



# 2026 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



**Richard D. Lara**

Commissioner



## **PRESERVATION OF HOME RULE & PREEMPTION OF LOCAL REGULATIONS**

- » Oppose legislation that diminishes local governments' broad exercise of home rule powers pertaining to the health, welfare, safety, and quality of life of their communities.
- » Oppose legislation that creates procedural hurdles to the exercise of home rule authority, such as enacting ordinances and conducting charter referenda.

## **HOME IMPROVEMENTS & PROPERTY INSURANCE RATES**

- » Support efforts to decrease homeowners' and flood insurance rates by expanding programs like the My Safe Home Florida Program and the My Safe Florida Condominium Pilot Program, and through increased tax breaks on insurance bills.
- » Support programs that enable homeowners to harden and improve their homes affordably.

## **EXPAND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR VULNERABLE FLORIDIANS**

- » Urge the Florida Legislature to expand property tax relief for people with disabilities, Alzheimer's patients, and low-income caregivers.
- » Amend Section 197.2423, Florida Statutes, to expand eligibility for property tax deferrals to allow seniors age 65 and older, with household incomes below the threshold established for the low-income senior homestead exemption (Section 196.075, Florida Statutes), to defer property taxes even if they do not maintain extended insurance coverage—as long as the property's assessed value is greater than the amount of taxes owed for that year.
- » Support legislation to establish a cap on special assessments that may be imposed on homesteaded condominium units.

## **SCHOOL BUSES**

- » Support legislation that imposes stricter signage and traffic regulations on private school buses and vans, and on other motorists in their vicinity.

## **ZONING AUTHORITY & 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.

## **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.

## **LIVE LOCAL ACT**

- » Support collaborative solutions to address the statewide housing crisis, but oppose amendments to the Live Local Act that further preempt the City's zoning code, circumvent its public hearing processes, or mandate development incentives regarding use, height, density, and parking without consideration of compatibility with surrounding developments and neighborhoods, or the impact on existing infrastructure and the local populace.

## **STALKING STATUTE AMENDMENT**

- » Expand the stalking prohibitions in Section 784.048, Florida Statutes, to ensure application to third parties, drones, cameras, and other recording devices, and add additional protections for law enforcement officers.



## PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

- » Support legislation that prioritizes the health and protection of Biscayne Bay and allocates necessary funding for its conservation.
- » Support funding programs to implement new sewer facilities and to modernize aging infrastructure.
- » Support funding programs for septic-to-sewer conversion, especially for low-income residents.
- » Support legislation that requires inspections of residential septic tanks and sewer lines as part of real estate transactions.

## PROTECTION OF CITY'S TREE CANOPY

- » Repeal Section 163.045, Florida Statutes, which preempts the City's ability to review or prevent certain tree pruning and removal on private property.
- » Alternatively, support legislation that requires more transparent and robust risk assessments, penalizes acts of perjury, imposes a mitigation requirement for non-emergency removal, and creates exceptions for emergency tree pruning and removal necessitated by storms or accidents.

## TRANSPORTATION

- » Support funding programs that prioritize safety for all road users.
- » 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 and federal government and that addresses area-specific needs, such as traffic congestion.

## ELECTRIC BIKE AND MICROMOBILITY SAFETY

- » Support legislation that grants municipalities the authority to regulate the safety and operation of electric bicycles and similar micromobility devices.

## REDUNDANT COMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE 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 the pole is to be removed, and mandate the elimination of redundant utility poles by the pole owner.

## PROTECTING CYBERSECURITY INFORMATION

- » Oppose repeal of Section 119.0725, Florida Statutes, which protects agency cybersecurity information from public disclosure to safeguard against cybersecurity threats.

## SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

- » Support legislation that advances excellence in education by maintaining adequate funding, expanding access to rigorous academic opportunities, and strengthening the teaching profession while fostering safe learning environments to ensure Florida remains a top destination for businesses and residents to succeed.

## SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY (*Lawsuits against the government*)

- » 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, Florida Statutes.



# FUNDING

Description	Matching Fund Request	Total
GRAVITY SANITARY SEWER PIPE REHABILITATION	\$450K	\$900K
TRAFFIC CALMING AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS	\$400K	\$800K
DOWNTOWN DRAINAGE FLOOD MITIGATION	\$450K	\$900K
PONCE CORRIDOR WATERWAY FLOOD MITIGATION	\$450K	\$900K
CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE CONTINUITY: GENERATOR UPGRADES AND EMERGENCY POWER SUPPLY	\$500K	\$1M
ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION OF DEBRIS SITE MANAGEMENT	\$900K	\$1.8M





## TRAFFIC CALMING AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

This project will enhance roadway safety and accessibility for students, residents, and businesses by constructing two modern roundabouts along Menendez Avenue at the intersections of Maggiore Street and Rosaro Avenue. The improvements are particularly critical given the project's proximity (less than one mile) to Carver Elementary School and the presence of multiple businesses along the U.S. 1 corridor, where safe and efficient access is essential.

The scope of work includes, but is not limited to, roadway and drainage improvements, utility coordination, updated signing and pavement markings, and survey and geotechnical work to support the design and construction.

Collectively, these enhancements will provide safer and easier access for schoolchildren, families, and local businesses while improving overall mobility and promoting a pedestrian-friendly environment along this key corridor.



## ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION OF DEBRIS SITE MANAGEMENT

The City seeks support for the remediation and restoration of its Public Works Yard, a site previously occupied by an incinerator and now contaminated. The project involves removing hazardous materials and addressing the significant grade differential to prepare the area for safe and effective reuse. Once restored, the property will serve as a vital regional resource for debris management and trash reclamation, benefiting both the City and neighboring municipalities during disaster response and recovery efforts.

## PONCE CORRIDOR WATERWAY FLOOD MITIGATION

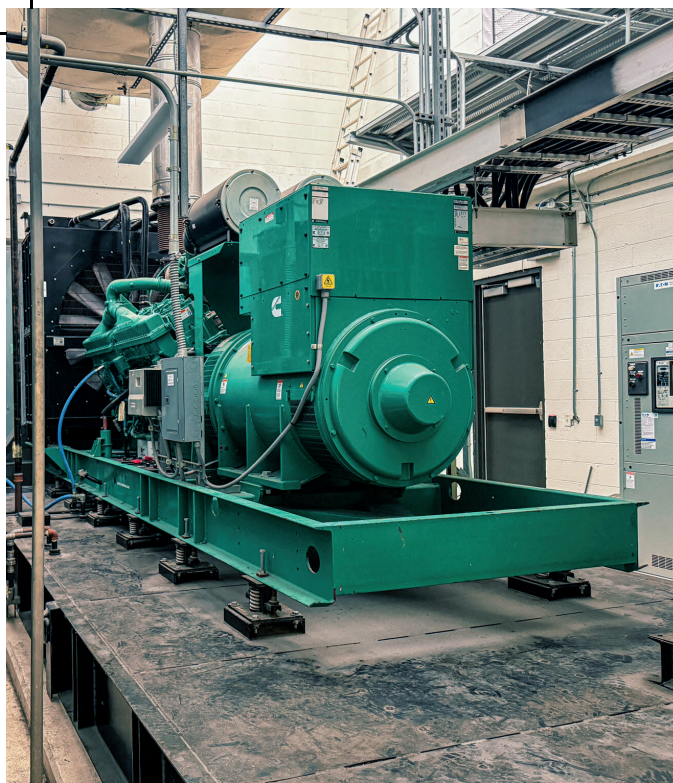
This project proposes dredging the Coral Gables Waterway in the section located approximately 100 feet north of the Ponce de Leon Boulevard Bridge and 100 feet south of the U.S. 1 Bridge. Over time, sediment buildup has reduced stormwater conveyance capacity in this area, contributing to localized flooding during heavy rain events.

By restoring channel depth and improving water flow, the dredging will reduce recurring flooding in surrounding residential and commercial areas, protect property, and improve the resiliency of the City's stormwater management system. The improvements will also provide relief for a high-traffic corridor and adjacent neighborhoods vulnerable to flooding, ensuring safer conditions for residents, businesses, and commuters.

Additionally, the increased capacity will aid in the removal of storm surge following hurricanes, accelerating recovery and reducing property damage.







## CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE CONTINUITY: GENERATOR UPGRADES AND EMERGENCY POWER SUPPLY

The City seeks funding to replace an aging propane generator and underground propane tank at the City 3 pump station, both of which present reliability and environmental concerns. Propane is difficult to obtain during emergencies, and underground tanks have a history of leakage risks.

To strengthen resilience, the City proposes upgrading to a modern diesel generator with a secure above-ground tank, ensuring a dependable fuel source during disasters. In addition, the City seeks to purchase two trailer-mounted portable generators to provide backup power at critical facilities during outages, enhancing continuity of operations and public safety.

## DOWNTOWN DRAINAGE FLOOD MITIGATION (Phase 2)

The City of Coral Gables' downtown drainage system serves more than 500 acres, yet portions of this area continue to experience recurring flooding that impacts residents, businesses, and local mobility. This project will address critical infrastructure needs by replacing aging stormwater conveyance systems with modernized drainage improvements to alleviate flooding and protect property in the downtown core.

These upgrades will significantly reduce localized flooding in the downtown area, enhancing public safety, preserving economic activity, and improving resiliency for one of Coral Gables' most heavily used corridors.



## GRAVITY SANITARY SEWER PIPE REHABILITATION

This project will rehabilitate inflow and infiltration issues within a portion of Coral Gables' sanitary sewer system. The work will include the rehabilitation of aging sewer pipes through construction methods such as cement grouting, slip-lining, cured-in-place pipe lining, fold-and-form pipe lining, pipe bursting, spot repairs, and minor pipe replacements.

Upon completion, city staff will regularly measure sewer flow volumes within the basin to ensure a significant reduction in groundwater and stormwater seepage into the system. The project's objectives are to improve the wastewater system, prevent increased treatment volumes and operating costs caused by inefficient sewer pipes, and reduce the volume of wastewater requiring treatment by Miami-Dade County.





## City of Coral Gables

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