



## **CITY OF DORAL COUNCIL MEETING MEMORANDUM**

### **ITEM TITLE:**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA APPROVING THE AWARD OF FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION FIRST CYCLE GRANTS IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED TEN DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$5,810.00) TO MIND & MELODY; FIVE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$5,600.00) TO SHINE BRIGHT FOUNDATION; FIVE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED AND SIXTY DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$5,460.00) TO VET INFO INC.; FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND SIXTY DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$4,560.00) TO MIAMI YOUTH ORCHESTRA; AND THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$3,570.00) TO FRIENDS OF DORAL SCOUTS INC.; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

### **DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:**

Approval

### **BRIEF HISTORY:**

The City of Doral has concluded the first cycle of the Community Based Organization (“CBO”) Grant Program for the current fiscal year. The CBO Grant Program is a competitive grant that provides a fair and efficient process for consideration of funding requests from community non-profit organizations. The program’s goal is to provide Doral community-based organizations with opportunities to plan, develop and implement community projects that will serve the needs of the Doral community. The Doral City Council budgeted \$50,000 for that purpose, with \$25,000 budgeted for the first cycle (Grants & Aids Account/Local Non-Profit Grants) of the current fiscal year.

Prior to 2017, Doral-based non-profit organizations often requested unfunded support from the City of Doral directly from the Mayor and Council during City Council meetings. During the City of Doral’s budgeting process for 2017 fiscal year, it was determined that the existing process to vet and fund the proposed programs warranted a more equitable and accountable approach. In keeping with the strategic goal of increasing organizational efficiency, it was determined that the City of Doral would reestablish the previously used Community Based Organization (CBO) Grant Program which provided non-profit organizations with the opportunity to submit their program/service proposals for consideration to the administration. The City Manager’s office revamped the CBO Grant Program as a formal reimbursement grant that instituted grant categories and reporting requirements to ensure an equitable process for

awarding grant funds to local organizations providing benefits to the community. The City Manager's office appointed the Economic Development Division to administer the annual grant process.

To enhance equitable access and broaden community participation, the City Council approved revisions to take effect in the 2025–2026 fiscal year. The program now offers two application cycles per year and allows 50% of awarded funds to be disbursed upfront. The annual budget has been increased from \$25,000 to \$50,000, divided evenly between both cycles, and the maximum grant award per organization has been raised from \$5,000 to \$7,000, subject to the selection committee's discretion and available funds.

The first cycle of the CBO Grant commenced on November 3rd, 2025, with a submittal deadline of December 3rd, 2025. Applications were submitted through an online application portal designed to streamline the application process. Fifteen (15) applications were received and reviewed to ensure compliance and completeness. Fourteen (14) of the fifteen (15) applications were deemed eligible and scored. One (1) applicant did not meet grant requirements.

An Evaluation Committee consisting of three (3) City of Doral staff members from the Code Compliance, Parks and Recreation and the Building Departments scored the eligible applications based on the following established criteria: Need (maximum 30 points), Project/Program Narrative (maximum 45 points), Metrics (maximum 20 points) and Project Cost/Request (maximum 5 points). Each applicant was scored and ranked based on the average score of all three members of the Evaluation Committee. The average score is used to calculate a percentage of the maximum grant amount of \$7,000.00, or the amount that the organization is requesting. For example, an applicant with an average score of 50 will receive 50 percent of \$7,000.00, or \$3,500.00.

The fourteen (14) eligible applicants are Amor y Fuerza Honduras, Educacion for All, Friends of Doral Scouts Inc., La Caza de la Muzika Corp., Miami Rescue Mission, Miami Youth Orchestra, Mind & Melody, Multicare Community Services, Pasion Por La Pesca, Perla De Esperanza, Shine Bright Foundation, SVC Foundation, The Village South and Vet Info Inc. Funding was recommended based on ranking, from highest to lowest score, until the total budgeted funding amount of \$25,000.00 was allocated.

The CBO Grant Evaluation Committee recommends that the Mayor and City Council approve CBO Grant awards to the following five (5) highest-ranked organizations, with 50% of the awarded funds disbursed upfront, with the remaining balance to be provided upon satisfactory completion of the approved program and following submittal of valid reimbursement reports.

Mind & Melody, whose mission is to transform lives through music for individuals with developmental and neurological conditions This project will bring weekly interactive music sessions to three Doral schools, empowering neurodiverse students to build social, motor, communication, and emotional skills through joyful, adaptive music-making.

Recommended Award: \$5,810.00

Shine Bright Foundation aims to build public-speaking, advocacy, leadership, and emotional intelligence through a two-year scholarship model serving Doral youth and adults with disabilities seeking inclusion, civic participation, and personal growth.

Recommended Award: \$5,600.00

Vet Info Inc. aims to keep supporting major Doral events and U.S. Southern Command activities while expanding our resources and continuing our vital suicide-outreach programs to strengthen our impact on those who serve.

Recommended Award: \$5,460.00

Miami Youth Orchestra whose program provides high quality music instruction and performance opportunities for children and youth.

Recommended Award: \$4,560.00

Friends of Doral Scouts offers a scout-led program which provides the youth with a safe, welcoming place to learn and lead, with scouts planning meetings, choosing activities, and running projects while adults focus on guidance, safety, and logistics.

Recommended Award: \$3,570.00

The CBO Grant Program is a competitive funding mechanism that prioritizes funding for the highest ranked proposals until the budgeted funds are depleted. Due to the high number of eligible applications, the applicants Amor y Fuerza Honduras, Educacion for All, La Caza de la Muzika Corp., Miami Rescue Mission, Multicare Community Services, Pasion Por La Pesca, Perla De Esperanza, SVC Foundation and The Village South were unable to be recommended for grant funding based on the Evaluation Committee's ranking. The CBO Grant 2025 Evaluation Committee Report is included as Exhibit A.

#### LEGISLATIVE ACTION: (IF APPLICABLE)

Date:	Resolution/Ordinance No.	Comments

#### FINANCIAL INFORMATION: (IF APPLICABLE)

No.	Amount	Account No.	Source of Funds
1.	\$25,000.00	001.50005.500820	Grants & Aids
2.			
Total:	\$25,000.00		
<b>Fiscal Impact Statement:</b> The proposed item has a fiscal impact on revenues and/or expenditures of \$25,000.00.			

#### STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

The City of Doral Strategic Plan lays out a vision of Doral as a premier city to live, work, learn and play. The mission statement is to serve our city by continuously enhancing quality of life through community engagement, exceptional service and accountability. The CBO Grant Program's goal is to provide Doral's non-profit organizations with opportunities to implement

projects that will enhance quality of life of Doral's residents through community engagement. The CBO Grant Program provides established requirements and procedures for greater accountability in the expenditure of the funds. In addition, the online portal provides a more convenient application and reimbursement process, enhancing the customer experience for applicants and providing exceptional service to the community. The program aligns with each element of the mission statement outlined in the Strategic Plan: community engagement, accountability and exceptional service.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

- A. Exhibit A – CBO Grant FY25-26 First Cycle Evaluation Report
- B. Applications
- C. Draft Resolution