

RESOLUTION NO. 2014 - 28665

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, REJECTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AT ITS APRIL 30, 2014 MEETING TO CONDUCT A SURVEY OF CITY EMPLOYEES REGARDING THE POTENTIAL USE OF WATER TAXI SERVICES FOR COMMUTING PURPOSES AND DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO PREPARE A REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO ISSUE AN INVITATION TO NEGOTIATE TO SEEK PROPOSALS FOR WATERBORNE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AS AN ALTERNATIVE MODE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN THE CITY.

WHEREAS, a water taxi is a watercraft used to provide public transportation and that can potentially provide an alternative mode of transportation for residents of Miami Beach; and

WHEREAS, at the December 11, 2013 City Commission meeting, the Commission accepted the recommendation of the Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee (NCAC) to direct the Administration to further explore water taxi service as an alternative form of transportation and gather more details regarding the service, such as possible pick-up and drop-off locations and times; and

WHEREAS, at the April 30, 2014 meeting of the NCAC, City staff provided feedback regarding potential locations for water taxi terminals and recommended conducting public meetings in order to educate the community and obtain citizen input regarding potential water taxi dock locations; and

WHEREAS, at said meeting, the NCAC recommended that, prior to conducting any public meetings, staff conduct a survey of City employees to determine if water taxi service would provide a suitable alternative to commute to work and to bring the results of such survey back to the NCAC with additional recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission reject the NCAC's recommendation and, instead, wish to direct the City Administration to prepare an Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) which will seek proposals from qualified firms interested in providing the City with waterborne public transportation services, and also wish to direct the City Administration to prepare a request for an ITN for the July 30, 2014 City Commission agenda for consideration by the City Commission.

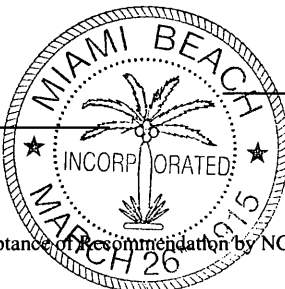
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby reject the recommendation of the NCAC at its April 30, 2014 meeting and hereby direct the City Administration to prepare a request for approval to issue an Invitation to Negotiate to seek proposals for waterborne transportation services as an alternative mode of public transportation in the City.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 23rd day of July, 2014.

ATTEST:



RAFAEL E. GRANADO,
CITY CLERK





PHILIP LEVINE,
MAYOR

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

T:\AGENDA\2014\July\ Water Taxi - Acceptance of Recommendation by NCAC Updated RESO.doc



City Attorney

8/6/14

Date

Condensed Title:

A Resolution Of The Mayor And City Commission Of The City Of Miami Beach, Florida, Accepting The Recommendation Of The Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee Directing The Administration To Conduct A Survey Of City Employees Regarding The Potential Use Of Water Taxi Services For Commuting Purposes.

Key Intended Outcome Supported: Commission a Comprehensive Mobility Plan Which Gives Priority Recommendations (From Non-Vehicular To Vehicular And Including Parking).

Supporting Data (Surveys, Environmental Scan, etc.): According to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), the Level Of Service (LOS) on the McArthur Causeway and Julia Tuttle Causeway during peak hours is LOS F (Failing) and D, respectively. The existing public transportation system connecting Miami Beach to the mainland is limited to using these congested highways. As recently indicated in the 2014 City of Miami Beach Community Satisfaction Final Report, 28% of the City of Miami Beach residents would be willing to use alternative forms of transportation to access the mainland.

Item Summary/Recommendation:

At the December 11, 2013 City Commission meeting, the Commission accepted a recommendation by the Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee (NCAC) directing the Administration to further explore water taxi service as an alternative form of transportation and gather more details regarding the service, such as possible pick-up and drop-off locations, times, etc., and to bring the item back to the NCAC for further discussion and refinement of the concept.

At the April 30, 2014 meeting of the NCAC, City staff provided feedback regarding potential locations for water taxi terminals and recommended conducting public meetings in order to educate the community and obtain their input regarding potential water taxi dock locations. The NCAC recommended that prior to conducting any public meetings, staff conduct a survey of City employees to determine if water taxi service would provide a suitable alternative to commute to work.

This item is being presented to City Commission for acceptance of the recommendation of the NCAC directing the Administration to conduct a survey and gather data to assess the need for water taxi service as an alternative mode of public transportation in the City, and to bring the item back to the NCAC to report the results of the survey and provide additional recommendations.

Additionally, the Administration will reach out to the Home Owners Associations (HOAs) surrounding the locations that could potentially be used as terminals/stops for water taxi services, in an effort to obtain some feedback on the integration of the proposed dock locations in the residential areas.

THE ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION.

Advisory Board Recommendation:

N/A

Financial Information:

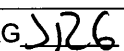

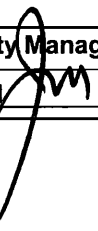
Source of Funds:		Amount	Account
	1		
	2		

Financial Impact Summary: N/A

City Clerk's Office Legislative Tracking:

Jose R. Gonzalez, ext. 6768

Sign-Offs:

Department Director	Assistant City Manager	City Manager
JRG 	KGB 	JLM 

T:\AGENDA\2014\July\Water Taxi - Acceptance of Recommendations by NCAC SUM.doc





MIAMI BEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: July 23, 2014

SUBJECT: **A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO CONDUCT A SURVEY OF CITY EMPLOYEES REGARDING THE POTENTIAL USE OF WATER TAXI SERVICES FOR COMMUTING PURPOSES**

BACKGROUND

A water taxi is a watercraft used to provide public transportation, usually, but not always in an urban environment. Service may be scheduled with multiple stops, operating in a similar manner to a bus, or on-demand to multiple locations, operating in a similar manner to a taxi. Aside from being a memorable experience to tourists, water taxi service also has the ability to provide an alternative mode of transportation for residents who commute daily to and from Downtown Miami/Brickell area, and to connect various destinations in the City of Miami Beach and on the Mainland.

The potential for waterborne transportation is expected to be further studied in the City's Transportation Master Plan, which will review the City's transportation network, analyze existing conditions and make recommendations for projected future conditions. Additionally, the City's 2025 Comprehensive Plan already includes a multi-modal transportation system as a stated goal.

The City's Marine Authority Board discussed water taxi service and passed a Resolution in January 2012 recommending that the City implement water transportation services within the City and connecting to the City of Miami. The recommendation included development of a pier or dock at the Lincoln Road street-end with potential for additional sites at 5th Street, 10th Street, 14th Street, and the Purdy Boat Ramp.

At the December 11, 2013 City Commission meeting, the Commission accepted the recommendation of the Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee (NCAC) directing the Administration to further explore water taxi service as an alternative form of transportation and gather more details regarding the service, such as possible pick-up and drop-off locations, times, etc., and to bring the item back to the NCAC for further discussion and refinement of the concept.

At the April 30, 2014 meeting of the NCAC, City staff provided feedback regarding the locations proffered by the Marine Authority Board and recommended conducting public meetings in order to educate the community and obtain their input regarding potential water taxi dock locations. The NCAC recommended that prior to conducting any public meetings, staff conduct a survey of City employees to determine if water taxi service would provide a suitable alternative to commute to work. The Committee passed a motion directing the Administration to conduct a survey and gather data in order to properly evaluate the need for water taxi service as an alternative mode of public transportation in the City.

Additionally, the Administration will reach out to the Home Owners Associations (HOAs) surrounding the locations that could potentially be used as terminals/stops for water taxi services, in an effort to obtain some feedback on the integration of the proposed dock locations in the residential areas.

CONCLUSION

This item is being presented to City Commission for acceptance of the recommendation of the NCAC directing the Administration to conduct a survey and gather data to assess the need for water taxi service as an alternative mode of public transportation in the City, and to bring the item back to the NCAC to report the results of the survey and provide additional recommendations.


KGB/JRG/JFG