

**ORDINANCE No. 2020-18**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE EXTENSION OF ALL ACTIVE PAID 2019-2020 BUSINESS TAX RECEIPTS (BTRs) FOR A PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS TO AID IN MITIGATING THE IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON BUSINESSES; PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER PROVISION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, the coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19"), is a severe acute respiratory illness caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus that can spread rapidly from person to person and cause serious illness or death, constitutes a clear and present threat to the lives, health, welfare and safety of the people of the City of Doral; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020, the Governor of Florida issued Executive Order Number 20-52, declaring a State of Emergency for the State of Florida related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the rapidly spreading coronavirus outbreak a pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 12, 2020, the County Mayor declared a State of Emergency for Miami-Dade County related to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, On March 12, 2020, City of Doral Mayor declared a State of Emergency regarding the coronavirus pandemic joining Miami-Dade County and the State of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency concerning the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 29, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order 20-112, which provides a pathway for the eventual reopening of restaurants under certain conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 13, 2020 the Miami-Dade County Mayor published a “New Normal Guide” handbook guiding the Miami-Dade County’s reopening strategy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Council are concerned about the short-term and long-term economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to businesses’ financial stability in the City of Doral; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 15, 2020, County Mayor issued Emergency Order 23-20, effective May 18, 2020, permitting certain retail and commercial establishments and other establishments or facilities in Miami-Dade County to reopen, subject to strict compliance with social distancing guidelines issued by the County, including detailed activity-specific requirements in the County's "Moving to a New Normal Handbook" ("County EO 23-20").; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 15, 2020, the Mayor and City Council conducted a Council Workshop to discuss COVID-19 impacts and to consider appropriate actions to aid an economic recovery in the City of Doral; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the City’s Code of Ordinances all Business Tax Receipts shall be payable corresponding to the City’s Fiscal Year beginning on October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, and expire on September 30<sup>th</sup> of the succeeding year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Council have directed the City Manager to authorize the extension of all active paid 2019-2020 Business Tax Receipts for a period of three months until December 31, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the deadline to renew existing BTRs for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 would be moved from the end of the Fiscal Year on September 30th, 2020 to the end of the calendar year on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, BTRs issued will only be valid through the end of the Fiscal Year on September 30th, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, all future renewal requirements and penalties for late payment will also be extended to begin accruing on January 1, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, all new BTRs applied for on or after October 1, 2020 shall be issued a 2020-2021 Fiscal Year BTR at the 2020-2021 pricing.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL 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. Implementation.** The Mayor and The City Council hereby direct Staff to authorize the extension of all active paid 2019-2020 Business Tax Receipts for all uses in the City of Doral unless such use would pose an immediate risk to human health or safety. This temporary extension is subject to the following conditions:

1. Businesses receiving this extension must have an active paid BTR for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 with the City of Doral. All delinquent payments for any business tax/fees imposed under this article, or code enforcement liens; special assessment liens and/or any other debt or obligations due to the city under state or local law must have been paid in full as per Chapter 41 from the Code of Ordinance, City of Doral.

2. This extension will automatically expire on December 31st, 2020 at 11:59:59 p.m. Starting on January 1, 2021 all renewal processes for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 will resume, including late fees.
3. Any business, new or current, operating without a BTR/CU shall pay all late fees to obtain a new BTR. As per Chapter 41 from the Code of Ordinances, City of Doral, all new BTRs applied for on or after October 1, 2020, shall be issued a 2020-2021 BTR at the 2021 pricing. Any person engaging in any business without obtaining a valid business tax receipt under this article shall be subject to a penalty of twice the applicable business tax in addition to any other penalty provided by this article or any other law.

**Section 3. Severability.** The allowance of extension for 2019-2020 BTR, unless lifted earlier or extended by the City Council, shall automatically expire on December 31st, 2020 at 11:59:59 p.m.

**Section 4. Conflicts.** The following regulations temporarily shall supersede and replace any conflicting provisions of the City's zoning ordinances. All approvals and permits governed by this Ordinance shall automatically start on September 30, 2020 and expire on December 31, 2020 at 11:59:59 p.m., unless such approval or permit is otherwise suspended, modified, amended, or extended in accordance with this Ordinance or a subsequent ordinance adopted by City Council.

**Section 5. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon approval by the City Council.

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

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Mayor Juan Carlos Bermudez   | Yes |
| Vice Mayor Christi Fraga     | Yes |
| Councilwoman Digna Cabral    | Yes |
| Councilman Pete Cabrera      | Yes |
| Councilwoman Claudia Mariaca | Yes |

PASSED AND ADOPTED on FIRST READING this 12 day of August, 2020.

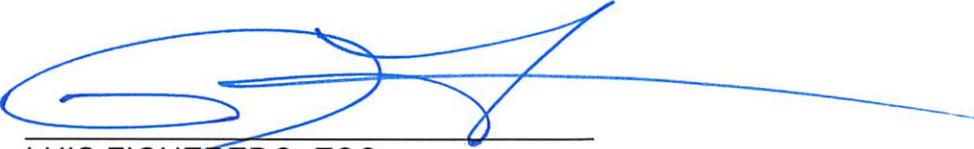
PASSED AND ADOPTED on SECOND READING this 9 day of September, 2020.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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