

## **Aesthetics Criteria for Future Resiliency Projects**

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

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING A POLICY TO PRIORITIZE AESTHETICS AS A PRIMARY CRITERION IN FUTURE CITY RESILIENCY PROJECTS.**

**WHEREAS**, on March 18, 2020, at the request of Commissioner Mark Samuelian, the City Commission referred a discussion item to the Land Use and Sustainability Committee (LUSC) pertaining to aesthetics as a primary criterion in future resiliency projects; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 22, 2020, the LUSC discussed this proposal and recommended that the City Commission adopt a Resolution to establish a policy for prioritizing aesthetics as a primary criterion in future resiliency projects; and

**WHEREAS**, in an essay entitled, "Eleven Ideas to Improve Miami Beach's Resilience Initiatives," Mr. Aris Papadopoulos, Founding Chair of Resilience Action Fund, writes as follows: "Most residents and buyers choose to live on Miami Beach not for jobs, schools or family, but for its aesthetics. Aesthetics is an important component of life quality and market value perception... Miami Beach would benefit by elevating aesthetics to a primary criterion in comparing options"; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Miami Beach has a very robust and comprehensive aesthetics review process for new development, including the Design Review Board (DRB) and Historic Preservation Board (HPB) processes; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of the Urban Land Institute's (ULI) critical evaluation of the City's resiliency efforts in 2018, the ULI recommended that the City expand the scope of its aesthetic review, to incorporate high-quality urban design as a co-benefit of the City's infrastructure improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Miami Beach is committed to a high level of aesthetics, at all levels and functions of City government and for all public projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the following mechanisms provide additional opportunities to promote aesthetics and urban design within the City's resiliency framework:

1. Public-Private Alliances;
2. Aesthetics in City Projects, including G.O. Bond-funded projects and stormwater projects: City projects should, wherever applicable, integrate a strong design component at the beginning of the design process. These aesthetic components can include, without limitation, creative placemaking, green infrastructure, trees, and landscaping;
3. The use of natural landscaping in the form of green buffering and green screening for infrastructure components located above ground, in particular between elevated streets and sidewalks, when sidewalks are proposed to remain at existing levels, as well as to improve water quality and reduce flooding on private property; and

4. Art in Public Places (AIPP).

**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 recommend that the following mechanisms be incorporated within the City's resiliency framework, where applicable, in order to promote aesthetics in the context of the City's infrastructure improvements:

1. Public-Private Alliances;
2. Aesthetics in City Projects, including G.O. Bond-funded projects and stormwater projects: City projects should, wherever applicable, integrate a strong design component at the beginning of the design process. These aesthetic components can include, without limitation, creative placemaking, green infrastructure, trees, and landscaping;
3. The use of natural landscaping in the form of green buffering and green screening for infrastructure components located above ground, in particular between elevated streets and sidewalks when sidewalks are proposed to remain at existing levels, as well as to improve water quality and reduce flooding on private property; and
4. Art in Public Places (AIPP).

**PASSED AND ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_ day of October, 2020**

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

**ATTEST:**

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Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

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APPROVED AS TO FORM AND  
LANGUAGE AND FOR EXECUTION

*[Signature]* 10/09/2020  
for City Attorney NK Date