

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

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES TO THE LOVED ONES OF COMMISSIONER MARK SAMUELIAN, AND HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF COMMISSIONER MARK SAMUELIAN UPON HIS PASSING.**

**WHEREAS**, on June 22, 2022, the City of Miami Beach lost a stalwart of public service when beloved Commissioner Mark Samuelian tragically passed away at the age of 58; and

**WHEREAS**, as the City is still reeling from the sudden loss of one of its champions, the Mayor and City Commission desire to memorialize Commissioner Samuelian's achievements and character, as well as express deepest condolences to his loved ones; and

**WHEREAS**, a grandson of Armenian immigrants who escaped their war-torn country to give their children a brighter future, Commissioner Samuelian was a true embodiment of the American Dream; and

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Samuelian was the son of working-class parents in Boston, who eventually became the first in his family to earn a college degree – he graduated *cum laude* from Georgia Tech with a degree in industrial engineering and later earned an MBA from The Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania; and

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Samuelian's determination, drive, and excellent problem-solving skills began at an early age when his older brother taught him how to play chess at age five while visiting retired grandparents in Coral Gables; and

**WHEREAS**, that moment sparked a lifelong affinity for the game, teaching him early strategic and analytical skills that would ultimately define his life, and lead to playing chess competitively as a college student and eventually being recognized by the US Chess Federation as one of the top 1% of players in the country; and

**WHEREAS**, after graduate school, Commissioner Samuelian became a professional problem solver as he worked with Fortune 500 companies to solve some of their biggest challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Samuelian's love for the City of Miami Beach and his knack for problem-solving eventually led him to run for the City Commission in 2017, where he won every precinct in Miami Beach and nearly 70% of the overall vote for a seat on the Miami Beach Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, as City Commissioner, Commissioner Samuelian quickly went to work advocating for residents and became known in the community for his "residents first" governing style and a focus on public safety; and

**WHEREAS**, he was a fierce advocate for reducing crime and blight in our entertainment district, worked with residents to balance long-term resiliency measures with

quality-of-life concerns, and fought back against illegal short-term rentals that threatened the character of our neighborhoods; and

**WHEREAS**, beyond his public service, Commissioner Samuelian was also an active leader in many of our region's most important organizations – he served on the Board of Directors for the Miami-Dade Beacon Council and the Board of Governors for the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce, and was also an Advisory Board Member to the World Affairs Council of Miami, a sustaining member of Miami Beach United and a member of Miami Design Preservation League; and

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Samuelian also introduced his love for chess into the community by becoming a volunteer tutor for the chess clubs at Miami Beach High and Nautilus Middle School, sponsoring kids for the chess program at South Pointe Elementary, participating in the annual Art Deco Weekend chess match, and, most recently, helping organize a chess event with the Parks department on Miami Beach; and

**WHEREAS**, these are just some of the snapshots of Commissioner Samuelian, his achievements, and impact on the Miami Beach community and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, while his life was tragically cut short, his legacy will continue on to positively touch and affect many lives, including residents of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the City will remember and cherish his tireless and selfless service that came from a place of love, belonging, and, most importantly, community.

**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 express sympathy and condolences to the loved ones of Commissioner Mark Samuelian, and honor the life and legacy of Commissioner Mark Samuelian upon his passing.

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


**ATTEST:**

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

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

(Sponsored by Commissioner Alex J. Fernandez)

APPROVED AS TO  
FORM & LANGUAGE  
& FOR EXECUTION

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

7-14-22  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date