

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, REQUESTING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MAYOR CARLOS GIMENEZ TO: (1) RE-OPEN PUBLIC BEACHES WITHIN THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH FROM 6:00 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M., SUBJECT TO SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES, AND (2) ALLOW VOLUNTEERS TO MONITOR WATER QUALITY AND DO BEACH CLEANUPS AT ANYTIME OF THE DAY, CONDITIONED UPON THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH ESTABLISHING A VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION PROGRAM AND IMPLEMENTING PROCEDURES TO LIMIT GATHERINGS TO TEN VOLUNTEERS OR LESS.

WHEREAS, during March and April of 2020, the accelerating infection rate for COVID-19 led at least 42 states (including Florida), and countless local governments, including Miami-Dade County, to issue orders curtailing mobility, recreational activities, and travel, through "Shelter in Place," "Stay at Home," or "Safer at Home" orders, in order to minimize contact through social distancing measures and reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection, with over 316 million Americans subject to such orders, accounting for over 97% of the country's population; and

WHEREAS, according to the Florida Department of Health, Florida had fewer cases and deaths during the week of April 20, 2020, than it did during the week of April 14, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on April 17, 2020, Jacksonville City and Duval County opened their beaches from 6:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M., and from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. daily with some restrictions, such as prohibiting sunbathing but allowing recreational activities such as swimming, jogging, and biking while adhering to social distancing guidelines; and

WHEREAS, on April 24, 2020 Bay County and Panama City opened their beaches from 6:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M., and from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. daily; and

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2020, Sarasota County opened its beaches subject to social distancing guidelines and certain restrictions – while sunbathing is prohibited, beachgoers are allowed to walk, jog, surf, swim, kayak, paddleboard, and engage in any other recreational activity that can be done while adhering to social distancing guidelines; and

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2020, St. Lucie and Indian River counties opened their beaches subject to social distancing guidelines and restrictions similar to the ones established by Sarasota County; and

WHEREAS, three counties are set to open their beaches on May 1, 2020: Okaloosa County is set to open its beaches from 6:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M., and from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.; Santa Rosa County is set to open its beaches from 2:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.; and Gulf County is set to open its beaches from 6:30 A.M. to 9:00 A.M., and from 4:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.; and

WHEREAS, limited beach re-opening with restrictions can be one of the first steps and a pathway back to normalcy while being mindful of risks and respectful of limitations, as well as providing some reprieve to Miami Beach residents who, like the rest of the country, have been

impacted immensely during this unprecedented pandemic; and

WHEREAS, as such, the Mayor and City Commission of Miami Beach request Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez to re-open public beaches within the City of Miami Beach from 6:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M., with restrictions and social distancing guidelines in place to ensure that the public adheres to social distancing guidelines; and

WHEREAS, moreover, the Mayor and City Commission further request for Miami-Dade County to allow volunteers to monitor water quality and conduct beach cleanups at any time during the day, conditioned upon the City developing a registry program that would limit volunteer beach cleanups to no more than 10 people at a time, in order to follow social distancing guidelines.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and the City Commission hereby request Miami-Dade County Mayor Gimenez to: (1) re-open public beaches within the City of Miami Beach from 6:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M., subject to social distancing guidelines, and (2) allow volunteers to monitor water quality and do beach cleanups at any time of the day, conditioned upon the City of Miami Beach establishing a volunteer registration program and implementing procedures to limit gatherings to ten volunteers or less.

PASSED and ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2020.

Dan Gelber, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(sponsored by Commissioner Ricky Arriola)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

RD For
City Attorney

5-6-20
Date