

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

--MEMORANDUM--



The City Beautiful

TO: City Attorney

CC: City Manager, City Clerk, Chief Hudak

FROM: Commissioner Melissa Castro

DATE: January 5, 2026

SUBJECT: Request for Clarification and Production of Mutual Aid Agreements, Reports, and Related Records

I. Purpose of Request

In order to fully discharge my responsibilities as a City Commissioner and to ensure that the Commission's policy deliberations are informed by a complete and accurate understanding of the City's legal authorities, operational obligations, and fiscal exposure, I respectfully request clarification and production of information relating to law-enforcement mutual aid agreements under which the City of Coral Gables operates.

This request is intended to confirm the governing authority, statutory compliance, reporting requirements, and any enforcement-related costs associated with joint law-enforcement activities conducted pursuant to such agreements, including activities described publicly as addressing human trafficking.

II. Governing Agreements – Executed and Filed Versions

Please provide copies of the fully executed Mutual Aid Agreement(s) currently or previously in effect between the City of Coral Gables and:

- the City of Miami; and/or
- Miami-Dade County,

including all exhibits, attachments, amendments, and incorporated agreements relied upon to authorize joint law-enforcement or task-force operations.

This request is specifically for the exact versions of the agreements filed with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), as required by Florida law mandating that law-enforcement mutual aid agreements be filed within fourteen (14) days of execution.

Please include:

- the execution date of each agreement;
- the date each agreement was filed with FDLE; and
- confirmation that the copies produced are identical to the versions filed.

III. Activation, Enforcement, and Operational Context

To clarify how these agreements operate in practice, please provide information sufficient to identify:

- whether and when the agreement(s) have been activated or relied upon;
- the general scope and purpose of such activations (e.g., task force participation, proactive enforcement, ride-along activity);
- the command, supervisory, and jurisdictional framework applicable during such operations.

This information is requested at a summary level to clarify operational structure rather than to review individual enforcement decisions.

IV. Reports, Documentation, and Reporting Obligations

Please clarify what reports or documentation are required or generated when the agreement(s) are activated or relied upon, including but not limited to:

- task-force activity reports;
- operational summaries or after-action reports;
- arrest, incident, or case-tracking summaries prepared in connection with joint operations;
- reports required by statute, interlocal agreement, departmental policy, or grant conditions.

To the extent such reports have been prepared, please provide copies or identify where they are maintained.

V. Human Trafficking Enforcement Authority and Inter-Agency Responsibilities

Public statements have referenced joint law-enforcement activity related to human trafficking, which is governed by a distinct statutory and inter-agency framework involving state and federal authority.

To ensure the Commission's understanding of how such activity is authorized and coordinated, please provide clarification regarding:

- the legal authority under which human-trafficking enforcement is conducted pursuant to the mutual aid agreement(s);
- whether such activity is coordinated with, referred to, or conducted in conjunction with:
 - state agencies (including FDLE), and/or
 - federal agencies (including DHS, HSI, FBI, or DOJ task forces)
- any task-force designation, memorandum of understanding, or joint-agency protocol governing human-trafficking investigations in which Coral Gables personnel participate;
- any reporting, referral, or notification requirements triggered by suspected or observed human-trafficking activity under state or federal law

VI. Observational Participation and Ride-Along Activity

To the extent that elected officials or non-law-enforcement personnel have participated in ride-alongs or observational activities during joint operations, please clarify:

- the legal authority and policy governing such participation;
- whether such participation is documented;
- whether observational participation gives rise to any reporting, referral, or disclosure obligations when suspected criminal activity particularly human trafficking or domestic violence is observed;
- any limitations or safeguards in place to avoid interference with investigations or exposure to liability.

This clarification is requested to understand the boundaries between observation, participation, and enforcement responsibility.

VII. Forfeiture Authority, Reporting, and Fiscal Implications

Certain mutual aid agreements reference seizure and forfeiture authority pursuant to §§ 932.701–932.707, Florida Statutes (Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act).

Please clarify:

- whether forfeiture activity has occurred in connection with joint operations, including those addressing prostitution, narcotics, or human trafficking;

- what reports, filings, or judicial actions are required or generated when such authority is exercised;
- whether any forfeiture proceeds or assets have been allocated to, received by, or budgeted by the City of Coral Gables; and
- any accounting, reporting, or disclosure obligations associated with such proceeds.

VIII. Domestic Violence Authority and CAO 2021-014

I request clarification regarding domestic-violence enforcement authority as it relates to mutual aid agreements, particularly in light of CAO 2021-014, which identified a scrivener's error omitting express arrest authority for felony offenses and acts of domestic violence as defined in § 741.28, Florida Statutes, and concluded that such language required reinsertion to reflect the parties' intent.

Please clarify:

- when and how that omission was corrected in operative agreements;
- whether the corrected language appears in the versions filed with FDLE; and
- whether any reports, training, referrals, or coordination with victim-service providers are required or generated when such authority is exercised.

IX. Costs and Resource Commitments

To assist the Commission in evaluating fiscal and operational implications, please provide information sufficient to clarify:

- whether joint operations conducted under the agreements require or have required:
 - overtime expenditures,
 - specialized training (including trafficking-specific training),
 - equipment or vehicle use,
 - staffing reallocation, or
 - reimbursement between agencies
- whether any such costs are recoverable, reimbursed, or offset by forfeiture proceeds or grants; and
- whether such costs have been reported to, approved by, or incorporated into the City's budget.

X. Commission Information and Prior Disclosures

Please provide:

- any materials previously furnished to the City Commission regarding the mutual aid agreements, their activation, enforcement scope, reporting obligations, human-trafficking activity, or fiscal implications; and
- any legal memoranda or advisory opinions issued by the City Attorney's Office interpreting these matters for Commission consideration.

XI. Geographic Context

To assist in maintaining clarity in policy discussions, please clarify:

- the geographic areas covered by the relevant agreements; and
- distinctions between enforcement activity occurring within residential areas such as High Pines / Ponce-Davis and activity occurring along major corridors such as SW 8th Street.

XII. Conclusion

This request is made for purposes of clarification, completeness, and informed oversight. It is intended to ensure that the City Commission has a shared and accurate understanding of the legal authorities, inter-agency responsibilities, reporting requirements, enforcement practices, and associated costs arising from joint law-enforcement activities, including those involving human-trafficking enforcement and observational participation.

Please advise if any portion of this request would benefit from further clarification.

Respectfully,
Melissa Castro
City Commissioner
City of Coral Gables