

ORDINANCE No. 2025-34

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 2, “ADMINISTRATION” ARTICLE VII “STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND CODE OF ETHICS”; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, in November 2024, the City of Doral (the “City”) citizenry voted to create the office of Inspector General as a chartered office entrusted with carrying out investigations of charter, ethics and other related matter violations; and

WHEREAS, the City’s Code, Article VII., Standards of Conduct and Code of Ethics pre-dated the November 2024 City of Doral Charter Amendment, and provided for an alternative form of enforcement; and

WHEREAS, during the August 13, 2025 City Council Meeting, the Mayor and City Council adopted a “Truth in Advertising” policy, aimed at curtailing the dissemination of false advertising using City produced media regarding public events for personal gain; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of the enclosed Ordinance amends the City’s “Standards of Conduct and Code of Ethics” to provide for incorporation of the City’s Truth in Advertising policy, and provides for enforcement of the City’s Code by the Inspector General.

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

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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, Standards of Conduct and Code of Ethics.

ARTICLE VII. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND CODE OF ETHICS

Sec. 2-370. Definitions.

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this article, except where otherwise provided or the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Attitude means the manner in which one shows one's dispositions, opinions, and feelings.

Behavior means external appearance or action; manner of behaving; carriage of oneself.

Business entity is defined as "a sole proprietorship, partnership, firm, corporation, holding company, joint-stock company, receivership, trust, or any other entity recognized by law."

Civility means politeness, consideration, courtesy.

Conduct means the way one acts; personal behavior.

Contracting officer is the person(s) appointed by client to oversee the development of the project and responsible for awarding contracts to subcontractors.

Contractor means a contractor licensed under F.S. Chapter 489 appointed by the client to carry out construction work.

Courtesy means politeness connected with kindness.

Decorum means suitable; proper; good taste in behavior.

Employees means all personnel employed by the city.

Grandstanding means utilizing public meeting time ostentatiously and hampering the efficient conduct of business.

Immediate family means a spouse, domestic partner, parents, stepparents, children, and stepchildren of the person involved.

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Manners means a way of acting; a style, method, or form; the way in which things are done.

Point of order means an interruption of a meeting to question whether rules or bylaws are being broken, such as the speaker has strayed from the motion currently under consideration.

Point of personal privilege means a challenge to a speaker to defend or apologize for comments that a fellow member considers offensive.

Propriety means conforming to acceptable standards of behavior.

Protocol means the courtesies that are established as proper and correct.

Public disruption means behavior that disrupts the proceedings in a manner obviously hostile to the purpose of the meeting.

Public official means any appointed or elected official and specifically includes, but is not limited to, the mayor and city council, and all board and committee members.

Real estate developer means a company or individual who finds and buys land suitable for their project, obtains the necessary regulatory approvals, improves it accordingly, and builds on it.

Subcontract means a subcontract awarded directly by the contracting officer which includes but is not limited to real estate developer, architect, engineer or the contractor for the purpose of acquiring supplies or services (including construction) for performance of a prime contract for a development construction related service. It does not include the contractor's supplier agreements with vendors, such as long-term arrangements for materials or supplies that benefit multiple contracts and/or the costs of which are normally applied to a contractor's general and administrative expenses or indirect costs.

Subcontractor means a business entity awarded a portion of an existing contract by the prime contractor and performs a portion of work or services for a contractor or for another subcontractor including subdisciplines and trades associated with development and construction related services.

Sec. 2-371. Declaration of policy.

- (a) High moral and ethical standards among public officials, both elected and appointed, and public employees are essential to gain and maintain the confidence of the public because such confidence is essential to the conduct of free government. They are the agents of the people and hold their positions for the benefit of the people. The proper operation of democratic government requires that public officials be independent and impartial when establishing policy and that their positions never be used for personal gain.

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- (b) All elected and appointed officials, city employees, and others who participate in the city's government are required to subscribe to this chapter and the conflict of interest and code of ethics ordinance codified as subsection 2-11.1 of the Code of Miami-Dade County. All elected and appointed officials, city employees, and others who participate in the city's government are required to understand how those ordinances apply to their specific responsibilities. All elected and appointed officials shall receive a copy of this article and certify to the city clerk that they will subscribe to the standards delineated in this article when carrying out their responsibilities.

DIVISION 1. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Sec. 2-372. Minimum standards.

- (a) This article is designed to address the manner in which public officials should treat one another, city staff, constituents, and others they come into contact with in representing the city.
- (b) Public officials are called upon to exhibit appropriate behavior at all times. Demonstrating respect for each individual through words and actions is the touchstone that can help guide public officials to take appropriate actions even in the most difficult situations. The city's code of conduct includes the following minimum standards.
 - (1) Uphold the United States and Florida Constitutions, laws and regulations and the city's Charter, ordinances and regulations, and never knowingly be a party to their evasion.
 - (2) Place the city's rules, codes and interests ahead of any group or individual interests or concerns. No public official shall put individual concerns or interests before those of the city and this Code, before, during or after making a recommendation or a decision on a pending application.
 - (3) Seek to find and use the most equitable, efficient, effective and economical means for getting tasks accomplished, and not unnecessarily burdening staff with time consuming, unnecessary or frivolous requests related to personal concerns or individual points of view.
 - (4) Adopt policies (and programs, as applicable) that support the rights and recognize the needs of all citizens regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, creed, country of origin or disability. Avoid adopting policies (or supporting programs) or engaging in activities that discriminate against or offend individuals because of race, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, creed, country of origin or disability.
 - (5) Ensure the integrity of the actions of each board, committee or the city council by avoiding discrimination through the dispensing of special favors, or unfair privileges to anyone, whether for remuneration or not.
 - (6) Make no private promises of any kind binding upon the duties of any office, since a public official is a public servant, and should have no private work which can be binding on public duty.

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- (7) Do not take public positions or engage in any activity that advocates or supports an applicant, group, organization, business or position on any matter or issue that will come before your respective board or committee. No appointed public official shall advocate, lobby, or take any action involving the community or the city council on an item that has been considered or is to be heard by that appointed public official's board or committee. The appointed board or committee, as a whole, shall issue a recommendation in its official capacity to the city council. The individual appointed board or committee members shall not advocate to the public, or appear before the city council on an item upon which their respective board or committee will consider or has considered, as doing so would provide an appearance of undue influence, bias and improper conduct. An appointed public official may only appear before the city council on matters considered or to be considered by their respective board or committee if specifically invited by the council to do so. Appointed public officials may, however, appear before the city council on all other city business.
- (8) Never use any information gained confidentially in the performance of governmental duties as a means of making private profit.
- (9) Expose through appropriate means and channels, corruption, misconduct or neglect of duty whenever discovered.
- (10) Adhere to the principle that the public's business should be conducted consistent with the Sunshine Law and following the letter and spirit of the Sunshine Law by using closed meetings only to deal with certain legal and labor matters as provided under state law.
- (11) Avoid using a position of public trust to gain access to the media or the dais for the purposes of criticizing colleagues, other public officials, citizens or staff, impugning their integrity or vilifying their personal beliefs.
- (12) Make sure, when responding to the media, or to public comments, that a clear distinction is made between personal opinion or belief and a decision made by the applicable board, committee or city council.
- (13) Pledge to honor and uphold these principles, ever conscious that public office (whether appointed or elected) is a public trust.

Sec. 2-373. City meetings.

- (a) The mayor will chair official meetings of the city council, unless the vice-mayor or another council member is designated as chair of a specific meeting. The chair maintains order, decorum, and the fair and equitable treatment of all speakers, keeps discussion and questions focused on specific agenda item under consideration, and makes parliamentary rulings with advice, if requested, from the city attorney who acts as an advisory parliamentarian. Chair rulings may be overturned if a council member makes a motion as an individual and the majority of the council votes to overrule the

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chair. These rules of decorum supplement and enhance the city's meeting procedures ordinance found elsewhere in this Code.

- (b) The board or committee chairman will chair official meetings of their respective board or committee, unless the vice-chair or another member is designated as chair of a specific meeting. The meeting chair maintains order, decorum, and the fair and equitable treatment of all speakers, keeps discussion and questions focused on the specific agenda item under consideration, and makes parliamentary rulings with advice, if requested, from the board attorney (where applicable) who acts as an advisory parliamentarian. Chair rulings may be overturned if a member makes a motion as an individual and majority of the board votes to overrule the chair.

Sec. 2-374. Rules of decorum.

- (a) All public officials shall practice civility and decorum in discussions and debate. Difficult questions, tough challenges to a particular point of view, and criticism of ideas and information are legitimate elements of a free democracy in action. This does not allow, however, public officials to make belligerent, personal, impertinent, slanderous, threatening, abusive, or disparaging comments. No shouting or physical actions that could be construed as threatening will be tolerated.
- (b) All public officials shall honor the role of the chair in maintaining order. It is the responsibility of the chair to keep the comments of council members or board members on track during public meetings. Public officials shall honor efforts by the chair to focus discussion on current agenda items and to halt nonproductive grandstanding. If there is disagreement about the agenda or the chair's actions, those objections shall be voiced politely and with reason, following procedures outlined in parliamentary procedure.
- (c) Avoid personal comments that could offend other persons. If an individual member of the council, board or committee is personally offended by the remarks of another member the offender public officials shall make notes of the actual words used and call for a point of personal privilege that challenges the offending member to justify or apologize for the language used. The chair will maintain control of this discussion.
- (d) The city council and each public board and committee has a public stage to show how individuals with disparate points of view can find common ground and seek a compromise that benefits the community as a whole.
- (e) Public officials should refer to one another formally during public meetings by their official titles followed by the individual's last name.

Sec. 2-375. Correspondence signatures.

- (a) Public officials do not need to acknowledge the receipt of correspondence, or copies of correspondence, during council meetings or other official city meetings. City staff

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will prepare official letters in response to public inquiries and concerns. If correspondence is addressed only to one public official, that public official should check with staff on the best way to respond to the sender. At all times, public officials will make sure to comply with the city's quasi-judicial procedures, comply with the Jennings Rule, and adhere to the state's Sunshine Laws.

- (b) Public officials are to check with city staff on correspondence before taking action. Before sending correspondence, public officials should check with city staff to see if an official city response has already been sent or is in progress.

Sec. 2-376. Conduct with city staff.

Governance of a city relies on the cooperative efforts of all public officials. The city council sets policy and the city manager, together with city staff, implements and administers the council's policies. To allow proper governance and to ensure noninterference with the city manager's application or implementation of the city council's policies, public officials shall comply with the following guidelines:

- (1) Public officials shall treat all staff as professionals with clear, honest communication that respects the abilities, experience and the dignity of each individual is expected. Public officials shall maintain an attitude of courtesy and consideration toward all colleagues, public officials and staff during all discussions and deliberations.
- (2) Questions/inquiries to city staff:
 - a. General public official communications with city staff should be limited to normal city business hours unless the circumstances warrant otherwise. Responses to public official questions posed outside of normal business hours should be expected no earlier than the next business day.
 - b. Routine requests for information and inquiries. Public officials may contact staff directly for information made readily available to the general public on a regular basis (e.g., "What are the library's hours of operation?"). Under these circumstances staff shall treat the public official no differently than they would the general public, and the public official shall not use his elected or appointed status to secure preferential treatment. The city Manager does not need to be advised of such contacts.
 - c. Nonroutine requests for readily available information. A public official may also contact staff directly for easily retrievable information not routinely requested by the general public so long as it does not require staff to discuss the issue or express an opinion (e.g., "How many traffic lights are there in the city?").
 - d. Nonroutine requests requiring special effort. Any public official request or inquiry that requires staff to compile information that is not readily available or easily retrievable and/or that requests staff to express an opinion (legal or otherwise) must be directed to the city manager, (e.g., "Please provide a matrix reconciling data from various traffic and parking studies in Hometown Overlay District"). The city manager shall be responsible for distributing

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such requests to his staff for follow-up. Responses to such requests shall be copied to all public officials on the board, the city manager, the city attorney as appropriate and affected department heads. The procedure outlined in this subsection does not preclude a public official from making a public records request under F.S. ch. 119.

- e. Meeting requests. Any public official request for a meeting with staff must be directed to the city manager. When in doubt about the appropriateness of a communication with staff, public officials shall ask the city manager for advice.
 - f. Public safety restrictions. Under certain circumstances, requests for information regarding operations or personnel of the department of public safety may be legally restricted under state law to protect minors, certain victims and law enforcement officers and their investigations. Accordingly, it shall be the policy of the city to strictly comply with all applicable legal authorities governing the release of public safety information and records.
- (3) Do not disrupt city staff from their jobs. Public officials should not disrupt city staff while they are engrossed in performing their job functions in order to have their individual needs met.
 - (4) Never publicly criticize an individual employee. Public officials shall never express concerns about the performance of a city employee in public, to the employee directly, or to the employee's manager. Comments about staff performance should only be made to the city manager through private correspondence or conversation.
 - (5) Public officials shall not become involved in administrative functions. Public officials shall not attempt to influence city staff on the making of appointments, awarding of contracts, selecting of consultants, processing of development applications, or granting of city licenses and permits.
 - (6) Public officials shall not attend meetings with city staff unless requested by staff. This restriction does not apply to board or committee members sitting in on meetings concerning matters that do not come before their respective boards or committees for consideration.
 - (7) Requests for staff support shall be made to the city manager who is responsible for allocating city resources.
 - (8) Public officials shall not solicit political support from staff. Public officials should not solicit any type of political support (financial contributions, display of posters or lawn signs, name on support list, etc.) from city staff. City staff may, as private citizens with constitutional rights, support political candidates but all such activities must be done away from the workplace.

Sec. 2-377. Conduct with members of the public.

- (a) Make no promises on behalf of the entire body. Public officials will frequently be asked to explain an action of the body or to give their opinion about an issue as they meet and talk with constituents in the community. It is appropriate to give a brief overview of city policy and to refer to city staff for further information. It is inappropriate to overtly or implicitly promise action by the body, or to promise city staff will do something specific (fix a pothole, remove a library book, plant new flowers in the median, etc.).
- (b) Make no personal comments about other public officials. It is acceptable to publicly disagree about an issue, but it is unacceptable to make derogatory comments about other public officials, their opinions and actions.

(c) No Councilmember shall engage in misinformation regarding authorship or sponsorship of City originated events for purposes of promoting their office or their person.

Sec. 2-378. Conduct with other public agencies.

- (a) Public officials should be clear about representing the city, a board of the city or personal interests. If a public official appears before another governmental agency or organization or meets with the agency representative or staff to give a statement on an issue, the public official must clearly state:
 - (1) If his statement reflects personal opinion or is the official stance of the city;
 - (2) Whether this is the majority or minority opinion of the body he represents. If the public official is representing the city, the public official must support and advocate the official city position on an issue, not a personal viewpoint.
- (b) Correspondence also should be equally clear about representation. City letterhead may be used when the public official is representing the city and the city's official position. A copy of official correspondence should be given to the city clerk to be filed in the council office as part of the permanent public record. It is best that city letterhead not be used for correspondence of public officials representing a personal point of view or a dissenting point of view from an official city council or city board position. However, should public officials use city letterhead to express a personal opinion, the official city position must be stated clearly so the reader understands the difference between the official city position and the minor viewpoint of the public official.

Sec. 2-379. Conduct with boards and councils.

- (a) Public officials may generally attend any public meeting, which are always open to any member of the public. There are specific exceptions in the case of quasi-judicial

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proceedings. If in doubt, the official should seek guidance from the city attorney's office. However, public officials should be sensitive to the way their participation could be viewed as unfairly affecting the process. No public comments by an appointed public official at a city council meeting may be made where the board or committee's recommendation is presented, unless that board or committee member is specifically invited to speak by the mayor or by the council.

- (b) It is inappropriate for a public official to contact a committee, board or council member to lobby on behalf of businesses or developers. Nor is it acceptable for public officials to contact board or council members in order to clarify a position taken by their respective committee, board or council. Any such contact should occur in compliance with this section and the state's Sunshine law requirements.

Sec. 2-380. Council conduct with the media.

Public officials are frequently contacted by the media for background and quotes. Most members of the media represent the highest levels of journalistic integrity and ethics and can be trusted to keep their word. But one bad experience can be catastrophic. Words that are not said cannot be quoted. In order to effectively respond to the media and wider community the mayor is the official and only spokesperson and representative of the city's position. The mayor is the designated representative of the council to present and speak on the official city position. The mayor shall have the authority to appoint a council member to act as spokesperson. If an individual public official is contacted by the media, the public official should specifically state that their comments are personal viewpoints. The public official should choose words carefully and cautiously to ensure that he or she does not misinform the public. Comments taken out of context can cause problems. Be especially cautious about humor, sardonic asides, sarcasm, or word play. It is never appropriate to use personal slurs or swear words when talking with the media. Council members who intentionally and repeatedly fail to comply with this section may be reprimanded or formally censured by the council.

Sec. 2-381. Sanctions.

- (a) *Public disruption.* Members of the public who do not follow proper conduct after a warning in a public hearing shall be barred from further testimony at that meeting or removed from the Council chambers.
- (b) *Inappropriate staff behavior.* Public officials should refer to the city manager any city staff who do not follow proper conduct in their dealings with council members, board members, other city staff, or the public. These employees may be disciplined in accordance with standard city procedures for such actions.
- (c) *Public officials' behavior and conduct.* Public officials who intentionally and repeatedly do not follow proper conduct may be reprimanded or formally censured by the council. Serious infractions of the code of ethics or code of conduct could lead to other sanctions as deemed appropriate by the council and as provided under law.

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Failure of an appointed public official to comply with the city's, county's and state's ethics codes shall result in removal of the public official.

- (d) *Appointed public officials.* Violation of this article by an appointed public official, for a first offense, shall result in sanctions which sanctions may include removal of the appointed public official from the board or committee. A second violation of this code by an appointed public official shall result in removal of that appointed public official from the board or committee.

DIVISION 2. CODE OF ETHICS

Sec. 2-382. Fair and equal treatment.

- (a) *Impartiality.* No official or employee shall request, use or permit the use of any consideration, treatment, advantage or favor beyond that which it is the general practice to grant or make available to the public at large.
- (b) *Use of public property.* No official or employee shall use his position to request, use or permit the use of any city-owned or city-supported property, vehicle, equipment, material, labor or service for the personal convenience or the private advantage of himself or of any other person. This rule shall not be deemed to prohibit an official or employee from requesting, using or permitting the use of such publicly-owned or publicly-supplied property, vehicle, equipment, material, labor or service which it is the general practice to make available to the public at large or which are provided as a matter of stated public policy for the use of officials and employees in the conduct of official business.

Sec. 2-383. Improper influence of advisory board members by mayor and council members.

The mayor and council members of the city are hereby prohibited from directly or indirectly influencing, or attempting to influence, the decision and/or official act of any member of any advisory board of the city which would bring pecuniary and/or other direct personal benefit to the influencing council member.

Secs. 2-384. Business entity code of business ethics and conduct.

The city will not contract or transact business with a person, corporation, partnership, firm or other business entity in the event of a conflict of interest under state or local law if: (1) neither an exemption nor opportunity to waive the conflict of interest exists; or (2) an opportunity to waive the conflict exists, but the city does not waive it. If a conflict of interest is waivable, the city council shall have the sole authority for waiving it.

Business entities. Vendors shall be familiar and comply with all applicable conflict of interest legal requirements including Florida's Code of Ethics for Public Officers, F.S. Chapter 112, Part III, Section 2-11.1., Conflict of Interest Ordinance, Code of Miami Dade County.

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Applicability and reporting requirements. All persons, corporations, partnerships, firms or other business entities transacting business with the city shall be familiar and comply with local and state conflict of interest laws, nepotism, ordinances, policies or directives (hereinafter "conflict of interest law").

Compulsory disclosure by firms doing business with the city or in the city. In order to ensure that the city and all business entities conduct business with the city do so according to the highest standards of ethics, the city has established reasonable procedures designed to prevent and detect conflicts of interest. The city is committed to avoiding conflicts of interest and maintaining interactions with business entities seeking city council approval in a fully transparent manner. Accordingly, requiring the full disclosure of principals, companies and subcontractors minimizes the potential for conflicts of interest.

Any business entity which has business commitments to or from the city through solicitations, contracts, and orders for services or is working on a project in the city that may go before the city council for approval shall comply with the disclosure requirements of this section.

- (a) The contracting officer shall report annually by October 31, for services performed under this contract during the preceding fiscal year (October 1—September 30).
 1. Subcontract number (including subcontractor name and unique entity identifier);
 2. The number of subcontractors direct-labor hours expended on the services performed during the previous city fiscal year; and
 3. The total dollar amount invoiced for services performed during the previous city fiscal year under the contract.
- (b) The contracting office shall also require that all vendors and subcontractors complete and return the conflict-of-interest disclosure form.
- (c) For projects placed on the city council agenda for approval, the contracting officer shall file a report with the city clerk no later than seven days before the item is scheduled to be heard by the city council. The report shall contain the following information:
 1. The names of all subcontractors providing services.
 2. The value of each subcontract.
 3. The number of subcontractors direct-labor hours expended/or anticipated on the services.
 4. A list of names of subcontractors proposed to perform principal portions of the work.

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- (d) Whenever any person is in doubt as to the applicability of conflict-of-interest law to himself or herself or his or her company, that person may submit to the office of the city attorney a full written statement of the facts and questions he or she has. The office of the city attorney shall render an opinion to that person.

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

- (a) The immediate family members of the mayor, city council, charter officials, legislative 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 members of the mayor, city council, charter officials, legislative aides of the city and employees shall transact with the city in accordance with Miami-Dade County Code of Ethics.

Sec. 2-386. Prohibition on transacting business within the city.

Due to potential for perceived or actual conflicts, such as favoritism or personal conflicts the city shall not award service contracts or sign contracts, tasks or delivery orders, blanket purchase agreements, with immediate family members of the mayor, city council, charter officials, legislative aids, and employees.

(Ord. No. 2022-18, § 2, 9-14-2022)

Sec. 2-387. Reserved.

Ord. No. 2024-05, § 2, adopted Feb. 14, 2024, repealed § 2-387, which pertained to security screening at visiting city hall and derived from Ord. No. 2022-18, § 2, adopted Sep. 14, 2022; and Ord. No. 2023-06, § 2, adopted April 12, 2023.

Secs. 2-388—2-390. Reserved.

Sec. 2-391. Definitions.

- (1) All terms used herein shall have the same meaning as those in Section 2-11.1 of the Miami-Dade County Code of Ordinances except for the following:
 - (a) A "*city vendor*" is a person and/or entity who has been selected by the city as the successful contractor on a present or pending solicitation for goods, equipment or services, or has been approved by the city on a present or pending award for goods, equipment or services prior to or upon execution of a contract, purchase order, standing order, direct payment or purchasing card payment.
 - (b) The term "*immediate family*" shall refer to the spouse, domestic partner, parents, stepparents, children and stepchildren, spouses of a child or stepchild of the person involved.

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- (c) The term "*members of the council*" shall mean the Mayor and Councilmembers of the City of Doral.

Sec. 2-392. Ethics training.

- (1) All members of the council shall attend and complete annually at least one governmental and/or public service ethics training course. This requirement may be satisfied by attending a course, seminar, and/or similar training offered by the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust, the Florida League of Cities, the Miami-Dade County League of Cities, an ethics center of a Florida university or college, and/or a duly licensed and/or accredited institution or organization providing continuing legal or professional education classes. The training requirement may also be satisfied by attending an ethics presentation prepared and offered by the city attorney for the benefit of members of the council, members of city boards and committees, and/or city employees.
- (2) All lobbyists registered with the city shall attend an ethics training course offered by the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust at least once annually.

Sec. 2-393. Meeting with unregistered lobbyists prohibited; penalties.

- (1) No member of the council, Charter Official or city employee shall meet with any person required to register as a lobbyist pursuant to section 2-11.1 of the Miami-Dade County Code without verifying that the lobbyist has registered with the city clerk.

Sec. 2-394. Prohibited outside employment.

- (1) No entity may be a city vendor if a member of the council is an owner, director, employee, consultant for or has any financial relationship with the entity or a subcontractor of the entity.
- (2) No entity may be a city vendor if a member of the council's immediate family is an owner, director, employee, consultant for or has any financial relationship with the entity or a subcontractor of the entity.
- (3) To avoid any conflict of interest or any appearance thereof, for the term of any contract with the city, no city vendor shall represent or lobby on behalf of any entity any city elected or appointed official or employee with regard to any matter.
- (4) The city shall have the right to immediately terminate, for cause, any contract with any city vendor in the event that a relationship in violation of this section is discovered after the execution of the contract.

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Sec. 2-395. Financial disclosures of candidates and elected officials.

- (1) All elected officials, candidates for any elected city office upon qualification, and charter officials shall file, no later than 12:00 noon of July 1 of each year, including the July 1 following the last year that person is in office or held such employment, a current certified financial statement on a form of the type approved for use by state listing all assets and liabilities having a value in excess of \$1,000.00 and a short description of each compliance with the financial disclosure provisions of F.S. ch. 112 (Part III), as amended, or with the provisions of Article II, Section 8 of the Florida Constitution, as amended, and any general laws promulgated thereunder, by the filing of Statement of Financial Interest, Form 1, as may be changed or re-designated from time to time, shall constitute compliance with this section.
- (2) All documents required to be filed hereunder by city persons shall be filed with the city clerk.
- (3) All documents filed pursuant to this subsection shall constitute public records within the meaning of F.S. ch. 119.
- (4) The construction of this subsection shall be considered as supplemental to and not in substitution of any requirements of F.S. ch. 112, or any rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

Sec. 2-396. Prohibited gifts from vendors and lobbyists.

- (1) *Definition.* The term "gift" shall refer to the transfer of anything of economic value, whether in the form of money, service, loan, travel, entertainment, hospitality, item or promise, or in any other form, without adequate and lawful consideration. Food and beverages consumed at a single sitting or meal shall be considered a single gift, and the value of the food and beverage provided at that sitting or meal shall be considered the value of the gift.
- (2) *Exceptions.* The provisions of subsection (e)(1) shall not apply to:
 - (a) Political contributions specifically authorized by state law;
 - (b) Gifts from relatives or members of one's household;
 - (c) Awards for professional or civic achievement;
 - (d) Material such as books, reports, periodicals or pamphlets which are solely informational or of an advertising nature;
 - (e) Gifts solicited by a charter official or city employee on behalf of the city in the performance of their official duties for use solely by the city in conducting its official business;

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- (f) Gifts solicited by a member of the city council on behalf of the city in the performance of their official duties for use solely by the city in conducting its official business;
 - (g) Gifts solicited by a member of the city council, or their staff members, on behalf of any nonprofit organization for use solely by that organization where neither the member of the city council, nor his or her staff receives any compensation as a result of the solicitation. As used in this subsection, a "nonprofit organization" shall mean any entity described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (the "Code") that is tax exempt under section 501(a) of the Code. As used in this subsection, "compensation" means any money, gift, favor, political contribution, thing of value or other financial benefit.
- (3) *Prohibitions.* A member of the city council, charter official, or city employee shall neither solicit nor demand any gift. It is also unlawful for any person or entity to offer, give or agree to give to a member of the city council, charter official, or city employee or a member of the city council, charter official, or city employee to accept or agree to accept from another person or entity, any gift for or because of:
- (a) An official public action taken, or to be taken, or which could be taken;
 - (b) A legal duty performed or to be performed, or which could be performed; or
 - (c) A legal duty violated or to be violated, or which could be violated by a member of the city council, charter official, or city employee.
- (4) *Disclosure.* A member of the city council, charter official, or city employee shall disclose as provided herein any gift, or series of gifts from any one person or entity, having a value in excess of \$100.00. Said disclosure shall be made by filing a copy of the disclosure form required by F.S. ch. 112, for "local officers" with the city clerk and the secretary of state.

Sec. 2-397. Disqualification from serving as city vendor/lobbyist.

- (1) *Definition.* For purposes of this section, the term "*disqualified*" shall be defined to include:
- (a) Termination of a city vendor/lobbyist's existing contract with the city, subject to the waiver provisions of subsection (5).
 - (b) Disqualification of a response to solicitation requests for prospective city vendor/lobbyist contracts with the city, subject to the waiver provisions of subsection (5).
 - (c) For purposes of this section, "city vendor/lobbyist" status shall terminate upon completion of the agreement for the provision of goods, equipment or services.
 - (d) For purposes of this section, the term "services" shall mean the rendering by a city vendor/lobbyist through competitive bidding or otherwise, of labor, professional and/or consulting services to the city.

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- (e) The term contribution shall have the meaning ascribed to such term in F.S. ch. 106, as amended and supplemented (copies available in city clerk's office).
- (2) Except as provided herein, any willing violation of this division by a vendor or lobbyist may lead to disqualification as defined in this section.
- (3) *Waiver of prohibition; conditions for waiver.* The requirements of this section may be waived by a four-fifths vote for a particular transaction by city council vote after public hearing upon finding that:
 - (a) The goods, equipment or services to be involved in the proposed transaction are unique and the city cannot avail itself of such goods, equipment or services without entering into a transaction which would violate this section but for waiver of its requirements; or
 - (b) The business entity involved in the proposed transaction is the sole source of supply as determined by the city manager; or
 - (c) An emergency contract must be made in order to protect the health, safety or welfare of the citizens of the city, as determined by a four-fifths vote of the city council; or
 - (d) A contract for the provision of goods, equipment or services exists which, if terminated by the city, would be adverse to the best economic interests of the city.
- (4) *Full disclosure.* Any grant of waiver by the city council must be supported with a full disclosure of the subject campaign contribution.
- (5) *Applicability.* This section shall be applicable only to prospective transactions, and the city council may in no case ratify a transaction entered into in violation of this section.

Sec. 2-398. Enforcement and penalties.

- (1) ~~The Miami-Dade Ethics Commission shall investigate~~ Alleged violations of Division 2, of Article VII, of Chapter 2 of the city's code of ordinances shall be investigated by the City's Inspector General.
- (2) The Inspector General may, in their discretion, refer this matter to the Miami-Dade County Department on Ethics and, or the State Attorney's Office
- (3) In addition to any penalties imposed by State or County law ~~by the ethics commission,~~ violators of this division shall be subject to additional penalties as provided herein.
- (2) A member of the council found to have violated any section of this division shall be subject to the following penalties:
 - a. \$500.00 for the first violation.

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- b. \$1,000.00 for the second violation.
- c. \$1,500.00 for the third and subsequent violations.

Any fine due by a member of the council shall be deducted from his or her stipend by the finance director at the direction of the city manager. Such funds shall be refunded to the city's general revenue fund.

- (3) A city employee found to have violated this section shall be subject to disciplinary action consistent with the city policies as interpreted by the city manager.
- (4) A charter official found to have violated this section shall be subject to discipline as determined by the city council.
- (5) All alleged violations of this Division 2 shall be reported to the Miami-Dade Ethics Commission.

~~Sec. 2-399. Charter enforcement.~~

- ~~(a) The Internal Affairs Unit of the Doral Police Department ("IAU") shall be responsible for making an initial determination of good cause for complaints filed with the city clerk's office in accordance Article III Section (b.). The IAU shall review complaints against elected City officials, all Charter Officials, all employees and appointed positions that allege violations of federal law, state law, county law, this Charter, city ordinances, and regulations related to conduct, public decorum, and ethics.~~
- ~~(b) Individuals may file a written complaint with the IAU by filing a sworn statement with the city clerk's office, under seal. A complaint may only serve as a basis for a good cause finding if it is signed by an identified person who verifies the contents of the complaint by including the following statement: "Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read the foregoing complaint and that based on my personal knowledge the facts stated in it are true." The IAU shall develop a complaint form consistent with the requirements of this paragraph.~~

~~Upon the receipt of a complaint, or on its own initiative, the IAU shall conduct a preliminary investigation, and if the IAU determines there is good cause, the IAU shall issue a statement of the facts upon which a good cause determination is based. The IAU's statement shall be filed with the city clerk's office and be part of the public record.~~

- ~~(c) After completing its preliminary investigation and determining that there is probable cause to believe a violation has occurred, the IAU shall notify the appropriate civil, criminal, or administrative agencies charged with enforcement related to the alleged violation.~~
 - ~~(1) The IAU shall refer findings of alleged criminal offenses to the Office of the State Attorney and/or the Office of the United States Attorney.~~
 - ~~(2) The IAU shall refer findings of alleged civil offenses involving a violation of Chapter 112, Part III, Florida Statutes, to the Florida Commission on Ethics.~~

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- ~~(3) The IAU shall refer findings of alleged civil offenses involving a violation of the Miami-Dade County Code of Ethics to the Miami-Dade County Ethics Commission.~~
- ~~(4) The IAU shall refer findings of alleged violations of The Florida Elections Code, Chapters 97 through 106, Florida Statutes, to the Florida Elections Commission (except as to alleged violations that may be criminal in nature, which shall be referred to the Office of the State Attorney).~~
- ~~(5) The IAU shall refer other alleged violations to the appropriate civil, criminal, or administrative agency that would have jurisdiction over the same.~~
- ~~(d) In the event the facts lead to the conclusion that no violation has occurred, the city clerk shall publish the findings of no violation, on the city website. The IAU shall deliver copies of all final reports and findings to the city clerk. The city clerk shall deliver copies of all final reports and findings to the alleged violator, the complainant, if any, the members of the city council, the city manager, and the city attorney.~~
 - ~~(1) All preliminary investigations and any referrals to law enforcement or ethics enforcement body where determinations of good cause are made shall be completed within six months from the date of the complaint, or the date on which the IAU commenced its investigation when there was not a complaint filed by an individual.~~
- ~~(e) By becoming a city elected official, appointed official, or employee, each individual submits to IAU oversight.~~
- ~~(f) Expiration date. This section shall expire on December 31, 2023, or at such time as the Office of Charter Enforcement (as defined in Section 2.07 of the city Charter) is operational, whichever occurs sooner.~~

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 of 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 Prime Sponsor for this Ordinance is Mayor Christi Fraga.

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

Mayor Christi Fraga	_____
Vice Mayor Maureen Porras	_____
Councilwoman Digna Cabral	_____
Councilman Rafael Pineyro	_____
Councilwoman Nicole Reinoso	_____

PASSED AND ADOPTED on FIRST READING this 10 day of September, 2025.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on SECOND READING this 8 day of October, 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

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