

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, CONDEMNING BRUNEI'S NEW CRIMINAL LAWS PUNISHING SAME-SEX SEXUAL ACTS WITH DEATH BY STONING, AND URGING THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH RESIDENTS TO AVOID TAKING VACATIONS IN BRUNEI AND LODGING AT THE HOTELS OWNED BY BRUNEI'S SULTAN, HASSANAL BOLKIAH.

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2019, Brunei, a small country on the Southeast Asian island of Borneo ruled by Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah (the "Sultan"), effectuated new criminal laws, which would punish those found guilty of same-sex sexual acts and adultery by stoning the offenders to death; and

WHEREAS, Brunei's new law, imposing the death penalty upon anyone found guilty of engaging in same-sex sexual acts and adultery have triggered an outcry from multiple countries, human rights groups, and celebrities alike; and

WHEREAS, on April 2, 2019, the United States joined the United Kingdom, Germany and France in urging Brunei to halt its plans, stating that Brunei's new penal code runs counter to the country's international human rights obligations; and

WHEREAS, celebrities including George Clooney, Jamie Lee Curtis, Elton John, Billie Jean King, and Ellen DeGeneres have also voiced opposition to the new laws, and have rallied a boycott of the nine hotels in the U.S. and Europe with ties to Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, including: Hotel Bel Air in Los Angeles; USA, Beverly Hills Hotel in Beverly Hills; USA, the Dorchester in London, England; 45 Park Lane in London, England; Coworth Park in Ascot, England; Le Maurice in Paris, France; Hotel Plaza Athenee in Paris, France; Hotel Eden in Rome, Italy; and Hotel Principe di Savoia in Milano, Italy; and

WHEREAS, a number of companies, organizations, and travel agencies, including, but not limited to the Deutsche Bank, the Financial Times, TV Choice Magazine, STA Travel, and Transport for London have also joined the boycott of the nine hotels owned by the Sultan, as well as terminating travel and vacation services to Brunei; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission abhor violence, criminalization and discrimination targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in Brunei, and strongly oppose Brunei's recently enacted laws punishing individuals engaged in same-sex sexual acts with death by stoning; and

WHEREAS, boycotts are a powerful means to apply pressure onto companies or individuals to correct their misdeeds, as well as encourage banks, financiers and institutions that do business with them to withdraw their financial and public support; and

WHEREAS, as such, the Mayor and City Commission urge residents of the City of Miami Beach to take a stand against Brunei's inhumane, cruel laws, criminalizing same-sex sexual acts,

by boycotting the nine luxury hotels owned by the Sultan of Brunei, and avoid taking vacations to Brunei.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby condemn Brunei's criminal laws punishing same-sex sexual acts with death by stoning, and urge the residents of the City of Miami Beach to avoid vacationing in Brunei and lodging at the hotels owned by Brunei's Sultan, Hassanal Bolkiah.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of May, 2019.

ATTEST:

Dan Gelber, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner Michael Gongora)

**APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION**



City Attorney 4-29-19
Date
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