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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Coral Gables Community & Business Leaders to Dine Out! in
Support of Local Restaurants during Streetscape Project**

Coral Gables, FL – On Wednesday, July 13th, business and community leaders in Coral Gables are going to be out to lunch – literally.

Designed as a collaborative effort supported by the leadership of local companies, our contractor and civic organizations, the Dine Out! program supports our local restaurants directly affected by the Miracle Mile and Giralda Streetscape project by coming together as a business community and dining out!

The leadership and members of the various participating organizations, including the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce, City of Coral Gables, Business Improvement District, Stantec and Ric-Man, will head out for lunch along Giralda Avenue and patronize their favorite local restaurants on Wednesday, July 13th for lunch (between Noon and 2pm).

We are encouraging business leaders to also host their breakfast meetings and dinner appointments on Wednesday over lunch, move date-nights up to lunch time, switch their weekend plans and invite friends and family, colleagues and co-workers to the Dine Out! Program over lunch.

"Our restaurants are a vital part of the small business community here in Coral Gables and many are feeling the effects of the streetscape project," said Mark A. Trowbridge, president & CEO of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce. "The Dine Out! is our own hyper local stimulus program to get our residents, business leaders and visitors focused on how we can dine local and support those most in need of our support during construction of what will become a re-imagined main street here in the Gables."

This is a re-boot of a program created in 2009 during the Great Recession by our Chamber. A similar program was also done after 9/11 when tourism was dramatically affected by the tragedies of that day.

In this iteration of the program, our local businesses are being affected by the perception that businesses are not open or that parking may be hindered or difficult to navigate and find. It is our belief that the best way to counteract this is by



engaging the leaders of our business community to take action and show their support very publicly and proudly.

Javier Betancourt, Director of Economic Development with the City of Coral Gables had this to say: "The Dine Out! Program is a fantastic idea, and one of several ways that we're working to help our merchants during the period of construction. From wayfinding signs and discounted parking, to enhanced advertising and special events, we are letting visitors and shoppers know that Downtown Coral Gables remains open for business!"

The Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce is a 1,600 member, not-for-profit business association that has served the community for more than 90 years. As one of the largest Chambers in the tri-county region, our mission is to foster and enhance the economic interests and quality of life in the Coral Gables community.

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