

**Community Meeting for  
High Pines / Ponce Davis  
Proposed Annexation**

**PRESENTED BY**  
Jorge Duyos

**September 20, 2023**



# Why are We Here?

- Speak generally about the annexation process
- Provide an overview of Coral Gables services
- Present financial impacts of annexation
- Answer any questions you may have



# Some Housekeeping

- Sign-in sheet
- Speaker cards
- Petitions
- Speaker guidelines
- Decorum



# Annexation Process To Date

- City Commission passed resolution directing staff to initiate annexation process for High Pines / Ponce Davis
- City conducted analysis to determine resource and financial requirements for proposed annexed area
- City mailed meeting notice flyers and petition cards to all residents of High Pines / Ponce Davis who are registered voters (2,544). We request receipt of signed petitions by 10/9/23
- City conducts community meeting to inform High Pines / Ponce Davis residents of the annexation process, City services, and financial impact of annexation

# Annexation Petition



## High Pines / Ponce-Davis ANNEXATION PETITION FORM

Dear Resident:

By completing the form on the other side of this card, you will allow the City of Coral Gables to take the next steps required by Miami-Dade County to initiate the annexation process.

For more information regarding annexation, please scan here or visit [coralgables.com/annexation](https://coralgables.com/annexation)



The general boundaries of the High Pines / Ponce-Davis area are:

- North: Sunset Road (SW 72nd St) and San Ignacio Pk
- East: Erwin Road (SW 47th Ave.) and Mindello St.
- South: Kendall Drive (SW 88th St)
- West: Red Road (SW 57th Ave.)

**YES!** I AM IN FAVOR OF ANNEXATION BY THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES

I AM A REGISTERED VOTER IN THE HIGH PINES / PONCE-DAVIS AREA (SEE REVERSE SIDE OF CARD FOR BOUNDARY AREA) WHICH IS PROPOSED FOR ANNEXATION BY THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES. I CONSENT TO THE INITIATION BY CORAL GABLES OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY ANNEXATION PROCESS FOR THIS AREA.

\_\_\_\_\_ Voter Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

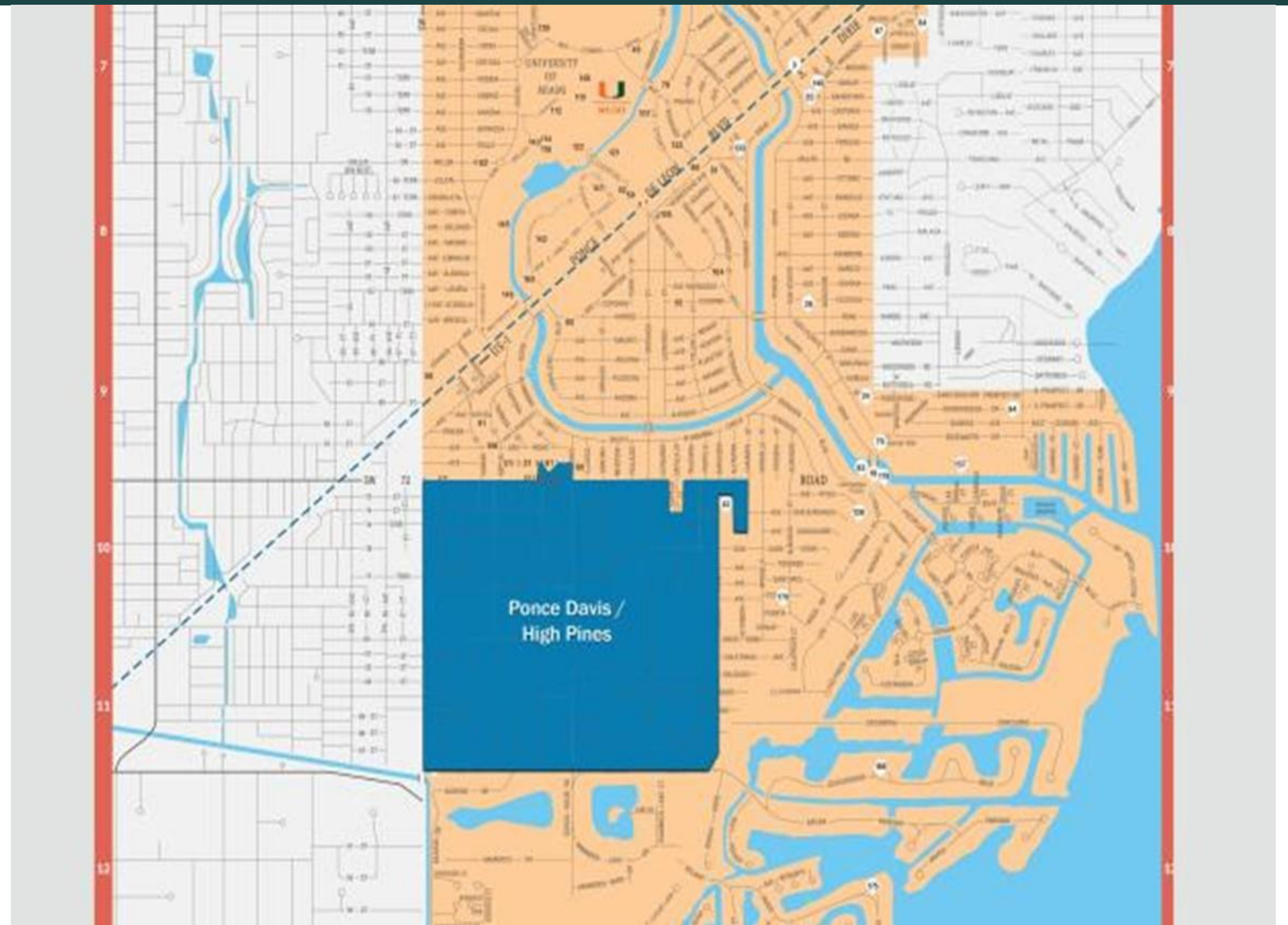
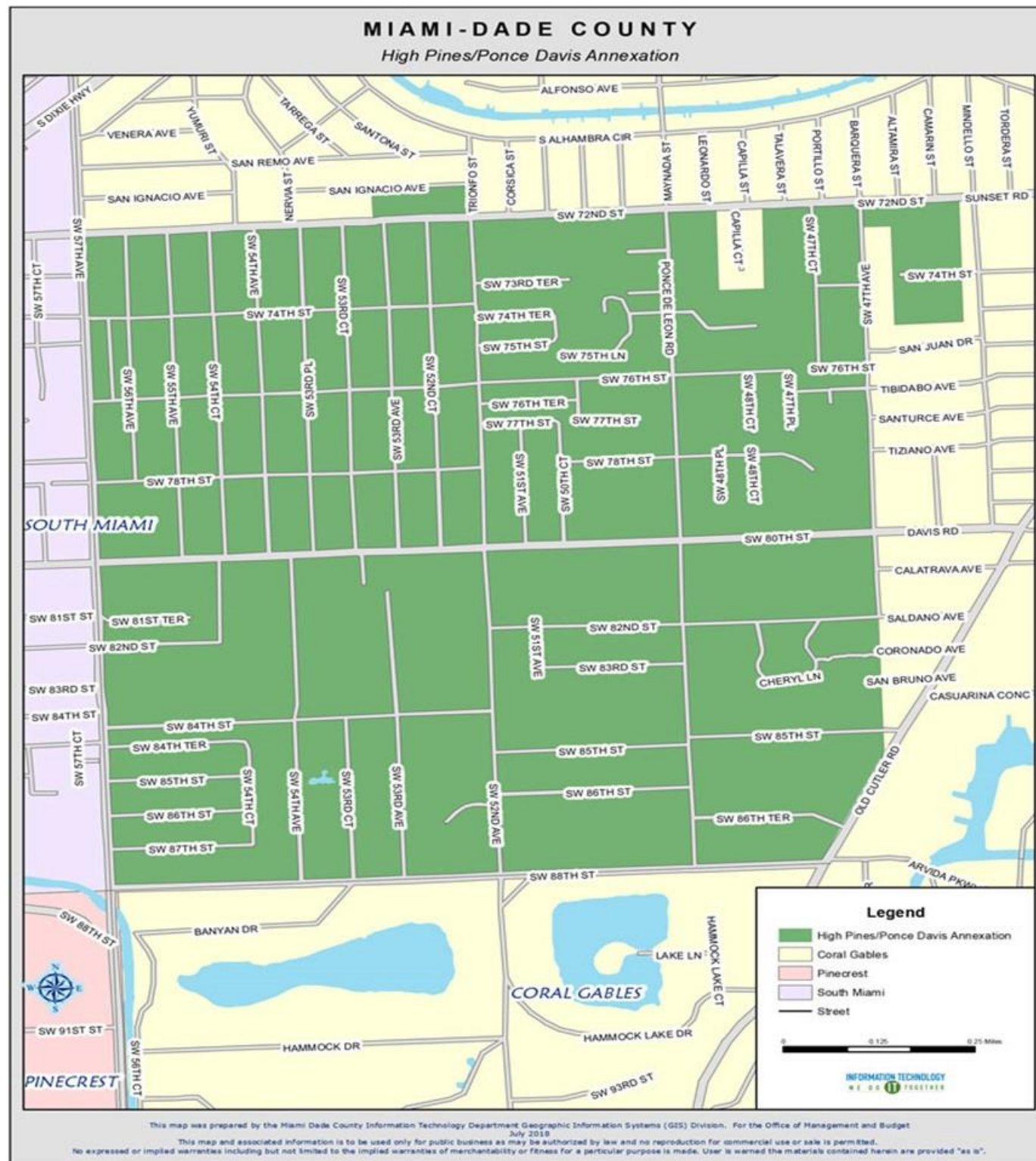
\_\_\_\_\_ Voter Registration Number (optional)

\_\_\_\_\_ Current Address

PLEASE RETURN THIS CARD IN THE POSTAGE-PAID ENVELOPE BY OCTOBER 9, 2023.

THANK YOU!

# High Pines / Ponce Davis Neighborhood



# City's Financial Stability

- AAA bond rating from Standard and Poor's, Fitch and Moody's rating services, one of only three cities in Florida to have these ratings from all three agencies
- Over \$50 million in general fund reserves (approximately 25% of the operating budget), which further indicates its strong financial position and allows the city to deal with emergencies such as hurricanes more effectively
- Property tax rate (millage) unchanged for the last nine years



# Police Services

- Full-service police operations
  - Dedicated 911 communications center, marine patrol, traffic enforcement, a crisis management team, and a youth resource unit
- CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) accreditation – Gold Standard
- 4.66 officers per one thousand residents, well above the national ratio of 2.33 officers
- Average response time to emergency calls of less than 3 minutes from time 911 call received





# Police Services

- 199 sworn police officers, 5 additional in FY24, another 5 additional in FY25
- If annexed, High Pines / Ponce Davis would have additional resources
  - 7 police officers for 24/7 coverage
  - 1 detective
  - 1 school resource officer
  - 1 neighborhood safety aide (NSA)
  - Zone coverage
- Neighborhood Team Leaders and Neighborhood Safety Aides



# Fire and Rescue Services

- Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) with an ISO Class 1 Rating
- Average Response Time of 6:12 from time 911 call received
- Historically, 95% patient satisfaction
- Emergency management functions



# Fire and Rescue Services

- City Fire Stations
  - Station 1 – 2151 Salzedo St
  - Station 2 – 525 South Dixie Highway
  - Station 3 – 11911 Old Cutler Road
  - Station 4 – 1345 Sunset Drive (breaking ground this year)
- 145 firefighters (5 additional in FY24, another 5 additional in FY25)
- If annexed, High Pines / Ponce Davis would have additional resources
  - 1 rescue unit
  - 12 firefighters for 24/7 coverage



# Residential Waste Services

- City garbage pick-up at the back or side of house twice a week by fully vetted city employees
- City recycling pick-up once a week
- Bulky waste picked up once a week
- If annexed, High Pines / Ponce Davis would have additional resources



# Community Recreation

- Commission on Accreditation for Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) accreditation
- Over 60 parks and green spaces
- Committed to continuing the development and renovation of neighborhood parks
- Small park planned next to Firehouse 4 on San Ignacio Avenue
- Goal is to have a park within a 10-minute walk of any residence



# Community Recreation

- Discounted resident rates and priority access at City recreational facilities
  - Biltmore and Granada golf courses
  - War Memorial Youth Center programs and summer camps
  - Tennis Center
  - Venetian Pool
  - Adult Activities Center
  - Coral Gables Country Club
  - UM Athletic Events



# Landscape and Infrastructure

- Road resurfacing
- Improved drainage
- Repair of existing infrastructure
- Traffic calming program
- New plantings and regular tree trimming along roads and in parks
- Street lighting program
- Shade and succession plan



# Building Permitting

- One-stop shop permitting center
- Permit counter average wait time of 2.5 minutes
- Fully electronic plan review – reducing review times by approximately 80%
- All Development Services forms available online
- Customer service initiatives





# Zoning and Code Enforcement

- Site-specific zoning
- Lawful uses that exist under County Code will be permitted to continue (i.e. “grandfathered”)
- Florida Building Code requirements
- Approach consistent with areas that have been annexed into Coral Gables, including Snapper Creek, Pine Bay Estates, Hammock Lakes, Deering Bay, and King’s Bay



# Recognized City Attributes

## Environmentally-Conscious



- Tree City, USA
- Green Business Certification Program
- Keep Coral Gables Beautiful
- Electric vehicles

## Smart



- Online access to city services
- Smart poles with free Wi-Fi, CCTV, traffic, safety, and environmental sensors
- More than 25 public Wi-Fi sites

## Cultural



- Coral Gables Art in Public Places (AiPP) since 2010
- More than 20 permanent art installations throughout the city

# Open and Accessible City Government

- City “Ombudsman” available to assist residents and businesses
- Weekly electronic newsletter
- New state-of-the-art website
- Commission and board meetings are available on Zoom, with public comment Zoom capability
- More than 35 resident advisory boards and committees
- City App



# Financial Impact of Annexation to High Pines / Ponce Davis Residents

- Property values vary widely in High Pines / Ponce Davis, so the estimated additional cost is presented below for a range of taxable property values, and includes property taxes, solid waste fee, and fire fee.

Taxable Property Value	Estimated Additional Cost*
\$150,000	\$526.58/year or \$10.13/week
\$250,000	\$646.92/year or \$12.44/week
\$350,000	\$767.26/year or \$14.75/week
\$500,000	\$947.76/year or \$18.23/week
\$750,000	\$1,248.60/year or \$24.01/week
\$1,000,000	\$1,549.44/year or \$29.80/week
\$2,000,000	\$2,752.80/year or \$52.94/week

\*Based on FY 23 tax roll, Coral Gables Solid Waste Fee paid by August 15, and taxes paid at a 4% discounted rate

## Ponce Davis Roving Patrol Special Taxing District

- Homes generally south of Davis Rd, east of SW 52<sup>nd</sup> Av
- If terminated, tax bills reduced by \$1,995 per year

# Annexation Process Going Forward

- Tabulate petition results; minimum 20% support required for process to move forward\*
- Staff report to City Commission on petition results\*
- Noticed City Commission meeting to discuss annexation\*
- City submits annexation application to Miami-Dade County
- County Commission refers City's annexation request to the County Planning Advisory Board (PAB)\*
- PAB public hearing on annexation\*
- County Commission hearings on annexation, including County Policy Committee\*
- If approved by County Commission, annexation referendum on ballot for High Pines / Ponce Davis registered voters to vote on annexation\*

\* Opportunities for High Pines / Ponce Davis residents to be heard

# Benefits of Annexation

- Nationally recognized municipal services
- Rapid police and fire response
- Frequent and convenient waste services
- New and enhanced parks
- Improved roads, drainage, lighting, landscape, trees, and sidewalks
- City Ombudsman to assist residents and businesses
- Open and accessible City government



# Coral Gables

**A World Class City with a Hometown Feel**

**[www.coralgables.com/annexation](http://www.coralgables.com/annexation)**

**[annexation@coralgables.com](mailto:annexation@coralgables.com)**

# Open Discussion / Q & A