

ORDINANCE No. 2025-11

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, AMENDING ARTICLE VII, "CODE OF ETHICS," IN CHAPTER 2, "ADMINISTRATION," OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES, BY AMENDING SECTION 2-385, "IMPROPER INFLUENCE BY IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS"; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, on September 14, 2022, the Mayor and City Council passed and adopted Ordinance 2022-18, in order to enforce a prohibition on improper influence by immediate family members of the mayor, city council, charter officials, legislative aides and employees; and

WHEREAS, many of the prohibitions described in Ordinance 2022-18 are included with greater detail in Miami-Dade County's Code of Ethics, which is binding law on the City of Doral's (the "City") elected officials, officers and employees; and

WHEREAS, included in Ordinance 2022-18, is the creation of Section 2-385 (b), which provides for greater restrictions than those required by Miami Dade County's Code of Ethics; and

WHEREAS, although the City has expansive constitutional and statutory home rule powers to pass legislation that promotes high ethical standards, it must be careful not to trample on the constitutional and statutory rights of individuals to conduct business and access local government services; and

WHEREAS, in order to balance the City's interest with the personal constitutional rights of its citizenry, the Mayor and City Council find that it is in the City's best interest to strike Section 2-385 (b), and instruct all immediate family members of the mayor, city

council, charter officials, legislative aides and employees to conduct any business or transaction made with the City in accordance with Miami-Dade County's Code of Ethics.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS

Section 1. Recitals. The foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a part of this Ordinance upon adoption hereof.

Section 2. Amending Chapter 2, Article VII, Division 2, Sections 2-385 and 2-386 as follows:

CHAPTER 2 ADMINISTRATION

ARTICLE VII. – STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND CODE OF ETHICS

DIVISION 2. – CODE OF ETHICS

Sec. 2-385. Improper influence by immediate family members.

- (a) The immediate family members of the mayor, city council, charter officials, legislative ~~aids~~ aides of the city and employees are hereby prohibited from directly or indirectly influencing, or attempting to influence, the decision and/or official act of any city staff which would bring pecuniary and/or other direct personal benefit.
- ~~(b) The immediate family member of the mayor, city council, charter official, legislative aid aide or department head of the city shall not make an agreement for, charge, or collect fees for processing or expediting administrative approvals in the city.~~
- (b) The immediate family members of the mayor, city council, charter officials, legislative aids of the city and employees shall transact with the City in accordance with Miami-Dade County Code of Ethics.

Section 3. Conflicts. All ordinances, or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith be, and the same, are hereby repealed.

Section 4. Severability. If any section, subsection, clause or provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder shall not be affected by such invalidity.

Section 5. Incorporation into the Code. It is the intention of the Mayor and the City Council, that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and made a part of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Doral, and that the sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such intentions.

Section 6. Effective Date This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage by the City Council on second reading.

The foregoing Ordinance was offered by Councilmember Reinoso who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Pineyro upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Mayor Christi Fraga	Yes
Vice Mayor Maureen Porras	No
Councilwoman Digna Cabral	No
Councilman Rafael Pineyro	Yes
Councilwoman Nicole Reinoso	Yes

PASSED AND ADOPTED on FIRST READING this 12 day of February, 2025.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on SECOND READING this 12 day of March, 2025.

CHRISTI FRAGA, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CONNIE DIAZ, MMC
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY
FOR THE USE AND RELIANCE OF THE CITY OF DORAL ONLY:

LORENZO COBIELLA
GASTESI, LOPEZ, MESTRE & COBIELLA, PLLC
CITY ATTORNEY

CODING: Additions to existing text are shown by underline, changes to existing text on second reading are shown by double underline, and deletions are shown as ~~strike through~~.