

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA
2024-2025 BUDGET

CITY ATTORNEY

FISCAL YEAR 2024 MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✓ Prevailed in Bonnie D. Bolton v. City of Coral Gables, et al., with the Third District Court of Appeal denying Ms. Bolton's petition for second-tier certiorari review, following denial of petition for certiorari by the appellate panel of the circuit court, thereby upholding the City's processes for review of a request designation as a local historic landmark.
- ✓ Accomplished dismissal without prejudice in Gables Accountability Project, Inc. et al v. City of Coral Gables et al, just hours prior to a special set hearing on the City's Motion to Dismiss the Third Amended Complaint on grounds that it was a willful violation of the Court's Order, sought an improper advisory opinion on non-existent hypothetical facts, and sought injunctive relief when there is nothing to enjoin.
- ✓ Guided City through various real estate transactions including a lease renewal with Satchmo Blues Bar and Grill, Inc. d/b/a Fritz & Franz Bierhaus for an additional five-year term for the restaurant located at 60 Merrick Way; a license agreement regarding the café located at the Coral Gables Golf & Country Club; a conveyance agreement for donation of land to develop park space; and a purchase and sale agreement for the sale of transferable development rights.
- ✓ Continued to assist the Community Recreation Department in complying with legal requirements relating to the management of the Coral Gables Country Club.
- ✓ Achieved compliance, pursuant to enforcement actions, from 4 additional properties on the City's Abandoned Property List.
- ✓ Negotiated fine reduction agreements in Code Enforcement and Construction Regulation Board cases.
- ✓ Drafted numerous ordinances including (1) amendments to the City Code to allow for publication of required legal notices on a publicly accessible website as specified in Florida Statutes § 50.0311; authorizing enforcement of school zone speed limits through installation of speed detection systems on school zone roadways as allowed by changes to state law; updating regulations for mobile food trucks to allow for the limited operation of temporary commercial kitchens as required by changes to state law; establishing employee protection regulations to provide for handling complaints made in accordance with Florida's Whistle-Blower's Act; changing the prohibited hours of operation on Sundays for the sale of alcoholic beverages by stores; and (2) zoning code text amendments to amend certain procedures related to the conflict resolution and Special Master Quasi-Judicial Process for appeals of decisions by the Board of Architects; to remove requirement for newspaper publication to allow for publication of required legal notices on a publicly accessible website as specified in Florida Statutes § 50.0311; amending provisions for the siting of city facilities to include

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FISCAL YEAR 2024 MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS – (Continued)

facilities for workforce housing by the City, County, or other public entity as required by Miami-Dade County Code; and to regulate the closure of window and hurricane shutters.

- ✓ Assisted with resolutions and memorandums of understanding between the City, County, and other municipalities.
- ✓ Assisted with setting and advocating for City's legislative priorities and proposing amendatory language in the City's interest.
- ✓ Interpreted final bills resulting from 2024 legislative session and working with City staff to ensure that all necessary changes are made to comply with the requirements of the various bills affecting municipalities.
- ✓ Resolved litigation with the now-dissolved Business Improvement District regarding assessment funds.
- ✓ Drafted ballot language and resolution calling for special election for straw ballot question regarding annexation of Little Gables.
- ✓ Assisted with convening of Charter Review Committee, including initial meeting and two town halls.
- ✓ Negotiated a gas franchise agreement with Pivotal Utility Holdings, Inc. d/b/a Florida City Gas imposing conditions and providing for monthly payment of a franchise fee to the City.
- ✓ Assisted with request by security guard special taxing district for expansion of services to include additional security measures.
- ✓ Guided City through administrative transitions.
- ✓ Provided guidance to City Clerk regarding novel election issues and processes.
- ✓ Assisted the City Clerk and Asset Manager with updating database of deeds for all City-owned real property.
- ✓ Finalized interlocal agreement with the Village of Pinecrest for operation and funding of the Pinecrest by the Sea special taxing district.