RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO EXPLORE THE UTILITY AND VIABILITY OF DIVIDERS, PARTITIONS, OR OTHER PROTECTIVE MATERIALS FOR INSTALLATION AT BEACH ENTRANCES, ON THE RETAINING WALL RUNNING ALONGSIDE THE BEACHWALK AND ITS SURROUNDING VEGETATION AND LANDSCAPING, IN ORDER TO AID IN AMELIORATING THE ONGOING ISSUE OF INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS OF PEOPLE CONGREGATING AND OBSTRUCTING THE BEACHWALK AT MAJOR POINTS OF INGRESS AND EGRESS TO THE CITY'S BEACHES; AND FURTHER, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO PRESENT ITS FINDINGS, ALONG WITH ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S), TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION, INCLUDING ALL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH PROJECT, AS WELL AS IDENTIFYING A FUNDING SOURCE AND A PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION.

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach (the "City") is an international tourist destination that attracts visitors from around the world year-round, which thereby significantly increases the use and congestion on the City's bike paths, sidewalks, and pedestrian ways; and

WHEREAS, in particular, the City's Beachwalk is heavily traveled by a variety of pedestrian and bicycle traffic, including parents with small children on bikes or in strollers, pet owners with dogs on leashes, residents out for a walk or a jog, and tourists strolling to enjoy the scenic beachfront ambience; and

WHEREAS, the Beachwalk is adjacent to, or within close proximity of, a multitude of high-density pedestrian areas that include Convention Center hotels and other high-density hotel and residential buildings, and major City attractions including the City's beautiful beaches, Ocean Drive, Lummus Park, South Pointe Park, the Miami Beach Marina, Lincoln Road, the Fillmore, the New World Center and Soundscape Park, the North Shore Park and Bandshell, and the North Shore Open Space Park; and

WHEREAS, the City has seemingly experienced an increase in the number of persons just hanging out on the Beachwalk, and sitting on the retaining wall running alongside it, which has also substantially contributed to the problem of overcrowding and congestion on the Beachwalk; and

WHEREAS, almost exclusively, the Beachwalk provides the various points of access for ingress and egress to the City's beautiful beaches; and

WHEREAS, given the high amount of overall activity, and the sheer volume of persons in, on and around the Beachwalk, some residents have expressed concerns due to the amount of congestion, accessibility issues, and pedestrian conflicts with bicyclists, roller-skaters, skate boarders, and people just sitting around on the Beachwalk; and

WHEREAS, the installation of a defensive design along the top of the retaining wall, in those areas of ingress and egress to the beach, may discourage persons and groups from congregating around and sitting on the retaining wall in these heavily congested points of the Beachwalk.

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 utility and viability of dividers, partitions, or other protective materials for installation at beach entrances, on the retaining wall running alongside the Beachwalk and its surrounding vegetation and landscaping, in order to aid in ameliorating the ongoing issue of individuals and groups of people congregating and obstructing the Beachwalk at major points of ingress and egress to the City's beaches; and further, directing the City Administration to present its findings, along with any alternative option(s), to the Mayor and City Commission, including all costs associated with such project, as well as identifying a funding source and a plan for implementation.

PASSED and **ADOPTED** this 14th day of September 2022.

ATTEST:

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Dan Gelber, Mayor

_____
Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Vice-Mayor Alex J. Fernandez)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

City Attorney MAF 9-1-22 Date