

05-07-26 Gables Gazette

The City of Coral Gables acknowledges receipt of your inquiry and accompanying public records request. The city is committed to transparency and will provide responsive records in accordance with Florida Statute Chapter 119.

Please note that fulfilling portions of your request will require a records search and review process. Consistent with state law, the city has determined that this effort will be an extensive use request with associated costs. To proceed, a cost estimate will be provided through the Office of the City Clerk.

With respect to your questions regarding legal representation, the city regularly engages outside counsel as needed. The determination to retain outside counsel is made by the City Attorney based on the nature, complexity, and potential exposure of a matter. The city has worked with a number of qualified firms over many years as authorized by the city's code.

More broadly, the City Attorney's Office evaluates each matter individually to determine whether it is most appropriately handled in-house or by outside counsel, consistent with professional standards and in the best interest of the city.

As it relates to your question regarding former City Attorneys, Miriam Soler Ramos is currently a partner at Holland & Knight and is not representing the City of Coral Gables in any pending matters.

For clarification, the Human Resources and Risk Management Department, not the City Attorney's Office, administers the city's contract with its third-party claims administrator.

Like other government entities, the City of Coral Gables is subject to litigation. As a full-service municipality with extensive infrastructure, including many miles of sidewalks and a large fleet of vehicles used to perform the work of the city, claims and litigation can arise in the normal course of operations.

With respect to certain questions concerning risk management practices, litigation strategy, and pending cases, the city will not be providing commentary on our strategy.

Regarding the Beltran matter, Officer Elliott is currently employed by the city.

With respect to fleet operations and related questions, including Questions 20 and 21, the city maintains numerous procedures and protocols governing the operation of city vehicles, incident review, and employee conduct and will provide documents to your Public Records Request.

Regarding questions tied to litigation exposure, settlements, and settlement negotiations, the city will provide responsive, non-exempt information. However, we ask for your understanding that the publication of specific figures or trends, particularly when

taken out of context, may have the unintended negative effect on the city's litigation strategies.

The city will continue to review your questions and provide additional responses where appropriate following internal coordination and legal review.