

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022- \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF  
MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING AND ENDORSING A SISTER CITY  
AFFILIATION WITH THE CITY OF ODESSA, UKRAINE.**

**WHEREAS**, on or about February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation ("Russia") launched a full-scale military invasion into the country of Ukraine ("Ukraine"); and

**WHEREAS**, attacks by Russian armed forces have been reported in major cities across Ukraine, including Berdyansk, Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Odesa, Sumy and Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, and Western officials have claimed that, by scope, the war could be the largest in Europe since 1945; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as of March 27, 2022, there have been at least 2,909 civilian casualties amid Russia's unlawful invasion of Ukraine, including 1,119 civilian deaths and 1,790 civilian injuries, since the war began; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 3.4 million Ukrainians (particularly women, children and the elderly) have been forced to flee to neighboring countries—including over 2 million people seeking refuge in Poland, with many others fleeing to countries such as Hungary, Moldova, Slovakia and Romania, and an additional 6.5 million people have been displaced internally within the country of Ukraine; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Miami Beach expresses its grave concern with regard to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which is not only ongoing, but appears to be increasing in scale and severity; and

**WHEREAS**, in light of the Russian attack on Ukraine, the people of Ukraine are in dire need of humanitarian aid to assist in their safety and well-being, as they face enormous welfare, economic and social challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Miami Beach prides itself on being a diverse, inclusive international community with respect for the rule of law and democratic institutions, with the Mayor and City Commission routinely supporting measures that promote human rights and dignity; and

**WHEREAS**, Odessa, Ukraine is a city located along the Ukraine coast and is a gateway to the country of Ukraine; and

**WHEREAS**, known for its wonderful beaches, Odessa is a major seaport and transit hub located on the northwestern shore of the Black Sea; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to being a popular beach holiday spot, Odessa is a cultural enclave of literature and music; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Miami Beach, as a coastal city with a thriving arts and cultural community, has a great deal in common with this seaside town; and

**WHEREAS**, an alliance with Odessa will bind our cities for future generations, and will hopefully serve to promote peace, understanding and support for the Ukrainian people.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED THAT THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA,** hereby approves and endorses a sister city affiliation with the city of Odessa, Ukraine.

**PASSED and ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_ day of April, 2022.

**ATTEST:**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Mayor Dan Gelber)

APPROVED AS TO  
FORM & LANGUAGE  
& FOR EXECUTION

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

3-29-22  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**From:** Julio Magrisso <[julio@miamibeachchamber.com](mailto:julio@miamibeachchamber.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2022 3:22 PM

**To:** Leon, Samantha <[SamanthaLeon@miamibeachfl.gov](mailto:SamanthaLeon@miamibeachfl.gov)>; Burger, Michele <[MicheleBurger@miamibeachfl.gov](mailto:MicheleBurger@miamibeachfl.gov)>; Gelber, Dan <[DanGelber@miamibeachfl.gov](mailto:DanGelber@miamibeachfl.gov)>

**Cc:** 'Aaron W. Tandy' <[atandy@pathmanlewis.com](mailto:atandy@pathmanlewis.com)>; Robin Jacobs <[robinlibbyjacobs@gmail.com](mailto:robinlibbyjacobs@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Odessa, Ukraine- Sister City Affiliation request- Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce

[ THIS MESSAGE COMES FROM AN EXTERNAL EMAIL - USE CAUTION WHEN REPLYING AND OPENING LINKS OR ATTACHMENTS ]

Dear Mayor Gelber,

In 2019 , as you know, the City of Miami Beach entrusted the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce with the Sister City program.

As all of us continue to monitor the situation and conditions in Ukraine, the opportunity to create, per your suggestion, a Sister City relationship with a Ukrainian City, specifically Odessa, cannot be more timely.

The City of Odessa, known for its wonderful beaches is a major seaport and transport hub located on the northwestern shore of the Black Sea. Enjoying a position in a sheltered sandy bay on the Black Sea, Odessa has long been a popular beach holiday spot for Ukrainians. It's a cultural enclave of literature and music.

This Sister City relationship will bind our cities for future generations. The start of this relationship, during the war in Ukraine will hopefully help promote peace, understanding and support for the Ukrainian people.

Therefore, we respectfully request a resolution of the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Miami Beach approving and endorsing a Sister City affiliation with the City of Odessa, Ukraine.

Julio E. Magrisso  
Interim President and CEO

Aaron Tandy  
Chairman of the Board

Robin Jacobs  
Immediate Past Chair

Moni Cohen  
Co-Chair, Sister City Program

George Neary  
Co-Chair, Sister City Program



Julio Magrisso  
Interim President and CEO

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