

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE SABRINA COHEN FOUNDATION ADAPTIVE PARK AND RECREATION CENTER PROJECT; AFFIRMING THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH FOR THE PROJECT; AND FURTHER, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO INCLUDE FUNDING FOR THE PROJECT AS PART OF THE CITY'S FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES.

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach, in collaboration with Sabrina Cohen Foundation, Inc. (the "Foundation") and Miami-Dade County (the "County"), is in the process of developing the Sabrina Cohen Foundation Adaptive Recreation Center at 5301 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach, which will consist of a building for community wellness and recreation programs, focusing on persons with various disability needs along with associated public, outdoor facilities and amenities (collectively, the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Foundation is a 501c3 not-for-profit Florida corporation, dedicated to developing adaptive fitness and recreational programs that provide a better quality of life for individuals living with paralysis and various disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Project will be open to, and serve, all residents and visitors; will be unique in the United States; and will provide both access to the beach and a fully accessible state-of-the-art health and wellness facility (the "Center") for Miami Beach and Miami-Dade County residents and visitors living with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the City's beaches and coastlines are some of the most beautiful in the whole country, and both residents and visitors from all over the world flock to enjoy the City's beaches and exciting activities with their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, however, for wheelchair users or anyone with mobility aid devices, the shifting surface can be treacherous or impossible to navigate; and

WHEREAS, since 2016, the Foundation has hosted Adaptive Beach Days twice a month to provide access to the beach and ocean for disabled individuals, veterans, children with special needs, and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, the Project will allow people with disabilities to fully enjoy and use the City's most valuable natural resource on the regular basis rather than waiting for special bi-monthly events; and

WHEREAS, the Project will be developed in two phases, with the outdoor public access space and amenities being developed as Phase 1, to allow for year-round access to the beach, and the Center being developed as Phase 2; and

WHEREAS, the Center and outdoor public access space will be equipped with adaptable playgrounds, picnic areas, accessible walkways, and exercise equipment, and additional quality of life improvements for the community at large; and

WHEREAS, the Center and surrounding outdoor public space will spotlight the City, Miami-Dade County, and more generally, the state of Florida, as a welcoming and accommodating destination for those with disabilities and their families; will make the County an accessible place for its residents and visitors; and will improve the quality of life for persons living with a disability; and

WHEREAS, most importantly, the Project will be an invaluable amenity and service to residents and visitors who are physically disabled, allowing them to enjoy the beach and recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2021, the Miami-Dade Board of County Commission approved Resolution No. R-257-21, allocating County General Obligation Bond funds, in the amount of \$577,000, to the City of Miami Beach for the design and construction of the public infrastructure improvements associated with the Project; and

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2021, the Miami Beach City Commission approved Resolution No. 2021-31751, allocating up to \$2.5 million to match future donations to the Foundation for the design and construction of the Center; and

WHEREAS, on September 13, 2021, the Miami Beach City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2021-31835, approving the submittal of an appropriations request to the Florida Legislature, in the amount of \$750,000 for the Project; and

WHEREAS, to-date, the Foundation has raised nearly \$700,000 in individual donations and continues to aggressively fundraise; and

WHEREAS, the design and construction of the Center, during Phase 2 of the Project, is projected to cost approximately \$10.5 million; as such, the success of this unique Project is contingent upon securing additional funding.

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 urge the United States Congress and the Florida Legislature to provide funding for the Sabrina Cohen Foundation Adaptive Recreation Center; affirm the full support of the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Miami Beach for the Project;

and further, direct the City Administration to add the funding for the Project as part of the City's federal and state legislative priorities.

PASSED and **ADOPTED** this _____ day of _____, 2021.

Dan Gelber, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Mayor Dan Gelber)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

City Attorney

10-25-21

Date