



2023

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

City of Coral Gables

405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134
www.CoralGables.com

For more information contact:

Naomi Levi Garcia,
Assistant City Attorney/Intergovernmental Affairs Manager
nlevi-garcia@coralgables.com



CITY OF CORAL GABLES
COMMISSION



Vince C. Lago
Mayor



Michael Mena
Vice-Mayor



Rhonda Anderson
Commissioner



Jim Cason
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.

BERT HARRIS ACT

- » Oppose further 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 on the collectability of judgments against government entities 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.

VACATION RENTALS

- » Oppose legislation that would further preempt local governments from regulating vacation rentals.
- » 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.

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.

HOME-BASED BUSINESSES

- » Support repeal of HB 403 (2021), which enacted broad state preemptions on the regulation of home-based businesses via Section 559.955, Florida Statutes.
- » Preserve the City's ability to enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Florida Building Code, and Florida Fire Code as applied to home-based businesses.

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 grants and moneys directly from the State, bypassing distribution on a County level.
- » Support legislation and appropriations to fully fund the Underline Project, and the Miami-Dade SMART plan.

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.

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 eliminate the pole owner's ability to transfer ownership of the pole to the attaching entity for failure to remove attachments.

HOURLY RENTALS

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

DEMOLITION OF HISTORIC HOMES

- » Support the repeal of recent amendments to Section 553.79, Florida Statutes that preempt the City's ability to meaningfully review, restrict, or deny demolition permits for historic homes in certain flood zones that are at or below base flood elevation.

PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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

- » 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 address climate change and level the playing field for American producers and manufacturers of high carbon goods.

FUNDING

<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Match</i>
Citywide bridge repair program	\$600k	\$200k
Fire Station 4	\$1.5 million	\$7 million
Citywide roadway milling and resurfacing	\$500k	\$500k
ADA improvements to trolley stops	\$500k	\$500k
Force main replacement program	\$700k	\$700k
Venetian facility repairs	\$500k	\$500k
The Intergovernmental Annex and City Hall storm hardening \$950k	\$950k	\$950k
FRDAP GRANT for Phillips Park	\$200k	

CITYWIDE BRIDGE REPAIR PROGRAM

Requesting \$600,000 to upgrade and repair eight city-owned and maintained concrete roadway bridges to extend the service life and minimize the need for future costly repairs and/or bridge replacements and long-term bridge closures. Scope ranges from sidewalk/shoulder repairs, embankment slope protection repairs, concrete spalling and delamination repairs, repairs to rebar, cleaning and sealing asphalt and concrete cracks, joint replacement, pavement resurfacing, pressure cleaning, repair/replacement of railings/guardrails. These bridges service tens of thousands of commuters daily and are an integral part of the county's roadway network.

VENETIAN FACILITY STRUCTURAL AND SURFACE REPAIR

Seeking \$500,000 to help preserve this national historic landmark facility and major international tourist attraction and important economic engine. The funds will be used for needed repairs, renovations, and enhancements. Scope includes facility walls, surfaces, ceilings, porticos, and loggia arches. The needed renovation will also improve the natural water system currently utilized to fill and drain the vessel- preventing leaking during the fill and drain process that uses water directly from the Biscayne Aquifer. The facility delivers important community benefits for Miami-Dade by providing water safety instruction and affordable swim lessons.

FORCE MAIN REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Seeking \$700,000 to fund the force main replacement program. Improvements will prevent sanitary sewer spills and overflows from an aged sewer collection system. The aim is to replace and upgrade existing force main lines with new PVC pipes and install proper valves and features.

FIRE STATION 4

Requesting \$1.5 million for the construction of a fire station on Sunset Drive that will help reduce response times and enhance access to areas where thoroughfares are limited including seaside communities. The location's elevation will allow this facility to serve as the primary fire station south of the Gables Waterway during hurricanes, when other fire stations must evacuate due to the threat of storm surge. It is near a major nursing home and rehabilitation center.





ADA IMPROVEMENTS TO TRANSIT STOPS

Requesting \$500,000 for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements to Coral Gables trolley stop facilities along Ponce de Leon Boulevard from south of San Lorenzo Avenue to northeast of Douglas Road. The proposed features include, standard trolley signs, accessible benches, trash receptacles, shaded facilities (shelters), and bike racks. These improvements will improve rider accessibility for the more than 1.25 million yearly users and compliance with ADA. The trolley is a free transit service offering connectivity to both the Miami-Dade County Metrorail and City of Miami transit systems.



CITY HALL COMPLEX STORM HARDENING

Seeking \$950,000 for storm hardening of windows and structural elements of historic City Hall and the Intergovernmental Annex within the complex. The project will protect the historical integrity of this facility on the National Registry of Historic Places 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 and provide office space 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 time of crisis.

MILLING AND RESURFACING

Pursuing \$500,000 for an ongoing program of street resurfacing that is needed to keep city streets in a functional condition and reduce long term maintenance cost. The roadways within city limits provide access to more than 50,000 commuters who traverse the city daily. The project will help maintain traffic flow and provide uninterrupted access to critical public services such as emergency services.



