

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO CONFER WITH THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACES DEPARTMENT ("PROS") TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF USING THE "OCEAN CLEANER" TECHNOLOGY TO CLEAN UP SARGASSUM SEAWEED IN REGIONAL WATERS IN AN EFFICIENT AND ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY MANNER; AND FURTHER, REQUESTING THAT THE CITY ADMINISTRATION REPORT BACK TO THE CITY COMMISSION WITHIN NINETY (90) DAYS, EITHER VIA LETTER TO COMMISSION OR PLACEMENT OF A DISCUSSION ITEM AT A REGULARLY SCHEDULED CITY COMMISSION MEETING, REGARDING THE POTENTIAL USE OF THE "OCEAN CLEANER" TECHNOLOGY AND ANY RELATED REGULATORY AND JURISDICTIONAL ISSUES, IN VIEW OF THE COUNTY'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF BEACHES.

**WHEREAS**, the City of Miami Beach (the "City") is comprised of a number of islands with approximately 70 miles of shoreline along numerous canals and waterways, the Atlantic Ocean, and Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve, all of which support a wide variety of flora and fauna; and

**WHEREAS**, the City hosts approximately 15 million visitors each year, and is considered one of the world's most popular tourist destinations because of its beaches, crystal-clear blue water, and amazing tropical environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the City, as well as the entirety of Miami-Dade County (the "County"), are battling massive amounts of sargassum seaweed, a type of floating algae, being deposited onto its beaches; and

**WHEREAS**, the massive amounts of seaweed, combined with accompanying intoxicating odor, create an unsightly appearance and unsanitary conditions, and prevent beachgoers from enjoying the sandy beaches and the ocean, adversely affecting the tourism industry of both the County and the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the government of Mexico has contracted services of the "Ocean Cleaner," a start-up created to battle excessive sargassum invasion on the coasts of the Caribbean; and

**WHEREAS**, the "Ocean Cleaner" technology uses customized floating barriers offshore, which is then then collected by specialized boats and repurposed or recycled in an eco-friendly manner; and

**WHEREAS**, with the fine mesh in its barrier design, marine life is not adversely affected, and the system can harvest more than 550 tons of sargassum weeds per 8-hour

day, preventing harmful emissions of hydrogen sulfide that would have been released into the atmosphere; and

**WHEREAS**, the "Ocean Cleaner" currently offers tailor-made services to determine the best solutions according to the estimated algae quantities, the currents, the type of seabed, the immediate environment, the coral reefs, the laws and permits in force in each of region plagued by the sargassum seaweed; and

**WHEREAS**, the County's Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Department ("PROS") is responsible for maintenance of beaches throughout the County, including beaches within the geographic limits of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Commission desire to direct the City Administration to confer with the County's PROS to explore the feasibility of using the "Ocean Cleaner" technology to clean up sargassum seaweed in our waters in an efficient and environmentally-friendly manner, and to report back to the Mayor and City Commission with its findings.

**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 confer with the Miami-Dade County's Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Department ("PROS") to explore the feasibility of using the "Ocean Cleaner" technology to clean up sargassum seaweed in regional waters in an efficient and environmentally-friendly manner; and further, request that the City Administration report back to the City Commission within ninety (90) days, either via Letter To Commission or placement of a discussion item at a regularly scheduled City Commission meeting, regarding the potential use of the "Ocean Cleaner" technology and any related regulatory and jurisdictional issues, in view of the County's responsibility for the maintenance of beaches.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

**ATTEST:**

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

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

APPROVED AS TO  
FORM & LANGUAGE  
& FOR EXECUTION

(Sponsored by Commissioner Alex J. Fernandez)

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

7-12-22  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date