



## CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI

### CITY COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026, 7:00 PM  
CITY HALL/ COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
6130 SUNSET DRIVE  
SOUTH MIAMI, FL 33143

THE CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI HAS A SIGNIFICANT GOVERNMENTAL INTEREST IN CONDUCTING EFFICIENT AND ORDERLY COMMISSION MEETINGS. SPEAKERS PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT SECTION 2-2.1(K)(2) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES PROVIDES THAT "ANY PERSON WHO MAKES SLANDEROUS OR INTENTIONALLY RUDE, UNCIVIL OR OTHERWISE IMPERTINENT REMARKS, AND WHO REFUSES OR FAILS TO DESIST FROM MAKING SUCH REMARKS AFTER BEING INSTRUCTED TO DO SO, OR WHO SHALL BECOME BOISTEROUS IN THE COMMISSION CHAMBER AND WHO REFUSES OR FAILS TO DESIST FROM SUCH CONDUCT AFTER BEING INSTRUCTED TO DO SO MAY BE FORTHWITH REMOVED FROM THE PODIUM AND FROM CITY HALL FOR THE DURATION OF THAT MEETING AT THE DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDING OFFICER, UNLESS OVERRULED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE COMMISSION. NO CLAPPING, APPLAUDING, HECKLING, OR VERBAL OUTBURSTS SHALL BE PERMITTED FOR ANY REASON, INCLUDING FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPPORTING OR OPPOSING ANY MATTER, ANY SPEAKER OR A SPEAKER'S REMARKS. NO SIGNS OR PLACARDS SHALL BE ALLOWED TO BE DISPLAYED IN ANY MANNER OTHER THAN WHEN USED FROM THE PODIUM TO EXPRESS AN OPINION OR DISPLAY FACTS. SIGNS TO BE USED AT THE PODIUM MUST BE BROUGHT INTO THE COMMISSION CHAMBERS IN A MANNER SO AS NOT TO UNNECESSARILY DISPLAY THEIR CONTENT UNTIL THE SIGN IS BROUGHT TO THE PODIUM IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE SIGN IS DISPLAYED FROM THE PODIUM IN THE COMMISSION CHAMBER. PERSONS EXITING THE COMMISSION CHAMBER SHALL DO SO QUIETLY. THE USE OF ACOUSTIC MOBILE COMMUNICATION DEVICE, SUCH AS PHONES, IN THE COMMISSION CHAMBER IS NOT PERMITTED WHILE THE COMMISSION IS IN SESSION. PHONE RINGERS AND OTHER DEVICES THAT EMIT SOUND MUST BE SET TO SILENT MODE TO AVOID DISRUPTION OF PROCEEDINGS. INDIVIDUALS MUST EXIT THE CHAMBER TO ANSWER INCOMING CALLS. NO CAMERA FLASH OPTIONS SHALL BE USED BY THE PUBLIC DURING ANY PORTION OF THE MEETING EXCEPT DURING RECOGNITION AND AWARD CEREMONIES."

#### VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION

Members of the public may also join the meeting via Zoom at (<https://zoom.us/j/3056636338>) and participate. In addition, a dedicated phone line will be available so that any individual who does not wish (or is unable) to use Zoom, may listen to and participate in the meeting by dialing +1-786-635-1003 Meeting ID: 3056636338. The public may merely view the meeting live on the City's website: (<https://www.southmiamifl.gov/102/Agendas-Minutes>) ("Granicus") as well as Channel 667.

#### A. SILENCE OR TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES

#### B. ROLL CALL

#### C. PRAYER/MOMENT OF SILENCE

#### D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### E. PRESENTATIONS

E1. Recognition Cpl. Rodgerick Everett - Retirement after over 30 Years of Service

#### F. ADD-ON ITEM(S)

- F1. A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING APRIL AS AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH; DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO FLY THE AUTISM ACCEPTANCE FLAG BEGINNING ON APRIL 2, 2026, AND THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF APRIL; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION, CORRECTIONS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE. 3/5 (CITY MANAGER)

**Suggested action:**

[memo autism acceptance flag.docx](#)

[Autism\\_Acceptance\\_Flag\\_Resoution.docx](#)

- F2. AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, CREATING SECTION 15-75, "WORK PROHIBITED ON SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS", OF ARTICLE I "IN GENERAL", OF CHAPTER 15 "OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS" OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PROHIBIT CERTAIN ACTIVITIES ON SUNDAYS AND LEGAL HOLIDAYS; PROVIDING FOR CORRECTIONS, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, IMPLEMENTATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE. 3/5 (COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ)

[4D15869-CC\\_Memo\\_Noise\\_Ordinance-](#)

[No\\_Work\\_Requiring\\_Permit\\_On\\_Weekends\\_Holidays\\_CAv2 \(1\).docx](#)

[4D22603-Ordinance Prohibiting Work Requiring a Permit on Sundays and Holidays.docx](#)

**G. LOBBYIST(S) ADDRESSING THE CITY COMMISSION TONIGHT MUST HAVE BEEN REGISTERED WITH THE CITY CLERK**

**H. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

H1. 02.17.26

H2. 03.03.26

**I. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

I1. City Manager's Report

[3-17\\_CM Report\\_March 17\\_2026.docx](#)

**J. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

[City Attorney reminder: Remarks are limited to those matters that are not quasi-judicial. Any comment on a quasi-judicial matter may be made when the item is called and the speaker is under oath.]

**K. PUBLIC REMARKS**

**L. COMMISSION REPORTS, DISCUSSION & REMARKS**

(25 minutes)

**M. DISCUSSION ITEM(S)**

M1. RFP - Affordable Housing Development on the City's Inspection Site Property

[CC Memo RFP for Affordable Housing Inspection Site FINAL.docx](#)

[Draft - Request for Proposals - Lease and Development - Essential Affordable Housing 3-11-](#)

**N. BOARDS AND COMMITTEES, APPOINTMENTS, ETC.**

**O. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, DESIGNATING MAYOR JAVIER E. FERNÁNDEZ AS THE CITY'S DIRECTOR AND VICE MAYOR BRIAN COREY AS THE ALTERNATE DIRECTOR WITH THE MIAMI-DADE LEAGUE OF CITIES; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; CORRECTIONS; SEVERABILITY; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE. 3/5 (CITY COMMISSION)  
[Memo\\_League\\_director\\_and\\_alternate \(4\).docx](#)  
[4D13022-Reso Designating Directors to MD League of Cities 25 26.DOC](#)

**P. RESOLUTION(S)**

2. A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE PRESERVATION OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY URBAN DEVELOPMENT BOUNDARY (UDB); URGING THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO UPHOLD MAYOR DANIELA LEVINE CAVA'S VETO OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OUTSIDE THE UDB; ENCOURAGING ADVANCEMENT OF AFFORDABLE AND WORKFORCE HOUSING WITHIN THE UDB WITHOUT EXPANDING INTO ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; CORRECTIONS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE. 3/5 (VICE MAYOR COREY)  
[4CX2698-CA Memo re UDB Item.DOCX](#)  
[Resolution Urging BCC to Deny UDB Application-Updated 3-12-2026.docx](#)
3. A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PUBLIC BENEFITS TRUST FUND, AND APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE PUBLIC BENEFITS TRUST FUND POLICY, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND DIRECTING THE USE OF FUNDS IN CONNECTION WITH DEVELOPMENT BONUS PROGRAMS PURSUANT TO SECTION 20-8.8 OF THE CITY'S LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND AUTHORIZATION; CORRECTIONS; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE. 3/5 (CITY MANAGER)  
[Memo\\_-\\_Public\\_Benefits\\_Trust\\_Policy \(2\).docx](#)  
[Resolution Approving Public Benefits Trust Fund and Policy CAv2.DOCX](#)  
[4D15931-Public\\_Benefits\\_Trust\\_Policy\\_CAv2.docx](#)

**Q. RESOLUTION(S) PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

4. A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, SELECTING USI INSURANCE SERVICES LLC FOR A MULTI-YEAR TERM TO PROVIDE INSURANCE BROKERAGE SERVICES PURSUANT TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) NO. HR2026-01; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORIZATION, IMPLEMENTATION, CORRECTIONS AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE. 3/5 (CITY MANAGER-HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT.)  
[CM\\_Memo\\_Insurance Brokerage Services\\_.docx](#)  
[4D13043-Reso Selecting USI Insurance for Multi-Year Term Insurance Broker Services CAv2.DOCX](#)  
[Exhibit A-PSA for USI Insurance Services LLC.DOCX](#)

[FINAL RFP - Insurance Brokerage Services 1.9.26.pdf](#)  
[Bid Tabulation Insurance Brokerage Svcs 2.12.2026.pdf](#)  
[Final Score and Rank Insurance Brokerage Svcs 3.2.26.pdf](#)  
[RFP HR2026-01-Bid Amt Summary.xlsx](#)  
[Demand StarRFP Ins Brokerage Svcs 2.12.2026.pdf](#)  
[Sun Biz USI Insurance LLC.pdf](#)  
[USI Insurance Bidding Document.PDF](#)  
[Ad.pdf](#)

**R. ORDINANCE(S) SECOND READING(S) PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

**S. ORDINANCE(S) FIRST READING(S) PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

**T. ORDINANCE(S) FIRST READING(S)**

5. AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 20-3.6 "SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS" OF ARTICLE III "ZONING REGULATIONS," OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE TO AMEND REGULATIONS RELATED TO FENCES AND WALLS; PROVIDING FOR CORRECTIONS; SEVERABILITY; CONFLICTS; IMPLEMENTATION; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE. 3/5 (CITY MANAGER-DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPT.)  
[Fence\\_Corner\\_Lot\\_CM\\_Memo\\_-\\_02-06-2026.docx](#)  
[4D13097-Ordinance Corner Lots.DOCX](#)  
[Fence\\_Corner\\_Lot\\_Use\\_Business\\_Impact\\_Estimate\\_Form.docx](#)  
[IPL0309411.pdf](#)
6. AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 20-8.9 "STREET HIERARCHY PLAN" OF ARTICLE VIII "TRANSIT-SUPPORTIVE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT," OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE TO PROVIDE THE MANNER OF ADOPTION AND SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENT FOR THE STREETScape MASTER PLAN; ADOPTING THE STREETScape MASTER PLAN; PROVIDING FOR CORRECTIONS; SEVERABILITY; CONFLICTS; IMPLEMENTATION; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE. 3/5 (CITY MANAGER-DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPT.)  
[Streetscape Memo.docx](#)  
[Ordinance\\_Amending\\_LDC\\_Section\\_20-8.9-](#)  
[Streetscape\\_Master\\_Plan\\_And\\_Design\\_Standards.DOCX](#)  
[Exhibit A-South Miami Streetscape Master Plan.pdf](#)
7. AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 15-84, "NOISE-CREATING TOOLS, MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT," OF ARTICLE III "NOISE", OF CHAPTER 15 "OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS" OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PROHIBIT CERTAIN ACTIVITIES ON SUNDAYS AND LEGAL HOLIDAYS; PROVIDING FOR CORRECTIONS, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, IMPLEMENTATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE. 3/5 (COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ)  
[4D15869-CC Memo Noise Ordinance-No Work Requiring Permit On Weekends Holidays CAv2.DOCX](#)  
[4D15882-Noise Ordinance-No Work Requiring Permit On Weekends Holidays.DOCX](#)

8. AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, CONFIRMING THE FINDING OF NECESSITY ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, PURSUANT TO SECTION 163.355, FLORIDA STATUTES, AFTER A PUBLIC HEARING, THAT A SLUM OR BLIGHTED AREA EXISTS WITHIN THE CITY, WHICH IS GENERALLY BOUNDED BY SW 57TH AVENUE TO THE EAST, SW 76TH STREET TO THE SOUTH, SW 62ND AVENUE TO THE WEST, AND SW 62ND STREET TO THE NORTH ("AREA"), AND THAT THE REHABILITATION, CONSERVATION, OR REDEVELOPMENT, OR A COMBINATION THEREOF, OF SUCH AREA, INCLUDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOUSING WHICH RESIDENTS OF LOW OR MODERATE INCOME, INCLUDING THE ELDERLY, CAN AFFORD, IS NECESSARY IN THE INTEREST OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, MORALS, OR WELFARE OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA; CONFIRMING THE NEED FOR A COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY; CREATING THE SOUTH MIAMI COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CRA), AND DECLARING THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI, TOGETHER WITH A COUNTY COMMISSIONER, OR OTHER DESIGNEE APPOINTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, TO BE THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE SOUTH MIAMI CRA PURSUANT TO SECTION 163.357, FLORIDA STATUTES; FURTHER, DESIGNATING THE CITY MANAGER AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTH MIAMI CRA, AND THE CITY ATTORNEY AS THE GENERAL COUNSEL FOR THE SOUTH MIAMI CRA; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, IMPLEMENTATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE. 3/5 (CITY COMMISSION)

[4D05177-Memo\\_for\\_Ordinance\\_Creating\\_South\\_Miami\\_CRA.docx](#)

[4D0517402-Ordinance\\_Creating\\_South\\_Miami\\_CRA.DOCX](#)

[Exhibit A-MDC BCC Finding of Necessity Reso.pdf](#)

## U. ADJOURNMENT

PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE 286.0105, THE CITY HEREBY ADVISES THE PUBLIC THAT IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THIS BOARD, AGENCY OR COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT ITS MEETING OR HEARING, HE OR SHE WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND THAT FOR SUCH PURPOSE, AFFECTED PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED. THIS NOTICE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE CONSENT BY THE CITY FOR THE INTRODUCTION OR ADMISSION OR OTHERWISE INADMISSIBLE OR IRRELEVANT EVIDENCE, NOR DOES IT AUTHORIZE CHALLENGES OR APPEALS NOT OTHERWISE ALLOWED BY LAW.

PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION No. 246-10-13280, "ANY INVOCATION THAT MAY BE OFFERED BEFORE THE START OF REGULAR COMMISSION BUSINESS SHALL BE THE VOLUNTARY OFFERING OF A PRIVATE CITIZEN, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMISSION AND THE CITIZENS PRESENT. THE VIEWS OR BELIEFS EXPRESSED BY THE INVOCATION SPEAKER HAVE NOT BEEN PREVIOUSLY REVIEWED OR APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION, AND THE COMMISSION DOES NOT ENDORSE THE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS OR VIEWS OF THIS, OR ANY OTHER SPEAKER."

### QUASI-JUDICIAL WARNING FOR CITY COMMISSION MEMBERS:

ANY AGENDA ITEM THAT HAS A QUASI-JUDICIAL WARNING IS CONSIDERED TO BE A QUASI-JUDICIAL MATTER. MEMBERS OF THE CITY COMMISSION MAY NOT HAVE ANY VERBAL COMMUNICATION WITH ANYONE, OTHER THAN AT THE MEETING SCHEDULED TO RESOLVE THE MATTER, UNTIL THE MATTER IS RESOLVED AT A PUBLIC MEETING AND THE MEETING IS ADJOURNED. YOU ARE PROHIBITED FROM MAKING ANY INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF THIS MATTER OTHER THAN A SITE VISIT OR MAKING WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM CITY EMPLOYEES AND RECEIVING WRITTEN RESPONSES FROM THEM IN THEIR OFFICIAL CAPACITY. ALL WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND RESPONSES THERETO MUST BE FILED WITH THE CLERK AND A COPY MUST ALSO BE SENT TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING DIRECTOR IF THE MATTER INVOLVES A LAND RELATED ISSUE. YOU MAY NOT HAVE ANY VERBAL COMMUNICATION WITH CITY EMPLOYEES REGARDING THIS MATTER. YOU MAY NOT ENTER ONTO SOMEONE'S PROPERTY WITHOUT THEIR PERMISSION. FURTHERMORE, YOU MAY NOT DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE PROPERTY OWNER OR ANYONE ELSE, INCLUDING NEIGHBORS. YOU MUST, IN WRITING, ADVISE THE CLERK OF THE DATE AND TIME OF YOUR SITE VISIT AND, IF THIS MATTER INVOLVES LAND USE, YOU MUST ALSO SEND A COPY TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING DIRECTOR. ALL INFORMATION THAT YOU OBTAIN ON THIS MATTER, OTHER THAN YOUR PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS AT A SITE VISIT AND WRITTEN INFORMATION PROVIDED BY STAFF, MUST BE

PRESENTED TO YOU AT THE DULY NOTICED PUBLIC MEETING DURING WHICH THE APPLICANT SHALL BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THE APPLICATION AND ANY EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF THE APPLICATION. IF THERE IS A BREAK IN THE MEETING, YOU MAY NOT ALLOW OTHERS TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT THE MATTER OR ALLOW THEM TO PROVIDE YOU WITH ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE MATTER. IF THE MATTER REQUIRES MORE THAN ONE HEARING, YOU MAY NOT DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH ANYONE, UNTIL THE MATTER IS RESOLVED BY A FINAL WRITTEN RESOLUTION OR, IF APPLICABLE, ORDINANCE, AND, EVEN THEN, NOT UNTIL THE MEETING IS ADJOURNED. IF YOU RECEIVE AN EMAIL OR ANY WRITTEN OR PRINTED INFORMATION ABOUT THE MATTER BEFORE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE HEARING AT WHICH A FINAL DECISION IS MADE FROM ANYONE OTHER THAN CITY EMPLOYEES ACTING IN THEIR OFFICIAL CAPACITY, YOU MAY READ IT BUT YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO RESPOND TO IT AND YOU ARE REQUIRED TO IMMEDIATELY PROVIDE A COPY OF ANY WRITTEN COMMUNICATION OR DOCUMENT YOU RECEIVE CONCERNING THIS MATTER TO THE CITY CLERK, AND A COPY MUST ALSO BE SENT TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING DIRECTOR IF THE MATTER INVOLVES A LAND RELATED ISSUE. IN ADDITION, IF YOU RECEIVE ANY VERBAL, OR WRITTEN COMMUNICATION (OTHER THAN WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DELIVERED TO THE CLERK AND THE PLANNING AND ZONING DIRECTOR) YOU ARE REQUIRED TO DISCLOSE IT AT THE PUBLIC MEETING AND, IF IT WAS VERBAL, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO WRITE A MEMORANDUM THAT INCLUDES THE INFORMATION RECEIVED AND THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON PROVIDING THE INFORMATION, AS WELL AS THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE WHERE THE COMMUNICATION TOOK PLACE. THIS DOCUMENT MUST BE DELIVERED AS SOON THEREAFTER AS POSSIBLE TO THE CITY CLERK, AND IF APPLICABLE TO A LAND RELATED ISSUE, A COPY MUST ALSO BE DELIVERED TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING DIRECTOR.

**WARNING REGARDING EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS:**

“EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS” ARE WRITTEN OR VERBAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN AN ELECTED OR APPOINTED PUBLIC OFFICIAL, AND AN APPLICANT, HIS OR HER REPRESENTATIVES, OR A CITIZEN OR OTHER THIRD-PARTY OUTSIDE OF THE PUBLIC QUASI-JUDICIAL HEARING WHICH IS THE SUBJECT OF THE EXCHANGE. THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE BY THE ADOPTION OF SECTION 286.0115(1), FLORIDA STATUTES, HAS AUTHORIZED THE ADOPTION OF LOCAL ORDINANCES ALLOWING EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS IF CERTAIN PROCEDURES ARE FOLLOWED TO ENSURE THAT THE WRITTEN OR VERBAL EXCHANGE IS MADE PUBLIC, WHICH IS DESIGNED TO REMOVE ANY PRESUMPTION OF PREJUDICE THAT WOULD OTHERWISE RESULT IF THE EXCHANGE WERE KEPT PRIVATE AND NOT DISCLOSED. EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS MUST BE PUBLICLY DISCLOSED PRIOR TO OR AT THE QUASI-JUDICIAL HEARING AT WHICH THE DECISION IS TO BE MADE. ALL DECISIONS MADE AT A QUASI-JUDICIAL HEARING MUST BE BASED ON COMPETENT SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE. VERBAL EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS ARE HEARSAY, ARE NOT COMPETENT EVIDENCE, AND MAY NOT FORM THE SOLE BASIS FOR MAKING ANY QUASI-JUDICIAL DECISIONS, BUT THEY MAY BE USED TO SUPPORT OR EXPLAIN OTHER COMPETENT EVIDENCE.

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE §2-2.1, CITY CODE, THE SOUTH MIAMI CITY COMMISSION HAS ADOPTED THESE PROCEDURES TO ALLOW THE USE OF EX-PARTE COMMUNICATIONS AS FOLLOWS:

1. THE ELECTED OR APPOINTED PUBLIC OFFICIAL SHALL DISCLOSE IN WRITING THE SUBJECT OF THE COMMUNICATION AND THE IDENTITY OF THE PERSON, GROUP, OR ENTITY WITH WHOM THE COMMUNICATION TOOK PLACE, AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AFTER THE COMMUNICATION TAKES PLACE, WITH THE CITY CLERK AND MADE A PART OF THE RECORD AT THE HEARING BEFORE FINAL ACTION ON THE MATTER.
2. A LOCAL PUBLIC OFFICIAL MAY READ A WRITTEN COMMUNICATION FROM ANY PERSON. ANY WRITTEN COMMUNICATION THAT RELATES TO QUASI-JUDICIAL ACTION PENDING BEFORE A LOCAL PUBLIC OFFICIAL, SHALL NOT BE PRESUMED PREJUDICIAL TO THE ACTION, PROVIDED SUCH WRITTEN COMMUNICATION IS DISCLOSED AND MADE A PART OF THE RECORD BEFORE FINAL ACTION ON THE MATTER.
3. PUBLIC OFFICIAL MAY CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS, MAKE SITE VISITS AND RECEIVE EXPERT OPINIONS REGARDING QUASI-JUDICIAL ACTION PENDING OR IMPENDING BEFORE HIM OR HER PROVIDED THAT SUCH ACTIVITIES AND THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH INVESTIGATIONS, SITE VISITS OR EXPERT OPINIONS IS MADE A PART OF THE RECORD BEFORE FINAL ACTION IS TAKEN ON THE MATTER.
4. DISCLOSURE MADE PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPHS 1, 2 AND 3 ABOVE MUST BE MADE BEFORE OR DURING THE PUBLIC MEETING AT WHICH A VOTE IS TAKEN ON SUCH MATTERS SO THAT PERSONS WHO HAVE OPINIONS CONTRARY TO THOSE EXPRESSED IN THE EX PARTE COMMUNICATION ARE GIVEN A REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY TO REFUTE OR RESPOND TO THE COMMUNICATION.

IT IS POSSIBLE THAT IF THE STATUTE OR ORDINANCE DISCUSSED ABOVE, OR A QUASI-JUDICIAL ACTION PENDING BEFORE THE COMMISSION OR BOARD ARE CHALLENGED, THAT A COURT MIGHT FIND THAT NEITHER THE LEGISLATURE NOR THE CITY COMMISSION HAD AUTHORITY TO ENACT THESE PROCEDURES CONCERNING EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS, WHICH COULD RESULT IN THE ACTION TAKEN BEING REVERSED. YOU THUS PROCEED AT YOUR OWN RISK IN ENGAGING IN SUCH COMMUNICATIONS, AND THEY ARE NOT ENCOURAGED. THEY ARE, HOWEVER, THE POLICY OF THE LEGISLATURE AND CITY COMMISSION, AND UNTIL DETERMINED OTHERWISE BY THE LEGISLATURE OR THE COURTS, ARE LEGALLY PERMITTED BUT NOT WITHOUT POSSIBLE ADVERSE LEGAL CONSEQUENCES TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE CITY AND OTHER PARTIES.