enforce accordingly. If the County fails to do so, the City should enforce through appropriate measures.

This memorandum should be read to apply to Election Day as well as to the entire early voting period.