

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO CONDUCT A “DISASTER PREPAREDNESS” TABLETOP EXERCISE TO TEST THE CITY’S RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS FOR A NATURAL DISASTER SUCH AS A HURRICANE, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, THE SIMULATED IMPLEMENTATION OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MANDATORY EVACUATIONS, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO THE EVACUATION OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS SUCH AS THE ELDERLY, MESSAGING EXERCISES, AND IDENTIFICATION OF AREAS OF WEAKNESS AND CONCERN; FURTHER, ALLOCATING UP TO \$30,000 FOR SUCH TABLETOP EXERCISE, IF NECESSARY; AND FURTHER, REQUESTING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO LEAD THE TABLETOP EXERCISE AND INVITING NEARBY BARRIER ISLANDS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXERCISE, TO ALLOW FOR THE CITY AND NEIGHBORING MUNICIPALITIES TO EVALUATE THEIR RESPECTIVE HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS PLANS, IN COORDINATION WITH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

WHEREAS, on September 28, 2022, Hurricane Ian made landfall along Florida’s gulf coast at Category 4 strength, with sustained winds of 155 mph, and leaving behind devastating loss of life and property; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Ian is now the second-deadliest storm to strike the mainland U.S. in the 21st century, and is the deadliest storm to hit Florida since the 1935 Labor Day hurricane; and

WHEREAS, while Hurricane Ian did not impact Southeast Florida, it did devastate barrier islands on the west coast, underscoring the vulnerability of barrier islands such as the City of Miami Beach; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Ian illustrated the challenges of protecting densely populated waterfront communities, and exposed shortcomings in how local governments respond; and

WHEREAS, thousands of coastal residents chose not to evacuate prior to Hurricane Ian making landfall, for a variety of reasons, including, in some instances, a lack of awareness of dangers and/or lack of sufficient notice or warnings; and

WHEREAS, Lee County, which took a direct hit from Hurricane Ian, waited until the day before the storm — a day longer than neighboring counties — to issue a mandatory evacuation order, and the conditions during the storm killed at least 61 people there, more than in any other county; and

WHEREAS, NBC News has identified 148 deaths related to Hurricane Ian and found that 119 were attributed specifically to the flooding, winds and other dangerous conditions during the storm, and many of the victims were over the age of 65 (see attached article); and

WHEREAS, should such a tragedy occur again, issuing timely evacuation orders and having the public heed the orders will be key to saving lives; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission wish to authorize the City Administration to conduct a "Disaster Preparedness" tabletop exercise to simulate and test the City's response and preparedness in the face of a natural disaster such as a hurricane, including messaging, implementation of evacuation orders, identification of areas of weakness and concern, and special plans for evacuating vulnerable populations such as the elderly.

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 authorize the City Administration to conduct a "Disaster Preparedness" tabletop exercise to practice the City's response and preparedness in the face of a natural disaster such as hurricanes, including, but not limited to, messaging, evacuation decisions, identification of areas of weakness and concern, and special plan to evacuating vulnerable populations such as the elderly, and allocate up to \$25,000 for such exercise; and further, request Miami-Dade County to lead the tabletop exercise and invite nearby vulnerable barrier islands to participate in the exercise to practice life-saving cooperation and coordination between neighboring municipalities.

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 *FR*

4-24-23
Date