

**ORDINANCE No. 2025-33**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 41 "TAXATION" ARTICLE III, "BUSINESS TAX" OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES; AMENDING SECTION 41-79 "PENALTY FOR LATE PAYMENT" TO ESTABLISH A TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$250.00) CODE COMPLIANCE PENALTY FOR BUSINESSES OPERATING WITHOUT A VALID BUSINESS TAX RECEIPT AND/OR CERTIFICATE OF USE; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Doral (the "City") requires that all businesses operating within its jurisdiction obtain a valid Business Tax Receipt and/or Certificate of Use pursuant to Section 41-69 of the City Code of Ordinances; and

**WHEREAS**, operating a business without the required Business Tax Receipt and/or Certificate of Use constitutes a violation of the City Code and undermines the City's ability to ensure compliance with zoning, life safety, and regulatory requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has determined that the imposition of a Code Compliance penalty in the amount of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars and 00/100 (\$250.00) is a necessary and appropriate enforcement tool to deter unauthorized business activity and encourage timely compliance with municipal regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, this Code Compliance penalty is not an administrative or processing fee, but rather a violation-based fine assessed when a business operates in contravention of the City's licensing requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, this Code Compliance penalty is consistent with Chapter 205 of Florida Statutes, specifically Section 205.053, which authorizes penalties for engaging in business without a local business tax receipt, and shall be enforced pursuant to Chapter 11, "Code Enforcement," of the City of Doral Code of Ordinances, which establishes procedures for issuing fines and enforcing violations of the City Code; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that this ordinance promotes the public health, safety, and welfare by enhancing compliance with business licensing laws, protecting consumers, and ensuring fair application of regulations across all businesses operating in the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council further finds that amending Section 41-79 of the City Code, as set forth herein, is in the best interest of the City, its residents and is necessary for the efficient and effective enforcement of the City's business regulatory framework.

**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. Amendment to Chapter 41 of the City Code.** That Chapter 41, "Taxation," Article III, "Business Tax," Section 41-79, "Penalty for late payment," of the City Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to add a new subsection (d), which shall read as follows:

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~~.

**Sec. 41-79. Penalty for late payment.**

- (d) Any business found operating within the City without first obtaining a valid business tax receipt and/or certificate of use, as required under Section 41-69 of this Code, shall be subject to a Code Compliance penalty in the amount of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars and 00/100 (\$250.00) upon issuance of a notice of violation. This penalty shall be imposed by the Code Compliance Department upon verification of unauthorized business operations and shall not preclude the issuance of a notice of violation, the imposition of additional fines, or enforcement proceedings before the Special Magistrate in accordance with Chapter 11 of this Code.

**Section 3. Severability.** If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, word or amount of this Ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid by competent authority, then the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 5. Conflicts.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

**Section 6. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall be effective November 1, 2025.

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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