

**ORDINANCE No. 2019-16**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 2-380 OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES TITLED "COUNCIL CONDUCT WITH THE MEDIA"; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Doral ("City Council") seeks to promote good government, and maintain the public's trust in public institutions; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council is committed to the goals of preventing the appearance of impropriety, conflicts of interest, and self-dealing; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that it is extraordinarily important for the Council to speak with one voice on all issues in order to ensure that clear and accurate information is conveyed to the media and members of the public.

**WHEREAS**, the Council finds that the amendments to Section 2-380 are necessary to provide the public with confidence in the integrity of its government.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** **Code Amended.** The Code of Ordinances of the City of Doral is hereby amended as follows:

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 ~~be clear~~ ~~about whether~~ their comments ~~represent the official city position~~ are personal viewpoints. ~~Or a personal viewpoint~~ 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.

**Section 2. Repeal of Conflicting Provisions.** To the extent any provisions of the Code, as made applicable to the City through Section 8.03 of the City Charter conflict with this Chapter, those provisions are repealed in its entirety.

**Section 3. Severability.** The provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable and if any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance shall for any reason be held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections, sentences, clauses, and phrases of this Ordinance but they shall remain in effect, it being the legislative intent that this Ordinance shall stand notwithstanding the invalidity of any part.

**Section 4. Incorporation into the Code.** It is the intention of the City Council, and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Code of the City of Doral, Florida; that the sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such intentions; and that the word "Ordinance" shall be changed to "Section" or other appropriate word.

**Section 5. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall be effective upon adoption on second reading.

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

Mayor Juan Carlos Bermudez	Yes
Vice Mayor Claudia Mariaca	Yes
Councilwoman Digna Cabral	Yes
Councilman Pete Cabrera	Yes
Councilwoman Christi Fraga	No

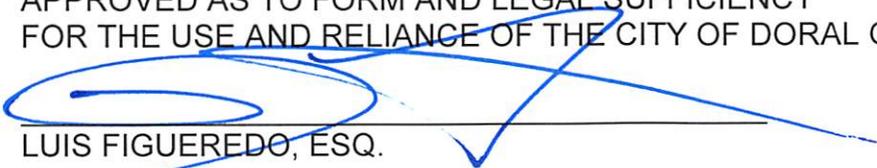
PASSED AND ADOPTED on FIRST READING this 12 day of June, 2019.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on SECOND READING this 13 day of August, 2019.

  
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JUAN CARLOS BERMUDEZ, 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:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
LUIS FIGUEREDO, ESQ.  
CITY ATTORNEY