

# MIAMI BEACH

## COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission  
FROM: Rafael A. Paz, City Attorney  
DATE: February 1, 2023

SUBJECT: REFERRAL TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE - DIRECT CITY ADMINISTRATION TO HOLD COMMUNITY MEETINGS WITH OCEAN DRIVE STAKEHOLDERS ON THE FEASIBILITY OF PEDESTRIANIZING OCEAN DRIVE DURING CERTAIN HOURS OF THE DAY ONLY, WHILE OTHERWISE REOPENING OCEAN DRIVE TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC.

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### **ANALYSIS**

Pursuant to the request of Commissioner Alex Fernandez, the above-referenced Resolution is submitted for consideration by the Mayor and City Commission at the February 1, 2023 Commission meeting.

### **SUPPORTING SURVEY DATA**

N/A

### **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

N/A

**Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-14?**

Yes

**Does this item utilize G.O. Bond Funds?**

No

### **Legislative Tracking**

Office of the City Attorney

### **Sponsor**

Commissioner Alex Fernandez

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

#### **Description**

- ▣ [Resolution](#)

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

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO HOLD COMMUNITY MEETINGS WITH OCEAN DRIVE STAKEHOLDERS ON THE FEASIBILITY OF PEDESTRIANIZING OCEAN DRIVE DURING CERTAIN HOURS OF THE DAY ONLY, WHILE OTHERWISE REOPENING OCEAN DRIVE TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC.**

**WHEREAS**, in order to alleviate the strain that restaurant closures had on local businesses, the City closed several streets to vehicles to enable restaurants to expand outdoor seating, including the closure of Ocean Drive from 5<sup>th</sup> Street to 15<sup>th</sup> Street, which allowed pedestrians, cyclists, and skaters to use the open street and practice social distancing; and

**WHEREAS**, temporary closure of Ocean Drive to vehicular traffic resonated greatly with the community, improving the safety and quality of life residents, local businesses, and visitors,

**WHEREAS**, after seeing the importance of outdoor public spaces during the pandemic, the City wishes to activate the area in a positive way and promote increased foot traffic to local businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 8, 2021, the Mayor and City Commission directed the Administration to proceed with the implementation of a pilot for a temporary pedestrian plaza (the "Pedestrian Promenade" or "Promenade") on Ocean Drive, located from 13<sup>th</sup> Street to 14<sup>th</sup> Place; and

**WHEREAS**, the Promenade has attracted diverse elements of the Miami Beach community back to Ocean Drive, including families with children, older residents, and visitors that enjoy the pedestrian friendly environment created by the Promenade; and

**WHEREAS**, the City's experience with the Pedestrian Promenade as an impactful urban planning tool is similar to the positive experience of many other jurisdictions that have pedestrianized right-of-way areas, such as the City of Coral Gables, which pedestrianized portions of Giralda Avenue; and

**WHEREAS**, transformation of Ocean Drive from an Entertainment District into the Art Deco Cultural District remains one of the highest priorities of the City Commission, and potential pedestrianization of it could be an important element of the City's long-term plan for the area; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 17, 2022, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2020-31313, requiring for any potential new pilot mobility programs on Ocean Drive, or other major streets in the City, be fully vetted by all stakeholders, including residents, and discussed by the City Commission, prior to taking any action; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Commission direct the Administration to hold community meetings with Ocean Drive stakeholders, including residents, businesses, and civic associations, to discuss the feasibility of pedestrianizing f Ocean Drive during certain hours of the day only, while otherwise reopening Ocean Drive to vehicular traffic.

**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 hold community meetings with Ocean Drive stakeholders on the feasibility of pedestrianizing Ocean Drive during certain hours of the day only, while otherwise reopening Ocean Drive to vehicular traffic.

**PASSED** and **ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

**ATTEST:**

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

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

(sponsored by Commissioner Alex J. Fernandez)

APPROVED AS TO  
FORM & LANGUAGE  
& FOR EXECUTION

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

1-24-23  
Date