

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ACKNOWLEDGING THE SIGNIFICANT ROLE THE U.S. MILITARY PLAYED IN MIAMI BEACH HISTORY DURING WORLD WAR II, WITH THE SELECTION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH TO SERVE AS A BASE FOR TRAINING HEADQUARTERS FOR THE ARMY AIR FORCES TECHNICAL TRAINING COMMAND, WHEREBY MANY MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES AND HOTELS WERE REQUISITIONED FOR THE WAR EFFORT; FURTHER, THE CITY DESIRES TO HONOR THE THOUSANDS OF MEN AND WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES WHO SERVED DURING WORLD WAR II IN THE PURSUIT OF FREEDOM; AND FURTHER, APPROVING THE REIMBURSEMENT TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY OF THE AMOUNTS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT PAID TO THE CITY BETWEEN 1942 AND 1945 TO LEASE MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES DURING WORLD WAR II, AS ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION, IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$420.00.

WHEREAS, World War II, the largest military conflict of the 20th century, changed the political alignment of the world and set the foundation for the international order of the world's nations in a manner that has endured to the present day;

WHEREAS, the impact of the war effort was felt throughout the world, including close to home in the City of Miami Beach; and

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach was selected by the United States Department of War to serve as a key training ground for thousands of soldiers and officer candidates; and

WHEREAS, between 1942 and 1945, the City served as a base for training headquarters for the Army Air Forces Technical Training Command, with many municipal properties and hotels requisitioned for the war effort; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Air Corps Training School in Miami Beach opened in February 1942 and was one of the largest training centers and officer candidate schools during World War II; and

WHEREAS, up to one fourth of the officers and one fifth of the enlisted men of the entire Army Air forces were trained in Miami Beach; and

WHEREAS, in addition, about 2,000 members of the air forces, released from Japanese prison camps, spent two weeks of their 90-day furlough resting and relaxing in the City of Miami Beach, as the U.S. Military was drawn to Miami Beach for much the same reasons that vacationers have been for decades—they liked the climate and seaside location, as well as flat terrain; and

WHEREAS, although City's archives from this period are incomplete, City records reveal that the City leased portions of Flamingo Park and portions of Lincoln road parking areas to the U.S. Air Corps Training School, and separately, the City Council took various actions to allow for almost all of the 332 resort hotels in Miami Beach to be used for the war effort; and

WHEREAS, it is believed that municipal properties were leased to the War Department for a nominal amount of \$6 a year; and

WHEREAS, for this 2023 Memorial Day, the Mayor and City Commission wish to honor the WWII armed forces and acknowledge the role Miami Beach played during the WWII as “the most beautiful boot camp in United States”; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission desire to reimburse to the U.S. Government the amounts it paid to the City between 1942 and 1945 to lease municipal properties during World War II, as adjusted for inflation, for a total reimbursement in the amount of \$420.

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 acknowledge the significant role the U.S. Military played in Miami Beach history during World War II, with the selection of the City of Miami Beach to serve as a base for training headquarters for the Army Air Forces Technical Training Command, whereby many municipal properties and hotels were requisitioned for the war effort; further, the City desires to honor the thousands of men and women of the United States who served during World War II in the pursuit of freedom; and further, approve the reimbursement to the U.S. Department of the Treasury the amounts the U.S. Government paid to the City between 1942 and 1945 to lease municipal properties during World War II, as adjusted for inflation, in the total amount of \$420.00.

PASSED and ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2023.

ATTEST:

Dan Gelber, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(sponsored by Mayor Dan Gelber)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney *FA*

4-20-23

Date