



Governance

Vision Statement: Promote good governance, intergovernmental coordination, and public participation.

Goals, Objectives and Policies:

Goal GOV-1. Provide effective governance to City of Coral Gables citizenry, property owners, business owners and stakeholders advancing the City Commission’s mission and vision.

Objective GOV-1.1. Provide ample and effective opportunities for public participation at all levels of City of Coral Gables governance and decision-making.

Policy GOV-1.1.1. Strengthen strategies and processes to promote effective opportunities for public participation at all levels of City governance and decision-making.

Policy GOV-1.1.2. Promote public outreach and participation including but not limited to the following: workshops; public meetings; public hearings; neighborhood meetings; electronic mailings; regular mailing; newspaper advertisements; property posting; City webpage posting; cable TV; city radio; E-News electronic newsletter; citizen boards and committees.

Policy GOV-1.1.3. Enhance communication between residents, civic and cultural organizations, and the City Boards/Committees and City Commission beyond legal requirements and beyond traditional mediums, specifically by electronic media, and other easily accessible methods.

Policy GOV-1.1.4. Encourage the formation of neighborhood and civic organizations to facilitate effective participation in the community; build relationships between City staff and organizations to enhance communication between the parties with the intent of providing an additional opportunity to communicate with City staff, applicable boards/committees, and the City Commission.

Policy GOV-1.1.5. Ensure that resident’s concerns regarding incompatible or inconsistent development are addressed in conformance with established provisions of the City Code, Comprehensive Plan, and Zoning Code provisions; and coordinate with established neighborhood organizations in the planning and implementation of neighborhood improvements – such as historic preservation, infrastructure, traffic calming, landscaping, public safety, and other quality of life issues.

Objective GOV-1.2. Provide clearly defined procedures, standards and expectation for development review.

Policy GOV-1.2.1. Maintain and strengthen strategic management strategies that promote transparency, efficiency, effectiveness, ethics, accessibility and accountability in all of the City’s functions.

Policy GOV-1.2.2. Assist decision makers, applicants, and residents with improved tools to understand planning regulations, including but not limited to, use of illustration as a “form” code, citizen guides, customer oriented process improvements, design guidelines, graphics, and geographic information systems.

Policy GOV-1.2.3. Provide education for policy and decision makers, staff, and the public on all planning related matters, including but not limited to the Comprehensive Plan, other





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local, regional and state land planning requirements.

Objective GOV-1.3. Promote interdepartmental coordination.

Policy GOV-1.3.1. Develop strategies and processes for promoting a “teamwork” environment in which City leaders and administration coordinate advancement of the City Commission’s mission and vision.

Policy GOV-1.3.2. Promote efficient communication and coordination mechanisms utilizing new technologies.

Policy GOV-1.3.3. Maintain and strengthen electronic access to all City development review related documents.

Goal GOV-2. Intergovernmental coordination shall be maintained as a major means of achieving consistency among all government agencies implementing plans and programs affecting the City of Coral Gables.

Objective GOV-2.1. Coordinate and cooperate City Comprehensive Plan activities with other jurisdictions and agencies at all levels and functions of government to achieve mutually beneficial goals and objectives.

Objective GOV-2.2. Continue and improve coordination activities among government agencies with planning and impact assessment duties affecting the City, with other units of local government providing services but not having regulatory authority over the use of land, and with the comprehensive plans of adjacent municipalities, the county, and adjacent counties.

Objective GOV-2.3. Maintain and strengthen intergovernmental coordination and establish a leadership role on local, regional and state issues.

Policy GOV-2.3.1. Maintain an active program of monitoring and communication with agencies operating under the provisions of the Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Act, Chapter 163 F.S., as amended.

Policy GOV-2.3.2. Participate in community workshops and the regional planning council's informal mediation process to provide an open forum for communication and coordination of programs involving the Comprehensive Plan, and resolution of conflicts with other local governments.

Policy GOV-2.3.3. Participate in the meetings and activities within Miami-Dade County, neighboring counties and other intergovernmental planning groups/technical committees to ensure full participation in local, county, and state deliberations which may involve the City.

Policy GOV-2.3.4. Enhance intergovernmental coordination activities regarding issues involving: traffic and transportation systems improvement planning and financing; potable water distribution replacement and financing; and design aesthetics for projects within and adjacent to the City.

Policy GOV-2.3.5. The City shall participate in review and discussions with involved agencies in the potential annexation of unincorporated lands adjacent to the City.



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Policy GOV-2.3.6. The City shall continue to participate in consistent and coordinated management of local bays, estuaries and harbors that fall under the jurisdiction of more than one agency.

Policy GOV-2.3.7. The review of proposed developments shall include findings which indicate relationships of such proposed developments to the comprehensive plans of adjacent local governments.

Policy GOV-2.3.8. Ensure that the City of Coral Gables and Miami-Dade County Public Schools follow the procedures established in the adopted “amended and Restated Interlocal Agreement for Public Schools Facilities Planning in Miami-Dade County” and the Comprehensive Plan’s Educational Element and Capital Improvements Element for coordination and collaborative planning and decision making of land uses, public school facility siting, decision making on population projections, and the location and extension of public facilities subject to concurrency. The City shall execute the Interlocal Agreement with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Miami-Dade County, and other nonexempt municipalities pursuant to Section 163.3177 Florida Statutes, and the Comprehensive Plan’s Educational Element, Intergovernmental Coordination Element, and Capital Improvements Element. Coordination of the Interlocal Agreement and the City’s obligations therein, shall be achieved via participation in the established Staff Working Group of the Interlocal Agreement.

Objective GOV-2.4. Continue coordination with adjacent local governments of proposed development within and/or adjacent to the borders of the City of Coral Gables.

Policy GOV-2.4.1. The City shall ensure that the impacts of development within the City to adjacent municipalities, the county, adjacent counties, the region, and the state are addressed through coordination mechanisms. Likewise, local governments bordering Coral Gables should provide for opportunities for input by the City of Coral Gables.

Policy GOV-2.4.2. Pursue resolution of growth management, development and impact assessment issues with impacts transcending the City’s political jurisdiction. Issues of regional and state significance shall be coordinated with the South Florida Regional Planning Council, the South Florida Water Management District, and/or State agencies having jurisdictional authority. Issues to be pursued include but are not limited to the following:

- Impacts of land development activities within the City of Coral Gables on Miami-Dade County, the Cities of Miami, West Miami, South Miami, and Pinecrest, the region, the State, and any governmental entity that may be created in the future.
- Land development activities adjacent to the City’s corporate limits within Miami-Dade County or the Cities of Miami, West Miami, South Miami, and Pinecrest or any other city created in the future.
- Affordable/attainable housing programs.
- Potential annexation issues.
- Area wide drainage and storm water management master plan, proposed improvements, and implementing programs.
- Alternative water supply planning.
- Solid waste disposal, including development of new landfill facilities, recycling resources, and other improvements.
- Research, engineering, and strategies for managing level of service impacts of new development and tourism on major transportation linkages and critical intersections impacting the City and adjacent areas.



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- Transit /multi-modal transportation activities and plans.
- Public school facility planning.
- Level of service standards for infrastructure system impacting the City and adjacent areas.
- Conservation of natural and historic resources.

Policy GOV-2.4.3. The City shall coordinate all transportation improvements proposed by new development with DOT, DCA, SFRPC, Miami-Dade County, and other state and regional agencies concerned with assessing traffic impacts of proposed development.

Policy GOV-2.4.4. The City shall take a leadership role in establishing a process providing for adjoining local governments and the City to provide opportunities for input to ensure consistency related to planning and zoning matters with the intent of lessening and/or mitigating the potential objectionable impacts of development of the area.

Objective GOV-2.5. Coordination shall be undertaken in the establishment of level of service standards for public facilities with any state, regional or local entity having operational and maintenance responsibility for such facilities.

Policy GOV-2.5.1. The City shall coordinate with state, regional or local entities having operational and maintenance responsibility for public facilities for which the Level of Service standards are being established to ensure mutually compatible and equitable standards.

Policy GOV-2.5.2. Coordination activities pursuant to the Goals, Objectives and Policies in this Element shall include consideration for equitable Level of Service standards for facility and service delivery systems consistent with the provisions of this plan.

Policy GOV-2.5.3. Coordinate with Miami-Dade County Public Schools and other parties to the adopted Interlocal Agreement for Public Schools Facilities Planning to establish, promote, and achieve Level of Service standards for public school facilities and any amendments affecting public school concurrency.

Goal GOV-3. Provide for monitoring and evaluation schedule of intergovernmental coordination activities.

Objective GOV-3.1. Ensure that monitoring and evaluation of intergovernmental coordination activities is accomplished pursuant to this objective.

Policy GOV-3.1.1. The City shall engage in reviews of measurable objectives concurrent with the amendment cycle. Other appropriate scheduled reviews may be conducted but not less than biennially. These shall include the following issues:

- Regular monitoring of coordination activities via participation in the meetings and activities of the Miami-Dade Planners Technical Committee (PTC).
- Informal agreements or an enacted ordinance providing for mutual exchange of notice and information about proposed future land use and/or zoning map changes within an area to be determined as a significant distance from any unincorporated or Coral Gables municipal boundary.
- Regular monitoring of coordination activities involving public school facility planning via participation in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Staff Working Group (SWG).
- Assist the South Florida Regional Planning Council in identifying regional issues



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affecting the City and providing appropriate City participation in their analysis and resolution.

- Execute Interlocal agreements for municipal servicing of unincorporated enclave areas where appropriate.
- As required pursuant to Chapter 163, F.S., as amended.

Objective GOV-3.2. The comprehensive planning process is continuous and dynamic in nature. Maintaining the effectiveness of the plan requires its periodic review. This program, required under 9J-5.005 (7) FAC, as amended, provides orderly procedures for monitoring, updating and evaluation of the plan and attendant Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) (163.3191, F.S., as amended). For the purpose of monitoring, evaluating and appraising the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan, a five-year program for monitoring, updating and evaluation shall be followed. More detailed procedures shall be adopted by the City to direct the ongoing activity.

Policy GOV-3.2.1. All chapters of the Comprehensive Plan shall be evaluated and updated in accordance with the EAR process.

Policy GOV-3.2.2. The Capital Improvements Element shall be reviewed and updated on an annual basis in accordance with State requirements.

Policy GOV-3.2.3. The public shall be encouraged to participate in the evaluation process by the holding of at least one workshop prior to the preparation of the EAR, at which public comments and recommendations regarding the Comprehensive Plan shall be received for consideration during the preparation of the EAR. Notice of such workshop shall be by advertisement at least one week prior to the date of such meeting. At least one advertised Public Hearing shall be held by the Local Planning Agency (LPA) prior to the LPA recommending the EAR to the City Commission for their consideration, amendment and adoption. At least one advertised Public Hearing shall be held by the City Commission prior to adoption of the EAR.

Policy GOV-3.2.4. Updating appropriate baseline data and measurable objectives to be accomplished for each five (5) year period of the plan, and for long-term periods as necessary, shall be undertaken at intervals appropriate to the subject area of analysis, but no less frequently than every five (5) years. Administrative procedures shall be adopted to define the local monitoring and data maintenance to be conducted.

Policy GOV-3.2.5. Accomplishments in the first five (5) year period, describing the degree to which the goals, objectives and policies have been successfully reached, shall be identified and reported.

Policy GOV-3.2.6. Obstacles or problems which resulted in under-achievement of goals, objectives, or policies shall be identified and reported.

Policy GOV-3.2.7. New or modified goals, or policies needed to correct discovered problems shall be identified and reported.

Policy GOV-3.2.8. A means of ensuring continuous monitoring and evaluation of the plan during the five (5) year period shall be identified and reported.