

ORDINANCE No. 2023-23

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 2-9 “SAME – MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR TRAVEL AUTHORIZATIONS” OF ARTICLE I “IN GENERAL”, OF CHAPTER 2 “ADMINISTRATION”, OF THE CITY’S CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE THAT INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL BY ELECTED OFFICIALS, CHARTER OFFICIALS, AND CITY EMPLOYEES, REQUIRES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL AND ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS FOR SAID TRAVEL; PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER; 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”) has a fundamental responsibility to be effective stewards of the City’s taxpayers’ money; and

WHEREAS, to that end, it is imperative that there is transparency as to when and how public funds are utilized by the City as it relates to international travel, and that the public has sufficient information and assurances that any international travel taken by members of the City Council, Charter Officials, and City employees, which are funded with public funds, are in furtherance of a municipal purpose, and serve the interests of the City; and

WHEREAS, while the City has previously adopted Ordinance No. 2021-21, it solely provides for travel and per diem reimbursement policies related to training programs, professional conferences, or professional certifications, by City employees and Charter Officers, and does not govern international travel; and

WHEREAS, the City also adopted Resolution No. 15-20, which sets forth the per-diem food and beverage amounts for City-related travel as applied to City employees and Councilmembers, and further provides that hotel and lodging costs, as well as transportation expenses, will not be reimbursed if the travel within the prescribed number

of miles set forth therein, but places no limitations or standards for international travel by the City Council, Charter Officials, and City employees; and

WHEREAS, the City finds it necessary and in the best interest of the residents and taxpayers of the City to require that international travel by the City Council, Charter Officials, and City employees, that is funded in whole or in part by public funds shall first require City Council approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Incorporation of Recitals. The foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Ordinance upon adoption hereof.

Section 2. Amendment to Article I of Chapter 2 of the City of Doral's Code of Ordinances. Chapter 2, Article I of the City of Doral's Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as follows:

ARTICLE 1. IN GENERAL

Sec. 2-9. Same—Minimum standards for travel authorizations.

2.9.1 City Employees and Charter Officials.

- (a) The city manager shall authorize travel when necessary, effective, and economical.
- (b) Travel authorizations must include the following information:
 - (1) Name of the traveler(s).
 - (2) Detailed description of the certification or training program.

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~~.

(3) Location and approximate date(s) of the trip.

(4) Estimate of the travel costs.

(5) Certification statement that travel is performed in accordance with the intent of this ordinance and in the interest of the city and the use of telephone or video conferencing could not be used to satisfy this requirement.

(c) Charter officials shall give notification to the city council prior to travel.

(d) Official travel by a city employee where there is no cost to the city other than the use of the city vehicle, parking and tolls and travel does not exceed two days (travel over two days requires the city manager's approval) shall be approved by the department director prior to travel.

2-9.2 ~~Elected Officials~~ International Travel.

(a) International travel by members of the city council, charter officials, and city employees, if said travel is funded wholly or in part with ~~public~~ City of Doral funds, shall require city council approval.

(b) An international travel authorization request must include the following information:

(1) The names of the council member(s), charter official(s), or city employee(s) traveling;

(2) Detailed description of the municipal purpose for the trip;

(3) Location and approximate date(s) of the trip;

(4) Estimate of the travel costs; and

- (5) Certification statement that travel serves a municipal purpose, in the interest of the city, and that the use of telephone or video conferencing could not be used in lieu of in-person participation.
- (c) Travel change requests for previously approved international travel shall again be put before the full council for review and action.

Section 3. Repealer. All ordinances, or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith be, and the same, are hereby repealed.

Section 4. Severability. If any section, subsection, clause or provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder shall not be affected by such invalidity.

Section 5. Incorporation Into the Code. It is the intention of the Mayor and the City Commission, and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and made a part of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Doral; that the sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or re-lettered to accomplish such intentions; and that the word "Ordinance" shall be changed to "Section" or other appropriate word, as required.

Section 6. Effective Date. This Ordinance will become effective ten (10) days after adoption at second reading.

The foregoing Ordinance was offered by Vice Mayor Pineyro who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Puig-Corve upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Mayor Christi Fraga	Yes
Vice Mayor Rafael Pineyro	Yes
Councilwoman Digna Cabral	Yes
Councilwoman Maureen Porras	Yes
Councilman Oscar Puig-Corve	Yes

PASSED AND ADOPTED on FIRST READING this 9 day of August, 2023.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on SECOND READING this 13 day of September, 2023.



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:



VALERIE VICENTE, ESQ. for
NABORS, GIBLIN & NICKERSON, P.A.
CITY ATTORNEY