

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, URGING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ("FDEP") TO DEVELOP A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR MITIGATING CORAL REEF DISEASES, AND FURTHER URGING THE FDEP AND THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ("SFWMD") TO IMPLEMENT ADDITIONAL STRATEGIES TO GREATLY REDUCE NUTRIENT LOADING FROM ALL HUMAN SOURCES AND PATHWAYS AS A MATTER OF URGENCY, AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT THIS RESOLUTION AND THE COMMENTS SET FORTH HEREIN TO THE FDEP, THE SFWMD, AND TO ALL MUNICIPALITIES WITHIN MIAMI-DADE, BROWARD, MONROE, PALM BEACH, AND MARTIN COUNTIES.

WHEREAS, economically and ecologically valuable nearshore coral reef resources are found in Florida coastal waters from Martin County to the Dry Tortugas in Monroe County, and comprise the Florida Reef Tract — the only coral reef tract in the continental United States and third largest coral barrier reef system in the world; and

WHEREAS, the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Tract (the "Southeast Reef Tract") stretches from Miami-Dade County (north of Biscayne National Park) to St. Lucie Inlet in Martin County, and comprises one third of the 360-mile long Florida Reef Tract; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the State of Florida established the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area, which consists of the sovereignty submerged lands and state waters offshore of Broward, Martin, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach Counties from the St. Lucie Inlet to the northern boundary of the Biscayne National Park; and

WHEREAS, coastal waters, coral reefs, and the aquatic life the coral reefs support are essential in sustaining over 71,000 jobs, and contributing over \$6 billion to Florida's economy, while serving approximately 6 million residents, and over 38 million visitors annually; and

WHEREAS, coral reefs are the literal first line of defense for our beaches and coastal communities, providing invaluable physical impact and flood reduction protection from increasingly severe and frequent tropical storm events; and

WHEREAS, the highly-accessible Southeast Reef Tract has experienced impacts from extremely high usage year-round, and from water quality degradation caused by numerous factors including: prolonged periods of exceptionally warm water temperatures; acidification; and direct human inputs such as continued operation of ocean outfalls, leaking septic systems, and regional stormwater discharges; and

WHEREAS, coral disease outbreaks are occurring and quickly spreading along the entire Florida Reef Tract, and include multiple diseases which have impacted over 21 species of reef-building stony corals, including several listed as threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and the State Imperiled Species Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach (the "City") recognizes the value of the Florida Reef Tract and its important contribution to the region's economy and ecology; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to support and advance the protection and restoration of the Florida Reef Tract; and

WHEREAS, as such, the Mayor and City Commission hereby urge responsible agencies, including the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's ("FDEP") Coral Reef Conservation Program to develop a Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Management Plan for the purpose of mitigating reef diseases, and water quality impacts, while maintaining a healthy and sustainable Southeast Florida Coral Reef Tract; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission further urge the FDEP and the South Florida Water Management District to develop and implement strategies to reduce nutrient loading from all human sources and pathways as a matter of urgency, including surface water management initiatives of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and Central Everglades Planning Project; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby urge the Florida Department of Environmental Protection ("FDEP") to develop a management plan for mitigating coral reef diseases, and further urging the FDEP and the South Florida Water Management District ("SFWMD") to implement additional strategies to greatly reduce nutrient loading from all human sources and pathways as a matter of urgency, and directing the City Clerk to transmit this Resolution and the comments set forth herein to the FDEP, the SFWMD, and to all municipalities within Miami-Dade, Broward, Monroe, Palm Beach, and Martin Counties.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2019.

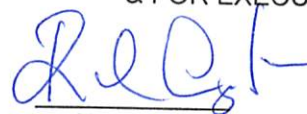
ATTEST:

Dan Gelber, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Co-sponsored by Commissioners John Elizabeth Aleman and Mark Samuelian)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney
RA
7/8/19

Date