

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOODS QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE MADE AT ITS JANUARY 11, 2023 MEETING, AND APPROVING THE PURSUIT OF A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND ORGANIZATION FOR A COMMUNITY SCHOOLYARD ("THE "PROGRAM") AT BISCAYNE BEACH ELEMENTARY, PROVIDED MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPPORTS THE PARTNERSHIP, AND EVALUATING FUNDING AVAILABILITY FOR THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PHASES DURING THE FY24 BUDGET PROCESS.

WHEREAS, at the September 14, 2022 Commission meeting, Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez referred item C4B to the Public Safety and Neighborhoods Quality of Life Committee for a discussion regarding the Community Schoolyards Project; and

WHEREAS, at the January 11, 2023 Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Meeting the discussion regarding the Community Schoolyards Project resulted in a motion requesting the submittal of an enhancement request through the FY24 budget process to pursue a partnership with Trust for Public Land and Miami-Dade County Public Schools for a Community Schoolyard Project at Biscayne Beach Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, community schoolyards, also known as green schoolyards, are open to the community after school hours and are designed by students, teachers and neighbors as nature-rich hubs for outdoor play, community health and climate resilience. They can include outdoor classrooms, gardens, stormwater capture, traditional playground equipment, nature play areas, trails, trees, water features, and more; and

WHEREAS, more than 20 years ago, Trust for Public Land (TPL) began working with cities and school districts to reimagine what schoolyards could be. TPL starts with a participatory design process that involves students in the creation of a green schoolyard. This allows students to learn about environmental challenges and contribute to the solution. Through curriculum based on state education standards, students practice real life skills and civic engagement while becoming invested in the long-term success of the schoolyard; and

WHEREAS, TPL has built more than 250 schools in a dozen communities across the country. In 2019, TPL launched an Atlanta Public Schools (APS) pilot project in partnership with Park Pride and the Urban Land Institute Atlanta office. At the end of 2022, TPL and partners at APS will have opened their 10th community schoolyard; and

WHEREAS, Community Schoolyards provide the benefits of the outdoors not just to students, but to the community as a whole. Seeing access to nature as a fundamental human need, TPL works to ensure that all community members live within a 10-Minute Walk of a park. One in three Americans – nearly 100 million people – lack access to a park within a 10-Minute walk of home; and

WHEREAS, by redesigning schoolyards and making them open to the community after hours and on weekends, TPL is striving to put a great park within a 10-Minute Walk of 19 million Americans. TPL has mapped out park access in all urban areas across America, using data based on income, number of children and diverse households to prioritize where they work; and

WHEREAS, TPL believes that time spent learning and playing in nature benefits the whole child and can help children reach their full potential. Access to safe, natural areas can enhance children's physical and mental health, from improving cardiovascular vitality and weight management to reducing stress and ADHD symptoms. In addition, regular access to high quality green space inspires strong connections to the natural world; and

WHEREAS, TPL has proposed a Scope of Work comprised of two phases: Phase I – Development of Approach and Phase 2 – Development of Consensus-Based Master Plan that will be reviewed; and

WHEREAS, TPL Phase I and Phase II are estimated to cost between \$50,000 and \$70,000; and

WHEREAS, based on construction costs for similar projects developed by TPL, Phase III would likely cost \$325,000 and take about 15-18 months to complete, excluding any stormwater considerations; and

WHEREAS, stormwater considerations could increase the Phase III costs to as much as \$2 million; and

WHEREAS, once the masterplan is developed for the project, and if approved by the Commission, Phase III of the project would be subject to the availability of funding in the FY 2025 or FY 2026 budget process, and shall be implemented by the City's Capital Improvements Office; and

WHEREAS, TPL is committed to raising private funds to support student engagement and participatory design for Phase I and Phase II. TPL will also work with local partners to explore other opportunities for private investment in capital improvements; and

WHEREAS, the City's five-year capital improvement plan includes \$1.6 billion in unfunded needs; and

WHEREAS, the Administration is seeking approval to pursue a partnership with TPL and MDCPS to engage the local community and local partners to explore opportunities for private investment in capital improvements at Biscayne Beach Elementary during the FY24 budget process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA that the Mayor and City Commission hereby accept the recommendation of the Public Safety and Neighborhoods Quality of Life Committee made at its January 11, 2023 meeting, and approve the pursuit of a partnership with the Trust for Public Land Organization for a community schoolyard ("the "Program") at Biscayne Beach Elementary, provided Miami-Dade County Public Schools supports the partnership, and to evaluate funding availability for the project development phases during the FY24 budget process.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____ 2023.

ATTEST:

RAFAEL E. GRANADO, CITY CLERK

DAN GELBER, MAYOR

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney *GH* Date 1-25-23