



Memorandum

Date: September 11, 2024

To: Mayor Christi Fraga
Vice Mayor Oscar Puig Corve
Councilwoman Digna Cabral
Councilman Rafael Pineyro

From: Councilwoman Maureen Porras

Subject: **Municipal Sponsorship Donations (Books For You Miami and Carnaval de Barranquilla Miami USA)**

Introduction:

Pursuant to Section 2-79 of the City Code of Ordinances on Municipal Sponsorships, I am respectfully requesting support for a donation of \$1,00.00 (each) to two nonprofit organizations, Books For You Miami, and Carnaval de Barranquilla Miami USA.

A donation to "Books For You Miami" and "Carnaval de Barranquilla Miami USA" will enhance Doral's community by supporting educational initiatives, promoting cultural heritage, and providing essential resources, which align with Doral's values of compassion, knowledge, and community well-being. A description of each organization is included below.

Books For You Miami:

Books For You Miami is a nonprofit organization founded by Alejandro Barriga in March 2020. The organization was created in response to the critical need for access to educational materials for children and communities in underserved areas. Since its inception, Books For You Miami has redistributed over 200,000 books and educational materials, impacting over 400,000 individuals both locally in South Florida and internationally.

The organization has mobilized over 200 volunteers across Miami-Dade and Broward counties who have played an essential role in sorting, organizing, and distributing these materials. Through its efforts, Books For You Miami has extended its reach to countries such as Honduras, Guatemala, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, and more.

Locally, the organization has collaborated with cities and institutions including the City of Doral, and various schools and tutoring centers. These collaborations have strengthened the community by providing much-needed educational support and resources.

The mission of Books For You Miami is to ensure equitable access to educational resources by redistributing donated and purchased books and materials to communities, schools, and organizations in need at local, state, and international levels. Their vision includes supporting bilingual programs abroad, creating new opportunities for children, and fostering collaboration and community through educational initiatives.

I strongly believe that investing in Books For You Miami is an investment in improving and enriching our entire community by fostering educational growth and social responsibility.

Carnaval de Barranquilla Miami USA:

Carnaval de Barranquilla Miami USA is a nonprofit organization that has been promoting and celebrating the rich traditions of Barranquilla's Carnival in South Florida since 1997. The Carnival is not only a cultural festivity but also a platform for social inclusion, particularly for special needs individuals, who are fully integrated into the events. For the past four years, the organization has crowned a "King Momo Especial," a special needs participant who takes part in all Carnival activities. The foundation provides free classes and support, fostering the social and personal development of these participants while preserving and promoting Colombian cultural heritage.

Recognized by UNESCO as a "Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity," the Carnival is much more than just a celebration—it is a reflection of the cultural soul of a people. Here in Miami, the Carnival attracts thousands of attendees annually, with events that include vibrant parades, traditional music and dance performances, and the colorful "Grand Parada," bringing the essence of Barranquilla to life.

With this donation, we will support Carnaval de Barranquilla Miami USA in continuing its mission to provide essential services, ensuring the full inclusion of special needs participants, and bringing Colombian culture to a broader audience.

Fiscal Impact:

Each member of the City Council is allocated \$5,000 annually to sponsor events that benefit the community and uphold the City's mission. The proposed sponsorship will total the amount of \$2,000.

Recommendation

I ask my colleagues to support this item. Thank you in advance for your support.