

ORDINANCE No. 2026-03

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 41-78 OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the United States maintains a comprehensive economic embargo against Cuba pursuant to the Trading with the Enemy Act, 50 U.S.C. §§ 4301–4341, originally imposed in October 1960; and

WHEREAS, the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, commonly known as the Helms-Burton Act, 22 U.S.C. §§ 6021–6091, codified the United States embargo against Cuba into federal law and requires congressional action to terminate or substantially modify the embargo; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Treasury, through its Office of Foreign Assets Control (“OFAC”), administers and enforces the Cuba embargo pursuant to the Cuban Assets Control Regulations (“CACR”), 31 C.F.R. Part 515; and

WHEREAS, the CACR prohibit all transactions and dealings by U.S. persons involving Cuba or Cuban nationals unless such transactions are expressly authorized by a general or specific license issued by OFAC, including as provided in 31 C.F.R. § 515.201; and

WHEREAS, the CACR prohibit, among other things, unauthorized imports from Cuba, unauthorized exports or reexports to Cuba, financial transactions involving Cuban interests, unlicensed travel-related transactions, new investment or business activities in Cuba, and dealings in property in which Cuba or a Cuban national has an interest; and

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WHEREAS, the United States has imposed targeted economic sanctions against certain individuals and entities associated with the Government of Nicaragua pursuant to IEEPA, 50 U.S.C. §§ 1701–1708, and related executive orders, in response to actions undermining democratic institutions, human rights, and the rule of law in Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS, OFAC administers and enforces Nicaragua-related sanctions pursuant to the Nicaragua Sanctions Regulations, 31 C.F.R. Part 536; and

WHEREAS, from time to time similar OFAC restrictions have been imposed on the Government of Venezuela; and

WHEREAS, Florida Statute § 205.053, provides the City with the authority to regulate the issuance of business tax receipts, to businesses operating in the City; and

WHEREAS, doing business in the City requires that all businesses adhere to all State, Federal and Local law; and

WHEREAS, conducting business with forbidden entities is a breach of Federal Law; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to adopt an Ordinance that will instruct the City's licensing department to withhold and deny the issuance of a business tax receipt to any entity operating in the City of Doral that is conducting business with an OFAC restricted country or entity.

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.

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Section 2. Amending Section 41-78, Grounds for suspension, revocation

and denial.

Sec. 41-78. Grounds for suspension, revocation and denial.

- (a) The city manager or his designee is authorized to revoke or temporarily suspend the local business tax of any person or entity where it is determined by the city manager or his designee that:
- (1) The business owner has misrepresented or failed to disclose material information required by this article to be included in the business tax application form.
 - (2) The business owner, as part of the owner's business activity within the city, is engaged in conduct that is contrary to the public health, welfare or safety of the city.
 - (3) The business owner is conducting business from premises that do not possess a valid and current certificate of occupancy and/or certificate of use as may be required by city, county and state laws.
 - (4) Habitual conduct has occurred at the business owner's premises that violates city, county or state law.
 - (5) The tax receipt issued by the city dependent upon the business owner's compliance with specific provisions of federal, state, city or county law and the business owner has violated such specific provisions of law.
 - (6) The business owner has violated any provision of this article and has failed or refused to cease or correct the violation after notification thereof.
 - (7) The business owner, as part of the licensee's business activity within the city, knowingly lets, leases or gives space for unlawful gambling purposes at the business owner's premises.
 - (8) The business owner, within the preceding five years in this state or any other state or in the United States, has been adjudicated guilty of or forfeited a bond when charged with soliciting for prostitution, pandering, letting premises for prostitution, keeping a disorderly place, or illegally dealing in narcotics.
 - (9) The premises have been condemned by the local health authority for failure to meet sanitation standards or the premises have been condemned by the local authority because the premises are unsafe or unfit for human occupancy.
 - (10) The business owner's premises have been found to constitute a public nuisance by the code compliance special magistrate.
 - (11) The business owner has failed to satisfy any fines or administrative fees imposed by the special magistrate.

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- (12) The business owner has failed to correct building violations for which a notice of violation has been issued by the code compliance department during the previous licensing period.
- (13) The business owner has failed to pay for police off-duty work.
- (14) The business owner has failed to pay outstanding alarm bills for which notices have been sent to the business owner by the city police department.
- (15) The business owner has failed to pay for any outstanding city bill as evidenced by an invoice delivered from the finance department.
- (16) The City has received written notification by an agency of the United States government that an entity or person has lost their license to engage in business with the government of Nicaragua or another OFAC sanctioned country.
- (17) The City has received written notification by an agency of the United States government that an entity or person is unlawfully engaging in business with the government of Cuba, the government of Nicaragua or any other OFAC sanctioned country.
- (b) The suspension or revocation shall be of the business tax receipt in effect at the date of such suspension or revocation; even though it may have been issued to a business owner other than the person who held the tax receipt at the time the cause for such suspension or revocation arose.
- (c) No tax receipt shall be suspended under this section for a period of more than 12 months.
- (d) No new tax receipt shall be issued during the period of suspension/revocation to the business owner, or to any other firm in which the business owner or any of its general partners, limited partners, officers or stockholders owning 20 percent or more of its stock or agents, employees or other persons who were actively involved in the business under suspension/revocation. At the end of such period of suspension or revocation, the business owner and/or agents, general or limited partners, officers or stockholders may apply for a new business tax receipt.

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.

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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 of the foregoing Ordinance is Mayor Christi Fraga.

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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 Digna Cabral	_____
Councilman Rafael Pineyro	_____
Councilwoman Maureen Porras	_____
Councilwoman Nicole Reinoso	_____

PASSED AND ADOPTED on FIRST READING this 18 day of February, 2026.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on SECOND READING this 11 day of March, 2026.

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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