



Rafael A. Paz, City Attorney

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COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Steven Meiner and Members of the City Commission
Alina T. Hudak, City Manager

FROM: Rafael A. Paz, City Attorney

FIRST READING

DATE: December 13, 2023

SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE MIAMI BEACH CITY CODE, ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATION," BY AMENDING ARTICLE III, ENTITLED "AGENCIES, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES," BY AMENDING DIVISION 15, ENTITLED "SISTER CITIES PROGRAM," BY AMENDING SECTION 2-181 THEREOF TO RE-ESTABLISH THE CITY'S ADMINISTRATION OF THE SISTER CITIES PROGRAM, BY AND THROUGH A COORDINATING COUNCIL APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION, WITH THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION TO SERVE AS THE SUPPORTING DEPARTMENT OF THE COUNCIL; AND, PROVIDING FOR REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

The attached Ordinance was prepared at the request of Commissioner Laura Dominguez for consideration at the December 13, 2023 City Commission meeting.

Sister Cities International ("SCI") is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, that serves as the national membership association for individual sister cities, counties and states across the United States. The mission of SCI is "to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation -- one individual, one community at a time."

The City is a member of SCI and currently has eleven (11) Sister Cities affiliated with the City; to wit: (1) Almonte, Spain; (2) Basel, Switzerland; (3) Brampton, Canada; (4) Fortaleza, Brazil; (5) Fujisawa, Japan; (6) Ica, Peru; (7) Krumlov, Czech Republic; (8) Nahariya, Israel; (9) Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; (10) Santa Marta, Colombia; and (11) Odessa, Ukraine.

The program offers opportunities for the City to engage with its Sister Cities, establish partnerships, cultural exchange, promote tourism, educational opportunities and collaborative projects.

Prior to April 10, 2019, the City's Sister Cities Program (the "Program") had been administered by the City, with oversight by a Coordinating Council (the "Council"), with the Office of the Mayor and City Commission serving as the supporting City staff department. On April 10, 2019, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Ordinance No. 2019-4257, removing the Coordinating Council structure from the City Code, and contracting with the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce (the "Chamber") as the administrator of the Program.

In order to provide greater transparency and direct control of the Program, the sponsor desires to

re-establish the City's administration of the Program, with oversight by a Coordinating Council appointed by the Mayor and City Commission (with the same framework previously in place).

RAP/FA/ag