

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, URGING THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD (“USCG”) TO STOP AND INSPECT VESSELS, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE AND PERMITTED BY LAW, IN AND AROUND THE JURISDICTIONAL WATERS OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, TO ENSURE THAT SUCH VESSELS, INCLUDING CHARTER VESSELS AND PARTY BOATS, ARE IN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH ALL STATE AND FEDERAL MARITIME LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach is an internationally renowned tourist destination known for, among other attributes, its vibrant, tropical scenery, arts and culture, fine dining, shopping, and beautiful beaches; and

WHEREAS, the City is also a barrier island having waterways within, as well as surrounding, its territorial jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, many boaters, both recreational and commercial, consistently enjoy the waters around the City; however, the City has seen a distinct increase in the number of charter vessels / party boats in the water since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 shutdown many land-based businesses; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, charter vessels / party boats and recreational boaters (some being inexperienced vessel operators) oftentimes fail to abide by, and act in a manner consistent with, all rules and laws applicable to the operation of their respective vessels; and

WHEREAS, the reckless or illegal operation of a vessel (and accompanying raucous behavior) endangers the health, safety, and welfare of the passengers aboard the vessel, other vessels on the water, and also adversely affects the quality of life for the City’s residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the City has a limited number of vessels that can be deployed to oversee and patrol its waters; and

WHEREAS, the United States Coast Guard (“USCG”) is the maritime security, search and rescue, and law enforcement service branch of the United States Armed Forces and one (1) of the Country's six (6) uniformed services; and

WHEREAS, the USCG provides a maritime, military, multi-mission service unique among the United States military branches for having a maritime law enforcement mission with jurisdiction in both domestic and international waters (along with a federal regulatory agency mission as part of its duties); and

WHEREAS, the USCG serves and protects interests in United States ports, inland waterways, along the coasts, and on international waters; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Coast Guard Miami Beach Base just recently (June 2022) presented cooperation agreements to the City's Police and Fire Departments which would authorize certain joint operations and efforts; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes and readily acknowledges the multitude of duties (including, but not limited to, law enforcement, first responder, transportation system management, and security and defense operations) within the USCG's sphere of responsibility; and

WHEREAS, to the extent practicable, the City would welcome any enhanced assistance from the USCG, in enforcing State and Federal maritime laws and regulations applicable to vessels, within the waters throughout the City.

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 Coast Guard ("USCG") to stop and inspect vessels, to the extent practicable and permitted by law, in and around the jurisdictional waters of the City of Miami Beach, to ensure that such vessels, including charter vessels and party boats, are in full compliance with all State and Federal maritime laws and regulations.

PASSED and **ADOPTED** this 20th day of July, 2022.

ATTEST:

Dan Gelber, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Vice-Mayor Kristen Rosen Gonzalez)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney

7-14-22
Date