

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, URGING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO REJOIN THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION ("UNESCO"), TO PERMIT THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES THROUGHOUT THE NATION TO TAKE STEPS TO APPLY FOR DESIGNATION OF THEIR CULTURAL AND ARCHITECTURAL LANDMARKS AS WORLD HERITAGE SITES; AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO SEND A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO PRESIDENT BIDEN, THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE, AND THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

WHEREAS, on January 1, 2019, at the direction of then-President Trump, the United States officially withdrew from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ("UNESCO"); and

WHEREAS, a World Heritage Site is a landmark or area with legal protection by an international convention administered by UNESCO; and

WHEREAS, World Heritage Sites are designated by UNESCO for having cultural, historical, scientific or other form of significance and are judged to contain "cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity"; and

WHEREAS, World Heritage Sites may be ancient ruins or historical structures, buildings, cities, deserts, forests, islands, lakes, monuments, mountains, or wilderness areas; and

WHEREAS, the World Heritage Committee, the main body in charge of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, has developed precise criteria for the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List and for the provision of international assistance under the World Heritage Fund, which is as follows:

- (i) to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;
- (i) to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;
- (ii) to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
- (iii) to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;

- (iv) to be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
- (v) to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria);
- (vi) to contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;
- (vii) to be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;
- (viii) to be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;
- (ix) to contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation; and

WHEREAS, all member nations of the World Heritage Convention voluntarily nominate their own sites embracing superlative natural or cultural attributes; and

WHEREAS, the skyline of Ocean Drive in South Beach is iconic and has it's been featured on television and in print photography thousands of times; and

WHEREAS, Ocean Drive is the heart of South Beach's Art Deco district; this area gives visitors a chance to see beautiful, historical architecture from a past era, which has been saved and preserved by preservationists over the years; and

WHEREAS, the architecture on Ocean Drive from the 1930s to the present is a combination of different styles from different architects; this area is considered to be an "Art Deco capital" and is home to the largest concentration of 1920s and 1930s resort-style architecture; and

WHEREAS, people travel from all over to have a glimpse of South Beach's famous Art Deco district on Ocean Drive; and

WHEREAS, among the most popular is the 1939 Colony Hotel, known as the most photographed art deco hotel, which has been featured in cameos in scores of movies and TV shows--including the series Dexter; and

WHEREAS, Ocean Drive is also the location of the famed Casa Casuarina, the residence of the late Italian fashion designer Gianni Versace, and is one of the most photographed houses in North America; and

WHEREAS, designating Ocean Drive as a World Heritage Site would elevate the City's status as a cultural and tourist destination around the world; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, it appears that only UNESCO members can nominate sites for World Heritage status, which would preclude the City from applying for designation for Ocean Drive, and further preclude other governmental entities throughout the nation from the ability to apply for World Heritage designation; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission therefore urge the United States government to rejoin UNESCO. .

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 urge the United States Government to rejoin the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ("UNESCO"), to permit the City of Miami Beach and other governmental entities throughout the nation to take steps to apply for designation of their cultural and architectural landmarks as World Heritage Sites; and directing the City Clerk to send a copy of this Resolution to President Biden, the U.S. Secretary of State, and the U.S. Ambassador To the United Nations.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ___ day of _____, 2022.

Dan Gelber, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(sponsored by Vice Mayor Kristen Rosen Gonzalez)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney

3-4-22

Date