

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

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO OPPOSE SENATE BILL 1054, OR ANY PROPOSED OR PROSPECTIVE STATE LEGISLATION FILED FOR CONSIDERATION DURING THE 2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION SEEKING TO EXPAND CASINO GAMBLING OPERATIONS IN FLORIDA, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY LEGISLATION TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF AN EXISTING PARI-MUTUAL, GAMBLING OR CASINO LICENSE TO A NEW LOCATION, OR TO ALLOW AN EXISTING PARI-MUTUAL, GAMBLING OR CASINO LICENSEE TO OPEN A NEW FACILITY AT A NEW LOCATION UNDER THE EXISTING LICENSE; AND FUTHER, DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE SPEAKER OF THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA SENATE.**

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 1054 ("SB 1054") has been filed for consideration during the Florida Legislature's 2024 session by Senator Blaise Ingoglia; and

**WHEREAS**, if adopted, SB 1054 would allow existing gaming permit holders to relocate their operations to a new location within a 30-mile radius; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Miami Beach has a long-standing policy against casino gambling in Florida as evidenced by the following resolutions: No. 2018-30199, No. 2017-29846, No. 2014-28529, No. 2011-27812, No. 2008-26927, and No. 2008-26925; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Ordinance Nos. 2017-4104, 2017-4105, and 2017-4125, the City Commission has prohibited casino and gambling uses and operations in all zoning districts and future land use categories in the City; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018, Florida voters overwhelmingly voted in favor of the Voter Approval of Casino Gambling Initiative, which resulted in an amendment to the Florida Constitution to provide that Florida voters have the exclusive right to authorize casino gambling pursuant to the citizen initiative process allowed under Article XI, Section 3 of the Florida Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, if gambling interests are allowed to secure expanded rights for casino gambling pursuant to SB 1054, the proverbial floodgates to enable full scale casino and gambling operations throughout our community and state will be irreversibly opened in direct contravention of the intent expressed by the citizens of this State when they

overwhelmingly (71.47%) approved the Voter Approval of Casino Gambling Initiative in 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, if SB 1054 is adopted, the South Florida community will bear the brunt of the severe and painful economic and social costs that typically accompany expansive gambling, including the misery of individuals and families touched by problem gambling who are at higher risk of divorce, bankruptcy, child abuse, domestic violence, crime and suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 1054 is premised on a legislative finding, without substantiation, that the State revenues from greyhound racing and other pari-mutual wagering activities are adversely impacted absent the right to move gambling activities from one location to another; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Miami Beach desires to continue to be a number one destination for tourism and to support growth of the local economy by supporting independent hotels, restaurants and entertainment; and

**WHEREAS**, the introduction of gambling will inevitably lead to the cannibalization of non-gambling businesses that will in fact adversely affect State sales tax revenues and local property tax revenues; and

**WHEREAS**, the negative economic and social effects of allowing for the introduction of gambling operations into communities, such as ours, that expressly prohibit gambling operations, far outweigh the narrow interests of greyhound racing permitholders; and

**WHEREAS**, any new gambling operations in South Florida, especially in such close proximity to the City of Miami Beach, would undoubtedly damage the City's brand and image as a center for arts and culture, its vital tourism and hospitality industry, and would cause irreparable harm to the City's quality of life for its residents, businesses, and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, any expansion of gambling operations in South Florida would have a detrimental impact not only on the City, but the neighborhoods surrounding the proposed gaming facilities, which have taken many years to transform into the thriving business, cultural, art, shopping, and residential destinations of the Design District, Wynwood, and the Edgewater District; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Miami Beach rejects any expansion of gambling into the City of Miami Beach, and the City's land development regulations prohibit the development of any destination casinos.

**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 urge the Florida Legislature to oppose Senate Bill 1054, or any

proposed or prospective state legislation filed for consideration during the 2024 legislative session seeking to expand casino gambling operations in Florida, including, but not limited to any legislation to authorize the transfer of an existing pari-mutual, gambling or casino license to a new location, or to allow an existing pari-mutual, gambling or casino licensee to open a new facility at a new location under the existing license; and further, direct the City Clerk to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, and the President of the Florida Senate.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven Meiner, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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

(Sponsored by Commissioner Alex J. Fernandez)

APPROVED AS TO  
FORM & LANGUAGE  
& FOR EXECUTION

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney *RP*

1-22-24  
Date