



To: Raquel Elejabarrieta, Labor Relations and Risk Management for the City of Coral Gables

From: Craig E. Leen, City Attorney for the City of Coral Gables 

RE: Legal Opinion Regarding Special Police - Parking

Date: April 19, 2017

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I reviewed the provisions at issue and find the change to be legally permissible. In addition, I would note that section 74-139 presently refers to "parking enforcement specialists" and section 74-195 refers to "parking enforcement officers". Accordingly, there is support in the Code for no longer calling them "special police" and instead calling them "parking enforcement specialists." Please feel free to proceed. This opinion is issued pursuant to section 2-201(e)(1) and (8) of the City Code.

**From:** [Leen, Craig](#)  
**To:** [Paulk, Enga](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Special Police - Parking  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 19, 2017 12:34:10 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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Please publish.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Leen, Craig" <[cleen@coralgables.com](mailto:cleen@coralgables.com)>  
**Date:** April 19, 2017 at 12:33:48 AM EDT  
**To:** "Elejabarrieta, Raquel" <[relejabarrieta@coralgables.com](mailto:relejabarrieta@coralgables.com)>  
**Cc:** "Fernandez, Frank" <[ffernandez@coralgables.com](mailto:ffernandez@coralgables.com)>, "Kinney, Kevin" <[KKinney@coralgables.com](mailto:KKinney@coralgables.com)>, "Gomez, Diana" <[dgomez@coralgables.com](mailto:dgomez@coralgables.com)>, "Ramos, Miriam" <[mramos@coralgables.com](mailto:mramos@coralgables.com)>  
**Subject: Re: Special Police - Parking**

Good evening. I reviewed the provisions at issue and find the change to be legally permissible. In addition, I would note that section 74-139 presently refers to "parking enforcement specialists" and section 74-195 refers to "parking enforcement officers". Accordingly, there is support in the Code for no longer calling them "special police" and instead calling them "parking enforcement specialists." Please feel free to proceed. This opinion is issued pursuant to section 2-201(e)(1) and (8) of the City Code.

Craig E. Leen  
City Attorney

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 18, 2017, at 11:41 PM, Elejabarrieta, Raquel <[relejabarrieta@coralgables.com](mailto:relejabarrieta@coralgables.com)> wrote:

Craig:

As you may know, the City is in the process of ordering uniforms for certain general employees covered by the Teamsters CBA. The current uniform shirts for the Parking Enforcement Specialist have an embroidered badge on them that states "Special Police." We would like to replace the wording on the badge to read "Parking Enforcement Specialist" instead of "Special Police."

Do you see any issue with this? I am asking you because I have been told that the reason that “Special Police” is on the uniform shirt badge is because of Sections 74-27 and 74-28 of the City Code that read as follows:

- **Sec. 74-27. - Authority.**

It is the duty of the officers of the police department, or such officers as are assigned by the chief of police, to enforce all traffic ordinances of this city.

- **Sec. 74-28. - Duties of police department generally.**

It shall be the duty of the chief of police, with such aid as may be rendered by other members of the police department, to enforce the provisions of this chapter.

If you opine that based on the aforementioned language the wording on the uniform badge should remain “Special Police” can an ordinance be drafted changing that requirement?

Thanks,

*Raquel Elejabarrieta, Esq.*

Director of Labor Relations and Risk Management

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Email: [relejabarrieta@coralgables.com](mailto:relejabarrieta@coralgables.com)

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