

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE, AT ITS MARCH 29, 2022 MEETING, THAT THE CITY ADMINISTRATION SUBMIT A FORMAL REQUEST TO THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO CONSIDER AN ADDITIONAL MODIFICATION TO THE WEEKEND SCHEDULE OF THE 63RD STREET BASCULE BRIDGE, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CITY ADMINISTRATION, IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE TRAFFIC IMPACTS UPON MAJOR THOROUGHFARES IN THE VICINITY OF THE 63RD STREET BRIDGE ON WEEKENDS.

WHEREAS, the 63rd Street bascule bridge is a drawbridge located near the east end of SR 907/63rd Street between Alison Road and Indian Creek Drive in the City of Miami Beach; and

WHEREAS, the operation and maintenance of the 63rd Street bascule bridge are under the jurisdiction of the Florida Department of Transportation ("FDOT"), which engages a private contractor to provide bridge tender services, including controlling bridge activity and maintaining bridge activity logs; and

WHEREAS, the United States Coast Guard ("USCG") has the authority to establish and regulate the 63rd Street bridge schedule; and

WHEREAS, in December 2020, the USCG notified the City of the results of a review of the weekend schedule of the 63rd Street bridge and its intent to modify the weekend schedule on a pilot basis to authorize bridge openings on the hour and half-hour (only if there is demand), rather than on-demand, in order to better serve the needs of vehicular traffic while still ensuring that the reasonable needs of marine traffic are maintained; and

WHEREAS, the USCG deemed the pilot to be successful and, after an extensive public comment period that concluded on July 26, 2021, the USCG approved the new weekend schedule as set forth in the Federal Register; and

WHEREAS, based on these latest changes, the current 63rd Street bascule bridge schedule is as follows:

- From 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, the bridge will open on the hour and half hour (but only if there is demand)
- From 7:10 a.m. to 9:55 a.m. and from 4:05 p.m. to 6:59 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays, the bridge will not open for the passage of vessels, except emergency vessels or tug/tow vessels
- From 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., on Saturdays and Sundays, the bridge will open on the hour and half-hour (but only if there is demand), except on Federal holidays when the bridge will operate on demand. Outside of those hours, on Saturdays and Sundays, the bridge operates on demand; and

WHEREAS, the City's Transportation and Mobility Department staff routinely requests the monthly bridge activity logs from FDOT and reviews the logs with regard to bridge activity over time, as well as for compliance with the current bridge schedule; and

WHEREAS, based on City staff's review of the bridge activity and vehicular traffic data, City staff believes that an additional modification to the current weekend schedule of the 63rd Street bridge is warranted; and

WHEREAS, City staff has determined that it would be more beneficial and appropriate if the 63rd Street bridge schedule is modified to 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., on weekends, rather than from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and the bridge would open on the hour and half-hour (only if there is demand); and

WHEREAS, City staff's recommended modification is intended to yield the most benefit in terms of limiting bridge openings during weekends to avoid severe traffic congestion along both directions of 63rd Street, Southbound Indian Creek Drive, and Northbound Alton Road; and

WHEREAS, at the March 29, 2022 Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee ("PSNQLC") meeting, the City Administration presented the findings of its analysis and its recommendation that the USCG should consider this additional modification to the 63rd Street bridge weekend schedule in order to reduce traffic impacts to major thoroughfares in the vicinity on weekends; and

WHEREAS, the PSNQLC passed a motion recommending that the City Administration move forward with submitting a formal request to the USCG to modify the weekend bridge schedule of the 63rd Street bridge, as recommended by the Administration.

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 accept the recommendation of the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee, at its March 29, 2022 meeting, that the City Administration submit a formal request to the United States Coast Guard to consider an additional modification to the weekend schedule of the 63rd Street bascule bridge, as recommended by the City Administration, in order to reduce the traffic impacts upon major thoroughfares in the vicinity of the 63rd Street Bridge on weekends.

PASSED and ADOPTED this 20th day of July 2022.

Dan Gelber, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner Steven Meiner)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney

7-19-22

Date

MAF