



To: Fred Couceyro, Community Recreation Director  
Carolina Vester, Community Recreation Assistant Director  
Billy Urquia, City Clerk

From: Stephanie Throckmorton, Assistant City Attorney for the City of Coral Gables

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MSR", is written over the name Miriam Soler Ramos.

RE: Legal Opinion Regarding Community Recreation Department City Code Name Change

Date: May 25, 2021

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This office has received a request from the Community Recreation Department regarding removing references to the "Parks and Recreation Department" in the City Code. In 1974 the City Commission created a Parks and Recreation Department as a separate administrative department of the City, by adopting Ordinance 2084 in accordance with the City Charter. The City Department responsible for the parks, recreation facilities and programs, and open spaces has operated as the Parks and Recreation Department as well as numerous other names throughout the years. When adopting the annual City Budget the City Commission has approved budgets that refer to the Department's name changes as well as the creation of a Parks and Recreation Division.

In Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013 the City had a Community Services Department, under which the Parks and Recreation Division operated. In Fiscal Year 2014 the City's organization structure had a Leisure Services Department overseeing a Parks and Recreation Division. From Fiscal Year 2015 to date the City Commission has approved budgets and organizations charts referencing the Community Recreation Department. In Fiscal Year 2015 a Parks and Recreation Division remained, but since Fiscal Year 2016 there has been no separate Parks and Recreation Division, and all responsibilities over those facilities and programs has remained under the Community Recreation Department name since 2015.

The Community Recreation Department has been transitioning all documentation, media, signage, and advertising to the Community Recreation Department name since the change was first approved by the City Commission in 2015. However, Chapter 42 of the City Code remains titled "Parks and Recreation" and the City Code makes various references to the Parks and Recreation Department, as well as the Director of Parks and Recreation. Given the City Commission's adoption and approval of the Department's name change in 2015, the City Clerk should update all

references to the Parks and Recreation Department, and Director of the Parks and Recreation Department in the City Code and City of Coral Gables Zoning Code. Any reference to same should be replaced with Community Recreation Department or Director of Community Recreation.

The City also has a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board as well as a Parks and Recreation Youth Advisory Board. Both Boards were created by City Commission resolution. While the resolutions creating those Boards refer to the staff assistance provide by the Parks and Recreation Department, the Board names themselves refer to the Boards' roles in advising the City Manager and the City Commission as to the parks and recreation needs of the City, not to the Department name itself, so those Board names do not need to be updated.

This opinion is issued in accordance with Section 2-252(e)(9) of the City Code authorizing the City Attorney's Office to make corrections to ordinances, resolutions, the City Code and the Zoning code where appropriate.