

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, URGING GOVERNOR RONALD DESANTIS, THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (“DEP”), AND OTHER APPLICABLE STATE AGENCIES TO ISSUE THE EXPEDITED APPROVAL OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY’S REQUEST FOR A ONE-TIME EXTENDED PERMIT THAT WOULD RUN CONTINUOUSLY THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2019, IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THE OVERABUNDANCE OF SEAWEED BEING DEPOSITED ON THE BEACHES OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND THE CITY.

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach (the “City”) is comprised of a number of islands with approximately 70 miles of shoreline along numerous canals and waterways, the Atlantic Ocean, and Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve, all of which support a wide variety of flora and fauna; and

WHEREAS, the City hosts approximately 15 million visitors each year, and is considered one of the world’s most popular tourist destinations because of its beaches, crystal-clear blue water, and amazing tropical environment; and

WHEREAS, the City, as well as the entirety of Miami-Dade County (the “County”), are battling massive amounts of sargassum seaweed, a type of floating algae, being deposited onto its beaches; and

WHEREAS, the massive amounts of seaweed, combined with accompanying intoxicating odor, create an unsightly appearance and unsanitary conditions, and prevent beachgoers from enjoying the sandy beaches and the ocean, and expose citizens and tourists to tremendous risk to their welfare and health, and the tourism industry of both the County and the City; and

WHEREAS, the County’s Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Department (“PROS”) is responsible for maintaining clean beaches throughout the City;

WHEREAS, the County is required to work collaboratively with the Department of Environmental Protection (“DEP”) and Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (“FWC”) to follow all regulations and obtain those required permits for mechanized beach cleaning; and

WHEREAS, the County must re-apply for a permit with the DEP every two weeks in order to utilize heavy equipment to address the extraordinary unsanitary condition that stems directly from massive amounts of seaweed washing up on the City’s beaches; and

WHEREAS, County Resolution adopted on July 23, 2019, and sponsored by Miami-Dade County Commissioner, Eileen Higgins, urged Governor Ronald DeSantis, the DEP, and other applicable state agencies to expedite and immediately issue a one-time extended permit for the removal of the dangerous seaweed in Miami Beach; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission fully support, and hereby expressly request, the expedited and immediate approval of the County’s request for a one-time extended “special condition” permit which would run continuously through October 31, 2019, in order to efficiently

address the unprecedented levels of seaweed being deposited onto the City's beaches, without the necessity of re-applying for a permit every two weeks; and

WHEREAS, this urgent and essential request will permit the County to more effectively maintain its treasured beaches and preserve Miami-Dade County and Miami Beach's tourism, and beachfront property values.

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 urge Governor Ronald DeSantis, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP"), and other applicable state agencies to issue the expedited approval of Miami-Dade County's request for a one-time extended permit that would run continuously through October 31, 2019, in order to address the overabundance of seaweed being deposited on the beaches of Miami-Dade County and the City.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this **31st** day of **July**, 2019.

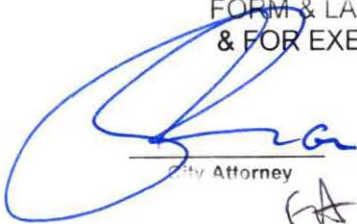
ATTEST:

Dan Gelber, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Mayor Dan Gelber)

REVIEWED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney

7/24/19

Date

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