

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

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO ISSUE A LETTER TO THE CITY COMMISSION, IDENTIFYING THE PALM TREE REMOVALS ANTICIPATED TO TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE NEXT 90 DAYS, IN ORDER TO PERMIT MEMBERS OF THE CITY COMMISSION TO IDENTIFY TREE REMOVALS IN SPECIFIC AREAS THAT MAY BE OF SIGNIFICANT CONCERN, AND REQUEST THAT THE CITY ADMINISTRATION HOLD SUCH TREE REMOVALS IN ABEYANCE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS LEGISLATION PROPOSED AT THE MARCH 17, 2021 CITY COMMISSION MEETING REGARDING PRESERVATION OF PALM TREE LANDSCAPES ICONIC TO MIAMI BEACH'S CULTURE AND HISTORY IS CONSIDERED; AND FURTHER PROVIDING THAT THE INTENT OF THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION IS TO ACCOMMODATE PRESERVATION CONCERNS WHILE MINIMIZING ANY DELAYS TO CITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS THAT ARE CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS.**

**WHEREAS**, in an effort to develop and maintain a healthy and sustainable urban tree canopy, the Urban Forestry Master Plan ("UFMP") generally recommends shifting to a higher percentage of non-palm canopy trees citywide in order to improve the resiliency of the City's urban forest, which will result in reducing the percentage of palms citywide by certain dates, including through certain targeted removals of palms;

**WHEREAS**, the City encourages historic preservation, including preservation of iconic historic landscaping features;

**WHEREAS**, the UFMP also recognizes the "iconic" historical significance of palms in the City of Miami Beach, and acknowledges the challenge of facilitating adaptive change, while preserving clear established neighborhood identities, particularly when those neighborhood identities are founded in palms; and

**WHEREAS**, palms always have been, and remain an iconic part of Miami Beach's landscape; and

**WHEREAS**, as such, the Mayor and City Commission direct the City Administration to issue a letter to the city commission, identifying the palm tree removals anticipated to take place within the next 90 days in order to permit members of the City Commission to identify tree removals in specific areas that may be of significant concern; and

**WHEREAS**, upon receiving the letter from the City Administration, members of the City Commission will have the opportunity to evaluate and request that the City Administration hold palm tree removals that pose a significant concern in abeyance, until such time as legislation proposed at the March 17, 2021 City Commission meeting regarding preservation of palm tree landscapes iconic to Miami Beach's culture and history is considered by the Mayor and City Commission; and

**WHEREAS;** the intent of this Resolution is not to create a moratorium on tree removals or interfere with the existing twenty-two (22) capital projects, but to accommodate preservation concerns in areas that are most sensitive, while minimizing any delays to City construction projects that are currently in progress.

**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 direct the City Administration to issue a letter to the City Commission, identifying the palm tree removals anticipated to take place within the next 90 days, in order to permit members of the City Commission to identify tree removals in specific areas that may be of significant concern, and request that the City Administration hold such tree removals in abeyance until such time as legislation proposed at the March 17, 2021 City Commission meeting regarding preservation of palm tree landscapes iconic to Miami Beach's culture and history is considered; and further provide that the intent of the foregoing Resolution is to accommodate preservation concerns while minimizing any delays to City construction projects that are currently in progress.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

**ATTEST:**

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

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Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner Steven Meiner)

APPROVED AS TO  
FORM & LANGUAGE  
& FOR EXECUTION

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney *FA*

3-16-21  
Date