

**RESOLUTION NO.            2022-32123**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF DESIGNATING THE PORTION OF OCEAN DRIVE, FROM 5TH STREET THROUGH 15TH STREET, AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK, IN ORDER TO INITIATE THE PROCESS OF NOMINATING OCEAN DRIVE FOR THE U.S. TENTATIVE LIST FOR CONSIDERATION AS A WORLD HERITAGE SITE BY THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (“UNESCO”).**

**WHEREAS**, a World Heritage Site is a landmark or area with legal protection by an international convention administered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (“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 might 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 this beautiful, historical architecture from a past era, which was 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**, at this time the United States is not a member of UNESCO but it is still considered a State Party to the World Heritage Convention, and thus has the ability to nominate sites to be included on the World Heritage list; and

**WHEREAS**, in order for a site to be nominated for consideration as a World Heritage Site, it must have been included on its country's Tentative List for at least one year before nomination; and

**WHEREAS**, only sites already designated as National Historic Landmarks (NHLs) or National Natural Landmarks (NNLs) or otherwise officially recognized as being nationally significant (such as National Parks) are eligible for the U.S. Tentative List; and

**WHEREAS**, the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, with staff assistance from the National Park Service, Office of International Affairs (NPS-OIA) is responsible for identifying sites for the U.S. Tentative List, and nominating sites to the World Heritage List; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition, potential World Heritage Sites can be added or recommended to the U.S. Tentative List, as part of an official process for making nominations; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Tentative List was last revised in 2017, and now includes 19 sites or groups of properties.; and

**WHEREAS**, at this time, no further revisions are planned in the near future, as this list will supply future nominations for a number of years, however, the NPS-OIA maintains files on other properties that might be considered for addition in the future, and parties interested in being placed on the Tentative List are encouraged to contact the NPS-OIA; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Commission desire for the Ocean Drive to be considered as a World Heritage Site by the UNESCO; and

**WHEREAS**, as follows, the Mayor and City Commission direct the City Administration to explore the feasibility of designating the portion of Ocean Drive, from 5th Street through 15th Street, as a National Historic Landmark in order to initiate the process of nominating Ocean Drive for the U.S. Tentative List for consideration as a World Heritage Site by the 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 direct the City Administration to explore the feasibility of designating the portion of Ocean Drive, from 5th Street through 15th Street, as a National Historic Landmark in order to initiate the process of nominating Ocean Drive for the U.S. Tentative List for consideration as a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ("UNESCO").

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 6 day of April, 2022.


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Dan Gelber, Mayor

**ATTEST:**   
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Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

APR 12 2022

(sponsored by Vice Mayor Kristen Rosen Gonzalez)



**APPROVED AS TO FORM & LANGUAGE & FOR EXECUTION**  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney  
Date 3-29-22