



**City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
December 10, 2019**

ITEM TITLE:

Ordinance on First Reading: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES CODE BY CREATING SECTION 82-8 "APPLICATION OF FERTILIZER" IN CHAPTER 82- VEGETATION, ARTICLE 1- IN GENERAL; PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER PROVISION, SEVERABILITY CLAUSE, CODIFICATION, ENFORCEABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE (Sponsored by Commissioner Keon)

BRIEF HISTORY:

Excessive and improper use of fertilizers contributes to adverse effects on surface and ground water, and excessive nutrients from fertilizer run off can lead to algae blooms and cause harm to aquatic vegetation and wildlife. Recognizing that it is in the best interest of the public health, safety, and welfare of the City's residents and visitors to reduce runoff from improperly applied fertilizers in the waters of the City, the City Commission is considering an ordinance to prohibit the application of fertilizers containing nitrogen and phosphorous during a certain time period each year. The prohibited application period would run from June 1 to September 30 each year, and whenever the City is under a tropical storm or hurricane watch or warning. Various facilities, including golf courses and athletic fields, as well as lands used for bona fide scientific research or farm operations will be exempt from the ordinance, provided that the fertilizers are applied following Florida Department of Environmental Protection and/or Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services best management practices.

The City's Landscape Beautification Advisory Board, Waterways Advisory Board, and Sustainability Advisory Board all reviewed the proposed Ordinance. All three boards expressed their support for the Ordinance. The draft meeting minutes for two of the Boards are attached to this item.

1. **Proposed Ordinance**
2. **Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting Draft Minutes 10-23-19**
3. **Landscape Beautification Advisory Board Meeting Draft Minutes 11-7-19**