

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO ADVANCE THE FOSTER GRANDPARENTS SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM AMONG THE COMMUNITY'S ELDER RESIDENTS BY PROMOTING THE EXISTING SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND BY EXPLORING THE PROMOTION OF VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE CITY'S PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT.**

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Miami Beach (the "City") made a joint referral to the Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee (the "NCAC") and the Senior Affairs Committee to discuss the merits of the Foster Grandparents Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the topic was discussed by the Senior Affairs Committee at its March 25, 2019 meeting, and by the NCAC at its April 24, 2019 meeting, respectively; and

**WHEREAS**, the Foster Grandparent Program (the "Program") is part of Senior Corps, a network of national service programs that provide older Americans the opportunity to volunteer for a child, and harness their life experiences and skills to benefit their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Program originated on August 28, 1965, with a purpose to demonstrate how income-eligible persons age 55 or over have the maturity and experience to establish personal relationships with children having either exceptional or special needs;

**WHEREAS**, the Program's dual purpose is to enhance the lives of children through a caring relationship with seniors, and to provide a high-quality experience that enriches the lives of the senior volunteers and the children they serve; and

**WHEREAS**, Foster Grandparents typically serve through a variety of local organizations—including faith-based groups, municipal parks, Head Start Centers, schools, and other youth facilities—to help children learn to read, provide one-on-one tutoring, and guide children at a critical time in their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County Public Schools partners with Miami-Dade County to promote its Retired Senior Volunteer Program ("RSVP"), which allows persons 55 years of age and older, an opportunity to contribute their time, expertise and experience as school volunteers; and

**WHEREAS**, in exchange for volunteering, RSVP participants receive transportation reimbursement and school recognition, among other benefits, while their volunteer efforts promote student school attendance, build students' confidence and growth, and enhance social relationships that support student achievement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Miami Beach community is fortunate to have a diverse population of senior citizens who are ready and willing to volunteer to make a difference; and

**WHEREAS**, the Senior Affairs Committee has found that, since the framework to connect senior volunteers with youth is readily available through Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the City should promote the existing RSVP program as a means of increasing voluntarism among the City's elder residents; and

**WHEREAS**, at the NCAC's April 24, 2019 discussion on the Foster Grandparents Program, the Administration recommended that in addition to the RSVP, the City should explore two volunteer opportunities within the City's Parks and Recreation Department that may yield maximum benefit for the senior volunteers and the youth – the City's afterschool programs and its toddler programs; and

**WHEREAS**, senior volunteers can contribute to the City's afterschool programming for children and youth by offering programming support and one-to-one engagement with youth including such activities as art and cooking classes; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition, senior volunteers can also participate in the City's toddler classes, which seek to provide toddlers with enrichment, stimulation and supervised play time; and

**WHEREAS**, the NCAC has accepted the Administration's recommendation and passed a motion recommending that the Foster Grandparents Program be implemented among the community's senior citizens through existing volunteer programs, with a condition that all senior volunteers must undergo a background check.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA**, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby accept the recommendation of the Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee and direct the City Administration to advance the Foster Grandparents senior volunteer program among the community's elder residents by promoting the existing senior volunteer program administered by Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and by exploring the promotion of volunteer opportunities within the City's Parks and Recreation Department.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 5th day of June, 2019.

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Gelber, Mayor

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Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner Michael Gongora)

APPROVED AS TO  
FORM & LANGUAGE  
& FOR EXECUTION

DL Gelber  
City Attorney

5/22/19  
Date