

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

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) TO RECONSIDER ITS DECISION DECLINING TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH TO ESTABLISH A RESIDENT-ONLY LANE TO FACILITATE ACCESS FOR CITY RESIDENTS ON THE MACARTHUR CAUSEWAY AND/OR JULIA TUTTLE CAUSEWAY DURING ANY STATE OF EMERGENCY OR HIGH IMPACT PERIOD; AND FURTHER, DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO INCLUDE THIS ISSUE ON THE CITY'S STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2024, TO REQUEST THAT THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE PROVIDE FDOT WITH THE REGULATORY AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH A MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC (MOT) PLAN THAT PRIORITIZES RESIDENTS VIA A RESIDENTS-ONLY LANE DURING ANY STATE OF EMERGENCY OR HIGH IMPACT PERIOD.

**WHEREAS**, the City of Miami Beach (the "City") has a fundamental responsibility to safeguard the well-being of its residents, visitors, and workforce at all times, particularly during emergency events; and

**WHEREAS**, as a barrier island, the City is geographically vulnerable to hurricanes, flooding and other natural disasters which may cause severe disruption of essential human services, and extensive damage to public roadways, utilities, buildings, parks, other government-owned and private facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is also a major tourism destination in the State of Florida, and faces unique challenges relating to overcapacity during high impact event periods within established high impact zones; and

**WHEREAS**, during emergencies or high impact periods, it may be necessary for the City to limit vehicular traffic on the MacArthur Causeway or Julia Tuttle Causeway (the "Causeways") on a temporary basis, pursuant to emergency management protocols; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 21, 2021, City Commissioner Steven Meiner, the sponsor of this Resolution, raised the critical need to implement a Maintenance of Traffic ("MOT") plan for the Causeways that accommodates and prioritizes access for residents of the City of Miami Beach; and

**WHEREAS**, in City Commission Resolution No. 2021-31679, sponsored by Commissioner Steven Meiner, the Mayor and City Commission endorsed, in concept, the development of a resident identification program to facilitate access for City residents via a residents only lane on the Causeways during any declared State of Emergency or high impact event period; and

**WHEREAS**, the Causeways are part of the State Highway System, and accordingly, the Florida Department of Transportation ("FDOT") controls the operation of, and has jurisdiction over the Causeways; and

**WHEREAS**, following adoption of Commissioner Meiner's proposal via Resolution No. 2021-31679, the City Administration engaged with FDOT to obtain the requisite authorization from FDOT for the benefit of the City's residents, but FDOT declined to provide such authorization; and

**WHEREAS**, FDOT has, at the City's request, approved an MOT plan for the Causeways during high impact event periods, consisting of a one-lane closure in the eastbound direction on both Causeways to meter and slow down vehicular traffic entering the City to provide for license plate reader (LPR) details by the Miami Beach Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, such MOT would apply uniformly to any vehicle entering the City via the Causeways, and would not allow for priority access for residents of the City of Miami Beach; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Commission respectfully request that FDOT reconsider its decision declining to authorize an MOT that prioritizes residents of the City of Miami Beach; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Commission further direct the Administration to include this issue on the City's State Legislative Priorities for 2024, to request that the Florida Legislature provide FDOT with the regulatory authority to establish an MOT that prioritizes Miami Beach residents via a residents-only lane during any State of Emergency or high impact event period.

**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 respectfully request Florida Department of Transportation to reconsider authorizing the City of Miami Beach to establish a resident-only lane to facilitate access for City residents on the Macarthur Causeway and Julia Tuttle Causeway during any State of Emergency or High Impact Period; and further, direct the Administration to include this issue on the City's State Legislative Priorities for 2024, to request that the Florida Legislature provide FDOT with the regulatory authority to establish a Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan that prioritizes Miami Beach residents via a residents-only lane during any State of Emergency or high impact event period.

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

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

**ATTEST:**

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

APPROVED AS TO  
FORM & LANGUAGE  
& FOR EXECUTION

(sponsored by Commissioner Steven Meiner)

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney **PAZ** 7-19-23  
Date