

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE PRIVATIZATION OF THE VENETIAN CAUSEWAY AS PART OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY RFP NO. 01982, AND URGING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MAYOR DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA TO EXCLUDE THE VENETIAN CAUSEWAY FROM THE PLANS TO PRIVATIZE THE RICKENBACKER CAUSEWAY.

WHEREAS, the historic scenic Venetian Causeway is a 2.5-mile two lane roadway winding through a residential neighborhood with 10 low stationary bridges and two bascules (drawbridges) which join City of Miami to the west, and City of Miami Beach to the east; and

WHEREAS, the Venetian Causeway has been designated as a Historic Place by the prestigious National Register of Historic Places since 1989 and is also designated as historic by adjacent cities and Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2021, the Miami-Dade County (the "County") received an unsolicited proposal from a consortium of firms consisting of equity investor entity Partners Group (USA) Inc., and consultant entities Zyskovich Architects, and J Kardys Strategies, LLC, for, among other projects, sea level rise coastal resiliency improvements and maintenance of the Venetian Causeway; and

WHEREAS, consequently, the County issued RFP No. 01982, soliciting proposals to develop, maintain and operate Rickenbacker and Venetian Causeways; and

WHEREAS, the County's decision to solicit proposals to maintain and operate Venetian Causeways caused immediate opposition from Venetian Causeway residents, prompting letters from Venetian Way Neighborhood Alliance (VWNA), the Venetian Islands Homeowners Association (VIHA), the Belle Island Residents Association (BIRA), Venetian Isle Condominium Association, and 1000 Venetian Way Condominium Association declaring their opposition and calling on the County Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners to remove the Venetian Causeway from RFP No. 01982; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Sally Heyman and state Representative Michael Grieco issued similar statements, opposing the inclusion of the Venetian Causeway with the Rickenbacker Bridge in RFP No. 01982, and calling for the County to engage in meaningful conversations with the City of Miami Beach, City of Miami, and their residents on how the privatization of the Venetian Causeway will impact them; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Miami Beach join County Commissioner Sally Heyman and state Representative Michael Grieco, as well as the Venetian Causeway residents in opposing the inclusion of the venetian Causeway with the Rickenbacker Bridge in RFP No. 01982; and

WHEREAS, as computed by the County, annual toll revenue for the Venetian Causeway ranges from \$6.2 million to \$5 million between 2018 and 2021 (reflecting the COVID-19 pandemic), with the annual operation and maintenance expenses totaling approximately \$3 million; and

WHEREAS, allowing a private company to operate the Venetian Causeway will result in an annual financial loss of approximately \$2 million to \$3 million profit for the County and its general fund; and

WHEREAS, according to RFP. No. 01982, the County anticipates entering into an Interim Agreement for a base term of forty (40) years with two (2), twenty (20) year options to renew, which means a potential total loss of revenue and cash reserves of the County of over \$200 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, moreover, it is unlikely that privatization of the Venetian Causeway will result in a faster or better solution to fixing the bridges, as private companies will not prioritize residents but will rather seek to monetize profits for their partners and investors; and

WHEREAS, the Venetian Causeway, as a long-standing and unique feature of Miami-Dade County, should be managed by a government chartered to help the people.

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 oppose the privatization of the Venetian Causeway, as part of Miami-Dade County RFP No. 01982, and urge Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava to exclude the Venetian Causeway from the plans to privatize the Rickenbacker Causeway.

PASSED and ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2021.

Dan Gelber, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner Micky Steinberg)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

City Attorney *fx*

9-9-21

Date