

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

**RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH MIAMI BEACH COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER, ESTABLISHING THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN A PILOT PROGRAM WITH THE HEALTH CENTER'S VIVITROL PROJECT, FOR A TERM OF THREE (3) YEARS, SUBJECT TO TERMINATION BY EITHER PARTY UPON PROVIDING THIRTY (30) DAYS NOTICE; SAID PROGRAM PROVIDING TREATMENT AND A SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR HOMELESS PERSONS WITH ADDICTION ISSUES AT NO COST TO THE CITY.**

**WHEREAS**, the National Coalition for the Homeless emphasizes that "substance abuse can be both the cause and the result of homelessness, and that many people begin abusing alcohol or drugs after losing their homes"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) reports that nearly 35% of homeless Americans were affected by substance abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Coalition for the Homeless has found that 38% of homeless people are alcohol dependent, and 26% are dependent on other harmful chemicals; and

**WHEREAS**, overcoming addiction requires intensive treatment and follow-up care as well as a support system; and

**WHEREAS**, many homeless people lack a family support system, have no health insurance or the ability to pay for treatment, and cannot readily access needed services; and

**WHEREAS**, the most common treatment options available for substance abuse are:

- Inpatient residential treatment
- Outpatient treatment
- Group therapy
- Private/individual therapy; and

**WHEREAS**, these forms of treatment differ in terms of cost, time commitment, and availability/accessibility; and

**WHEREAS**, while these options can be effective, their associated costs and locations may present significant challenges for most people and may even be perceived as insurmountable for the homeless; and

**WHEREAS**, the City and Miami Beach Community Health Center (MBCHC) staff explored the challenges connecting clients to treatment and focused on medical approaches to tackle the problem, including the use of pharmaceutical options that block the effects of opioid and alcohol use; and

**WHEREAS**, there are currently several medications in the marketplace that are designed to prevent relapse to opioid dependence after detoxification and to treat alcohol

dependence and these medications should be used in conjunction with drug or alcohol recovery programs, such as counseling; and

**WHEREAS**, as with all prescription medications, these medications are intended for persons who receive screening for appropriateness by a medical practitioner (as they may not work for everyone); and

**WHEREAS**, the City and MBCHC have agreed to pursue a pilot program (Program) at no expense to the City, based upon the following essential terms:

(i) The City will refer homeless clients who express an interest in addiction services to Miami Beach Community Health Center for a health screening;

(ii) If the client is deemed a good candidate for the approach, MBCHC will provide the medication and follow-up care at Miami Rescue Mission and its multiple clinic locations in Miami Beach and North Miami; and

(iii) the City will continue to provide care coordination and additional supports including: ID replacement, housing referrals, security deposit for independent housing (when the client is stabilized and as funds allow), and ongoing shelter services during the duration of stabilizing treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, this approach provides accessible treatment when the client is ready to accept services and establishes the supports and wraparound services to ensure that the client hits the ground running as he pursues employment and community reintegration, and thereafter provides continued support while the client is employed and/or housed, as services are not contingent upon the client's homeless status; and

**WHEREAS**, during this pilot phase of the Program, only men will be served, and if the pilot is deemed effective, the City and MBCHC will explore expanding service locations and client reach to include women; and

**WHEREAS**, as with all services provided by MBCHC, the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) must provide approval for service expansion and MBCHC has received this approval for the Program and will be reporting back to AHCA as the Program progresses; and

**WHEREAS**, the City and MBCHC believe that this model may offer a replicable solution for other communities throughout the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, by entering into a three (3) year Memorandum of Understanding with Miami Beach Community Health Center for this Program, the City can better serve homeless clients who report addiction as an impediment to housing and employment success.

**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 approve and authorize the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Miami Beach Community Health Center, establishing the City's participation in a pilot program with the health center's Vivitrol Project, for a term of three (3) years, subject to termination by either party upon providing thirty (30) days notice; said Program providing treatment and a support system for homeless persons with addiction issues at no cost to the City.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 11th day of December, 2019.

**ATTEST:**

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

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Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO  
FORM & LANGUAGE  
& FOR EXECUTION

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

12/3/19  
Date