

# The City of Coral Gables



Office of the Coral Gables Vice Mayor

City Hall 405 Biltmore Way  
Coral Gables, FL 33134

*The City Beautiful*

January 31, 2025

The Honorable Ileana Garcia  
Florida State Senator, District 36  
2828 Coral Way  
Miami, Florida 33145

Re: Funding Support for Essential Public Safety Equipment

Dear Senator Garcia,

I hope this letter finds you well. As always, I appreciate your dedication to serving the people of Coral Gables and your continued efforts in securing resources to enhance public safety in our communities. In light of the ongoing illegal immigration crisis and the recent apprehension of unauthorized migrants in Coral Gables, I am reaching out to request your assistance in securing state funding for critical public safety assets that will significantly bolster our ability to respond to emergencies and protect our residents.

The City of Coral Gables seeks funding for two essential pieces of equipment:

**1. Patrol Boat – \$455,000**

Given Coral Gables' extensive coastline, the acquisition of a patrol boat would provide our police department with enhanced capabilities to monitor and secure our active portion of the nation's border. This asset would be instrumental in detecting and preventing unauthorized maritime entries while also ensuring rapid response to emergencies on the water. The addition of this vessel would strengthen our ability to support state and federal operations focused on immigration enforcement and coastal security.

**2. High-Water Rescue Vehicle – \$250,000**


A high-water rescue vehicle would play a crucial role in supporting efforts to interdict unauthorized immigration attempts along our coastline and other flood-prone areas, working in coordination with state and federal agencies to ensure public safety. Additionally, as South Florida continues to face increased flooding events due to severe weather and rising sea levels, it is imperative that our first responders have the necessary tools to assist residents and conduct life-saving operations. This vehicle would enhance our ability to respond effectively to flooded areas not only within Coral Gables but also throughout Miami-Dade County and across the state as requested and needed.

I respectfully request your support in advocating for these funding allocations during the upcoming legislative session. These assets will not only serve the residents of Coral Gables but will also contribute to broader public safety efforts across the state and country.

Please be advised that your office shall receive the requisite appropriations forms for both projects shortly.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your guidance and support on this matter. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,



Rhonda Anderson  
Vice Mayor  
City of Coral Gables