

# MIAMI BEACH

## COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission  
 FROM: Vice-Mayor Steven Meiner  
 DATE: March 27, 2023

SUBJECT: REFERRAL TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE AND FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCY COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS OBTAINING FEDERAL, STATE AND COUNTY FUNDING TO IMPLEMENT A FREE WATER TAXI / FERRY SERVICE PROGRAM IN MIAMI BEACH, TO INCENTIVIZE RESIDENTS TO USE WATER TAXIS AS AN ALTERNATIVE MODE OF TRANSPORTATION.

### **ANALYSIS**

Please place on the agenda a referral to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee and Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee to discuss the feasibility of obtaining federal, state and county funding to implement a Water Taxi / Ferry Service program which would be free for residents of the City of Miami Beach, in order to incentivize residents to use this mode of transportation, particularly for commuters traveling between the City of Miami Beach and the City of Miami. The goal is to alleviate the terrible traffic congestion in our City.

The City previously implemented a water taxi program that was not subsidized. The fares were too high for patrons, and ridership was low and the program terminated.

As part of this referral, I would also like for the Administration to review different routes than what the City previously implemented. Specifically, I would like for the Administration to study the feasibility of North/South routes, as well as a route between the City of Miami Beach and City of Miami.

### **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**

Vice-Mayor Steven Meiner