

2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

CITY OF CORAL GABLES



CITY OF CORAL GABLES
COMMISSION



Vince C. Lago
Mayor



Rhonda Anderson
Vice Mayor



Melissa Castro
Commissioner



Ariel Fernandez
Commissioner



Kirk R. Menendez
Commissioner

PRESERVATION OF HOME RULE & PREEMPTION OF LOCAL REGULATIONS

- » Oppose legislation that would preempt local governments from legislating, regulating, or acting on matters of local concern in the interest of the health, safety, and welfare of their communities.
- » Oppose legislation that creates procedural hurdles to the exercise of home rule authority, such as enacting ordinances and conducting charter referendum.

BERT HARRIS ACT

- » Oppose changes to the Bert J. Harris Jr. Private Property Rights Protection Act that would disadvantage local governments and limit the city's ability to quickly resolve claims.

SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

- » Oppose legislation that would increase the \$300,000 per-occurrence limit and/or eliminate the \$200,000 per-claimant limit contained in Section 768.28, F.S.

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES TAX AND LOCAL BUSINESS TAX PROTECTION

- » Support legislation that protects general revenues collected from the communications services tax and the local business tax.

DEMOLITION OF HISTORIC HOMES

- » Eliminate the preemptions in Section 553.79, Florida Statutes that prohibit the City from meaningfully reviewing, restricting, or denying demolition permits for historic homes in certain flood zones that are at or below base flood elevation.
- » Urge the Florida League of Cities to advocate for the elimination of these preemptions.

ZONING AUTHORITY AND BUILDING DESIGN ELEMENTS

- » Oppose legislation that would preempt a local government's authority to enact zoning regulations, including regulating building design elements for one-and two-family dwellings.
- » Preserve the carve-out in Section 163.3202, Florida Statutes for cities with architectural review boards established before January 1, 2020.

PROPERTY RESILIENCE AND PROPERTY INSURANCE RATES

- » Support efforts to decrease homeowner's insurance rates in the State, including via the statewide adoption of the Florida Building Code's high-velocity hurricane zone including the structural review criteria adopted by Miami-Dade County, to encourage more insurers to enter the market, increase competition and decrease claims exposure for insurers.

LIVE LOCAL ACT

- » Support collaborative solutions to address the statewide housing crisis; but oppose legislation that preempts the City's zoning code, circumvents its public hearing processes, and mandates development incentives related to use, height and density without consideration of compatibility with surrounding development or residential neighborhoods, or impacts to existing infrastructure.

TRANSPORTATION

- » Support legislation that preserves local control of transportation planning and provides for a more equitable transportation funding formula between municipalities and counties, including additional dedicated revenue options for municipal transportation infrastructure and transit projects.
- » Support legislation that allows municipalities to receive transportation infrastructure funding directly from the State, regardless of population, and bypasses distribution at the County level.

SMALL CELL WIRELESS

- » Support legislation that preserves the City's ability to exercise its home rule authority to control use of its rights-of-way for communications facilities, including small cell facilities.
- » Support the City's ability to exercise authority over City-owned poles in its rights-of-way.
- » Oppose legislation that would expand the preemption of home rule authority already within the Advanced Wireless Infrastructure Deployment Act.
- » Support the establishment of a grant program for low-income residents to achieve septic-to-sewer conversion.
- » Support legislation that would require inspections of residential septic tanks and sewer lines for real estate transactions.
- » Urge the Florida Legislature to support the adoption of a national carbon border adjustment mechanism to provide a level playing field for American manufacturers to compete against foreign manufactured goods produced with cheaper higher polluting manufacturing processes.

REDUNDANT POLES

- » Amend Section 366.97, Florida Statutes to require attaching entities to remove their pole attachments from redundant poles within 180 days after receipt of notice that pole is to be removed, and mandate the elimination of redundant utility poles by the pole owner.

HOURLY RENTALS

- » Amend Section, 509.098, Florida Statutes to clarify that public lodging establishments may not charge fractional rates for room rentals and establish specific penalties for violating this prohibition.

VACATION RENTALS

- » Oppose legislation that would further preempt local governments from regulating vacation rentals; which decrease available stock of affordable housing, decrease surrounding residential property values, and cause economic harm to the hotel industry.
- » Preserve the grandfather clause in Section 509.032(7)(b), Florida Statutes which allows local regulations adopted on or before June 1, 2011, to remain in effect.

PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

- » Support legislation that prioritizes the health and protection of Biscayne Bay and allocates needed funding for the Bay's conservation.

CARBON SEQUESTERED CONCRETE

- » Support the creation of state incentives for use of carbon sequestered concrete. Carbon sequestered concrete decreases the quantity of cement needed in concrete and strengthens it. It also helps developers earn LEED credits and improves the public's perception of new development. Incentives could include funding grants to purchase carbon collection or injection equipment

STALKING STATUTE AMENDMENT

- » Expand stalking prohibitions to ensure application to third parties, drones, surveillance or security cameras or other recording devices, and add additional protections for law enforcement officers.

PROHIBITION ON INTIMIDATION OR COERCION OF PUBLIC SERVANT

- » Amend Section 838.021, Florida Statutes to add language mirroring 18 U.S. Code Sec. 610, making it unlawful for any person to intimidate, threaten, command or coerce or attempt to intimidate, threaten, command or coerce a public official from engaging, or not engaging in, political activity.

FUNDING

<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Match</i>
Coral Gables City Hall complex storm hardening	\$750k	\$1.5m
Coral Gables electric vehicle charging infrastructure expansion	\$500k	\$100k
City of Coral Gables water quality assessment	\$300k	\$600k
Citywide pedestrian infrastructure and ADA upgrades	\$800k	\$800k
Citywide roadway safety upgrades	\$500k	\$500k
Golden Gate stormwater improvement project	\$900k	\$450k
Remediation of Coral Gables waste diversion site	\$850k	\$300k
Underline connectivity project - Riviera Drive bike lanes and sidewalks	\$975k	\$1.625m

GOLDEN GATE STORMWATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

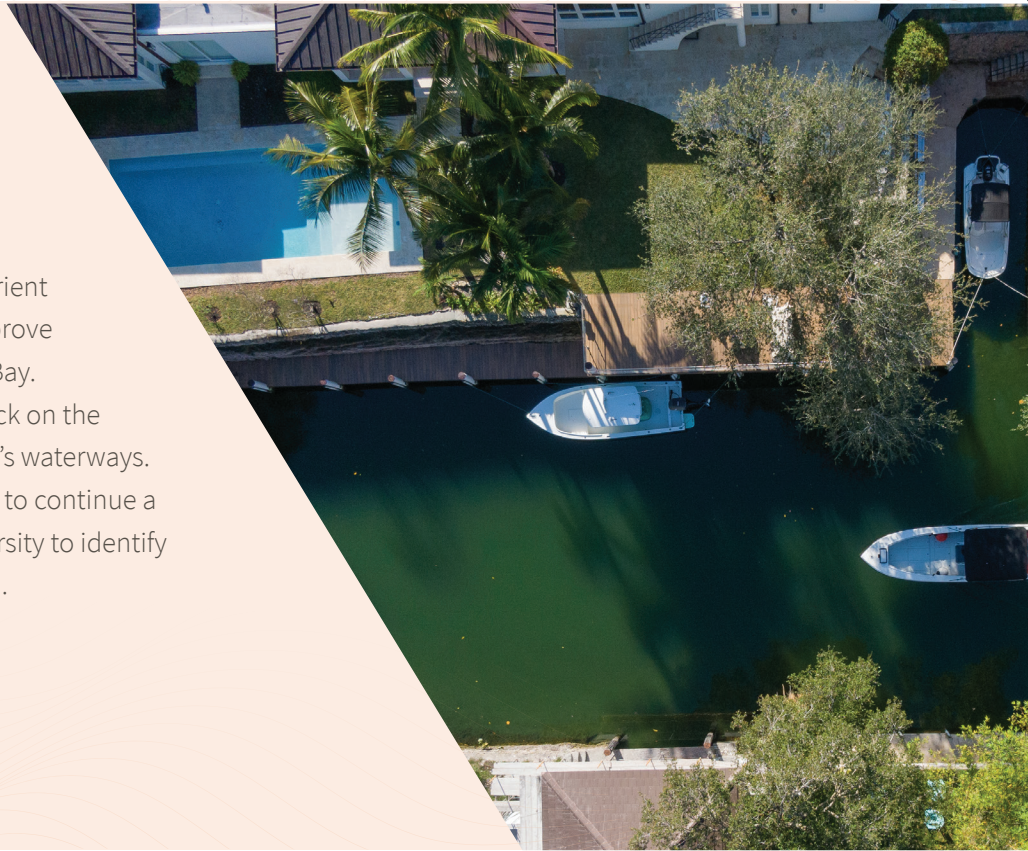
Requesting \$900,000 to provide drainage improvements to prevent localized street ponding and flooding by replacing substandard and aged infrastructure in the residential area of Golden Gate, a historically black neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places.

REMEDIATION OF CORAL GABLES WASTE DIVERSION SITE

Requesting \$850,000 to remediate a city-owned property to allow for the safe operation of a waste diversion site. The site, which is currently contaminated and unusable, will be used to divert green matter from landfills, and instead process and repurpose such material for more sustainable uses, such as mulch or waste-to-energy. The need for the site has grown more acute due to the recent destruction of a major waste facility in Miami-Dade County.

CITY OF CORAL GABLES WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Pursuing \$300,000 to assess and reduce nutrient levels in the Coral Gables Waterway and improve the water quality of discharges to Biscayne Bay. This project is a result of community feedback on the declining water quality and clarity in the city's waterways. The funding of this project will allow the city to continue a partnership with Florida International University to identify causes of and solutions to nutrient pollution.



CITYWIDE ROADWAY SAFETY UPGRADES

Requesting \$500,000 to install traffic calming solutions such as speed tables, speed cushions, traffic circles, and medians throughout the City in high-traffic areas. Each day, the City experiences an influx of tens of thousands of drivers. This project aims to create safer roads and improve pedestrian and cyclist safety, by slowing down vehicles with traffic calming devices.

CORAL GABLES ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE EXPANSION

Seeking \$500,000 to expand the City's electric vehicle infrastructure on City-owned property. This expansion project will add 138 charging stations to the City's network to meet growing demand, and provide residents and visitors with easier access to charging stations.



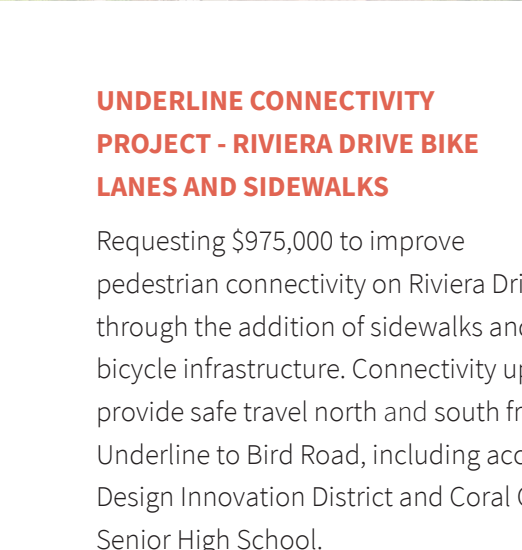
CITYWIDE PEDESTRIAN INFRASTRUCTURE AND ADA UPGRADES

Pursuing \$800,000 to replace damaged and hazardous sidewalks identified throughout the City of Coral Gables. The funds provided would supplement the City's funding for sidewalk replacement and allow the City to comprehensively address repairs, replacements and ADA upgrades of pedestrian infrastructure. The project will improve pedestrian safety and mobility, and enhance local and regional connectivity.



CORAL GABLES CITY HALL COMPLEX STORM HARDENING

Seeking \$750,000 for storm hardening of windows and structural elements of Coral Gables' historic City Hall and the Intergovernmental Annex within the complex. This project will help protect the building's historic and structural integrity, and help accommodate emergency services personnel and the public during hurricanes or any other catastrophic occurrence. The interior of the Annex will also be renovated to maximize its usage and create a hub for intergovernmental activity, creating work spaces for State and County elected officials and local school board members to facilitate the public's access to essential government services at all levels in times of crisis.



UNDERLINE CONNECTIVITY PROJECT - RIVIERA DRIVE BIKE LANES AND SIDEWALKS

Requesting \$975,000 to improve pedestrian connectivity on Riviera Drive through the addition of sidewalks and bicycle infrastructure. Connectivity upgrades will provide safe travel north and south from the Underline to Bird Road, including access to the Design Innovation District and Coral Gables Senior High School.



City of Coral Gables

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