

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

--MEMORANDUM--



The City Beautiful

TO: Mayor and Members of the Coral Gables City Commission
City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
Assistant City Manager, Peter Iglesias

FROM: Commissioner Vince Lago

DATE: January 8, 2018

SUBJECT: Code Enforcement

The Code Enforcement Department is a very unique and important department because it enforces our municipal code, preserves our City's image, and helps us maintain our "City Beautiful" standards. For this reason, I would like to evaluate if this department has all the necessary resources to function at its fullest potential and if there are other alternatives that should be explored.

For some time, I have noticed that residents place an assortment of garbage and trash on the swales that are not allowed. I have seen large boxes (which should be recycled and flattened), toys, mattresses, toilet seats and many other items (refer to photos enclosed). Either these households are not educated, or there is not enough man power to patrol the streets. The City has done an excellent job in educating new homeowners and has launched marketing campaigns on what to place on the swales so I tend to believe the latter.

For quite some time I have tried to encourage the City to explore a variety of alternatives concerning trash pits. From our conversations in the past, I've come to understand that we share different concerns and are not ready to commit to explore alternatives in regards to eliminate trash pits. However, I am confident we all can agree that unsightly swales do not complement our City's streets. Therefore, I suggest that we evaluate our operations to reduce the occurrence of unpermitted trash on swales.

Realistically, if we want to preserve our City's image we need to consider the following: Does Code Enforcement have the tools necessary to carry out their mission as best as possible? Do we need to evaluate the method in which we cite? Should we enforce certain items more strictly? Should we stop picking up cardboard boxes that are thrown into the trash pits? I am not seeking for a prescribed set of answers but instead, I ask that we carefully assess this topic. As always, I am open to any thoughts and feedback you may have during our next public meeting. Please see the photos enclosed for just a few examples of what I see on a daily basis.

CC: Development Services Director, Suramy Cabrera
Assistant Development Services Director for Administration, Charles Wu
Code Enforcement Director, William Ortiz
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos

Examples



