

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Steven Meiner and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Ricardo J. Dopico, City Attorney 

FIRST READING

DATE: May 15, 2024

SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, CHAPTER 66, ENTITLED "MARINE STRUCTURES, FACILITIES AND VESSELS," ARTICLE III, ENTITLED "PIERS, DOCKS AND BOAT RAMPS," BY AMENDING SECTION 66-107, ENTITLED "MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC PIERS," TO BE RETITLED "USE OF THE BARRY KUTUN BOAT RAMP AND ASSOCIATED PIERS/DOCKS AT MAURICE GIBB PARK," AND TO REGULATE THE USE OF THE BARRY KUTUN BOAT RAMP AND ALL ASSOCIATED PIERS/DOCKS AT MAURICE GIBB PARK; PROVIDING FOR REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

At the request of the sponsor, Commissioner David Suarez, this proposed ordinance is presented to the Mayor and City Commission for your consideration on first reading.

Public piers and other facilities may be maintained by the city for the purpose of loading and unloading passengers, supplies and boating gear and for similar purposes. It is the policy of the city to maintain such facilities in a manner that will permit the greatest public use and avoid continuous occupancy, congestion or blocking of the facility.

City Code Sec. 66-107 ("Maintenance of public piers") currently prohibits docking any vessel at any public pier or other facility for a period of more than 20 minutes.

The proposed ordinance amends Sec. 66-107, by providing as follows:

The Barry Kutun Boat Ramp shall be used only to launch and retrieve noncommercial vessels for a period not to exceed twenty minutes for each task, exclusively by residents of the City of Miami Beach. The floating dock(s) at Maurice Gibb Park shall be used only for launching and disembarking of noncommercial human-powered recreational vessels such as paddleboards and kayaks for a period not to exceed twenty minutes for each task. The use of any portion of the Barry Kutun Boat Ramp, or any

portion of the floating dock, by operators of dinghies, tenders, or any other vessel to dock, stop, stand, or drop off/pick up passengers is specifically, but without limitation, prohibited, except for duly licensed water taxis authorized by the City of Miami Beach picking up or dropping off passengers, and any vessel experiencing an emergency that precludes it from safely traveling to an alternate permitted dock. Vessels docking, stopping, standing, or dropping off passengers due to an emergency may remain at the dock for only so long as is necessary for the Miami Beach Police Department or Miami Beach Fire Rescue to render aid or for the length of time necessary for the vessel to be towed by a duly licensed vessel towing service.

Fines for violation of the proposed Ordinance would range from \$1000 for a first violation and immediate towing of any vessel used in the violation, \$2000 for a second violation and immediate towing of any vessel used in the violation, and \$5000 for a third or subsequent violation and immediate towing of any vessel used in the violation.

Alternatively, violations may be enforced pursuant to Section 1-14 of the City Code, which provides for criminal penalties including up to a \$500 fine and/or 60 days in jail.

RJD/RFR/mmm