



To: Mayor and Commissioners

From: Cristina M. Suarez, Deputy City Attorney for the City of Coral Gables

Approved By: Miriam Soler Ramos, City Attorney for the City of Coral Gables

MSR

RE: Legal Opinion Update Regarding Expansion of Justice Advocate Program and Amendment of CAO 2017-044

Date: January 23, 2020

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Most of you may recall that in August 2017, former City Attorney Craig Leen presented a report regarding the expansion of the Justice Advocate Program. The expansion of the program involved two components for review of each criminal case that is not pursued by the State Attorney's Office. The first component involved evaluating each such case to determine whether additional training for our police personnel would aid in strengthening of all criminal cases. The second component involved evaluating each case for a potential code enforcement citation under Section 38-1 of the City Code.

We have evaluated the expanded program and have found the first component to be effective and will continue to review cases that are not prosecuted to determine if there was an officer error and provide training as needed. The second component, however, has been deemed not to be effective for a number of reasons and is being suspended to focus City resources on more effective techniques.

**From:** [Ramos, Miriam](#)  
**To:** [Suarez, Cristina](#)  
**Cc:** [Paulk, Enga](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Update Regarding Expansion of Justice Advocate Program and Amendment of CAO 2017-044  
**Date:** Thursday, January 23, 2020 4:47:11 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

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Thanks Cristina. Enga, please publish.

*Miriam Soler Ramos, Esq., B.C.S.*

*City Attorney*

*Board Certified by the Florida Bar in*

*City, County, and Local Government Law*

City of Coral Gables

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**From:** Suarez, Cristina

**Sent:** Thursday, January 23, 2020 4:38 PM

**To:** Ramos, Miriam <mramos@coralgables.com>

**Cc:** Paulk, Enga <epaulk@coralgables.com>

**Subject:** FW: Update Regarding Expansion of Justice Advocate Program and Amendment of CAO 2017-044

Miriam:

As discussed, the expansion of the Justice Advocate Program was memorialized in City Attorney Opinion 2017-044 which set forth the policy for prosecution of state misdemeanors, as incorporated in the City Code, and the policy was presented to the City Commission on August 29, 2017. The update below amends that policy and as such, should be published as a City Attorney

Opinion.

Thanks,  
Cristina

**Cristina M. Suárez**

**Deputy City Attorney & City Prosecutor**

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**From:** Suarez, Cristina

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2020 4:56 PM

**To:** Valdes-Fauli, Raul <[rvaldes-fauli@coralgables.com](mailto:rvaldes-fauli@coralgables.com)>; Lago, Vince <[vlago@coralgables.com](mailto:vlago@coralgables.com)>; Keon, Patricia <[PKeon@coralgables.com](mailto:PKeon@coralgables.com)>; Mena, Michael <[mmena@coralgables.com](mailto:mmena@coralgables.com)>; Jorge Fors <[jfors@coralgables.com](mailto:jfors@coralgables.com)>

**Cc:** Iglesias, Peter <[piglesias@coralgables.com](mailto:piglesias@coralgables.com)>; Ramos, Miriam <[mramos@coralgables.com](mailto:mramos@coralgables.com)>; Santamaria, Eduardo <[esantamaria@coralgables.com](mailto:esantamaria@coralgables.com)>; Throckmorton, Stephanie <[sthrockmorton@coralgables.com](mailto:sthrockmorton@coralgables.com)>; Ceballos, Gustavo <[gceballos@coralgables.com](mailto:gceballos@coralgables.com)>; Levi Garcia, Naomi <[nlevi-garcia@coralgables.com](mailto:nlevi-garcia@coralgables.com)>

**Subject:** Update Regarding Expansion of Justice Advocate Program

Mayor and Commissioners:

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Please do not reply to all and call me if you have any questions.

Thanks,  
Cristina

**Cristina M. Suárez**  
**Deputy City Attorney & City Prosecutor**

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405 Biltmore Way, 3rd Floor  
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