

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE
CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE CITY'S 2019
STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

WHEREAS, each year, the Mayor and City Commission adopt a list of legislative priorities for the annual session of the State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 60-day Regular Session of the Florida Legislature is scheduled to convene on March 5, 2019, and is expected to end on May 3, 2019; and

WHEREAS, it is important that the City's legislative consultants work collaboratively with representatives of State government to secure funding for City projects, implement and change legislation that is in the best interest of the City, and represent the City on issues that impact Miami Beach; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the City's legislative consultant is aware of, and has a list of, the City's State Legislative Agenda; and

WHEREAS, the proposed priorities will continue to evolve as the State Legislative Session continues.

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 approve the City's 2019 State Legislative Agenda, as attached in Exhibit "A" to this Resolution.

PASSED and ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2018.

Dan Gelber, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION**

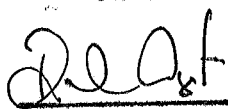
 10-9-18
City Attorney Date

Exhibit A

2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

1. Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit Plan

The City supports the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan, a bold infrastructure program of projects that will “significantly” improve transportation mobility in Miami-Dade County and the South Florida region, including Miami Beach. The SMART Plan is a comprehensive plan that will expand six rapid, critical transit corridors that are linked to regional, state, national and global economic markets, including the Beach Corridor that connects Midtown Miami and Downtown Miami to City Center/Miami Beach Convention Center along the MacArthur Causeway (the highest tourist demand-region with major employment centers).

2. Bus Express Rapid Transit

The City supports a critical component of the SMART Plan, a network of Express Buses known as Bus Express Rapid Transit (BERT), which will connect the SMART rapid transit corridors on limited access facilities, promoting the active expansion of South Florida’s Express Lanes network. The network has been designed to meet the needs of commuter travel patterns within Miami-Dade County. This network will operate along expressways, express lanes, and hard shoulders. The City had previously endorsed the creation of a new bus route across the Julia Tuttle Causeway for Miami Beach workers who live on the mainland. The buses would have a dedicated lane on one of the causeway’s shoulders – a type of route known as bus express rapid transit – to shuttle primarily hotel workers across Biscayne Bay. With an estimated 40,000 workers commuting to Miami Beach every day, the proposal could potentially take thousands of cars off the road and free up parking spots on the island. Under the Beach Express North SMART demonstration proposal, which the City developed with County transportation officials, the County would supply buses for the new route and Miami Beach would contribute roughly \$1.7 million a year in operating costs for the first three years. If the project is successful, the County could make the route permanent.

3. FDOT on Ramp Express Lane

The City is asking FDOT to review the current entrances and exits for the express lanes on I-95 and to consider creating an entrance to the northbound 95 Express lanes coming from westbound I-195/Julia Tuttle Causeway, as well as an exit from southbound 95 Express lanes to eastbound I-195/Julia Tuttle Causeway. The purpose of the express lanes was to better manage congestion and to provide choices to drivers. They are not managing congestion that directly flows in-and-out of the Julia Tuttle Causeway if there is not direct access point to the express lanes.

4. Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program

The City urges the Florida legislature to expand the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program to provide financing for improvements that support resiliency in the State of Florida. In 2010, the Florida Legislature adopted provisions in Section 163.08 of the Florida Statutes that allow local governments to create PACE Programs for residents and businesses that provide financing for energy conservation and efficiency (e.g., energy-efficient heating, cooling, or ventilation systems), renewable energy (e.g., solar panels), wind resistance (e.g., impact resistant windows), and other improvements that are not inconsistent with State law. The State of Florida should expand the PACE

Program to assist property owners with retrofitting their property to protect it from flooding. This should include projects that raise foundation of existing and historic structures, raise and reinforce seawalls, and other adaptation strategies, including flood proofing

5. Sea Level Rise/Coastal Flooding

The City of Miami Beach is extremely vulnerable to rising sea level and climate change. Increased storm events and higher tides result in tidal and storm induced flooding. It is essential that the State recognize the urgency and severity brought on by these conditions. The City continues to request funding for infrastructure improvements to reduce the City's risks of flooding.

6. Vacation Extended Stay/Short-term Rentals

The City continues to support legislation that allows local governments to regulate vacation and extended stay/short-term rental properties. This type of legislation is meant to prevent operators from running unlicensed "hotels" which, in most cases, are in violation of zoning laws, safety codes, and other commercial requirements.

7. Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands

The City urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the South Florida Water Management District to take all steps necessary to expedite and complete the construction of Phase I of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (BBCW) project, and also to expedite the planning of Phase II for this project so that such planning occurs as soon as possible and prior to the current schedule scheduled start date of 2021.

The health of Biscayne Bay and the restoration of the greater Everglades' ecosystem are of great importance to the continued clean water supply, environmental and public health, and economic well-being. The purpose of the BBCW project, as authorized by Congress in the Water Resources Development Act of 2000, is to improve the ecological health of Biscayne Bay by adjusting the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of freshwater entering Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park through the redistribution of freshwater flow and the expansion and restoration of wetlands, which will help to restore or enhance freshwater wetlands, tidal wetlands, and near-shore bay habitats.

8. Florida's Fire Safety Standards

The City supports legislation that amends Florida's Fire Safety Standards to preserve architecturally significant building features. The City will continue to identify and prioritize historic structures and urge the Florida Legislature to broaden exemption of Florida Statutes section 718.1085, in order for these sites and locations to maintain their historic character and integrity without requiring the retrofitting of handrails and guardrails to current code, statute, ordinance or contemporary standards.

9. Casino Gambling

The City continues to strongly oppose any bills related to casino gambling, and reaffirms its long-standing policy against casino gambling, and opposes any expansion by the Florida Legislature of casino gambling operations in Florida including, but not limited to,

any attempt to: 1) supersede the prohibitions on gambling and casino operations in the City's land development regulations and Comprehensive Plan; 2) authorize the transfer of an existing gambling or casino license to a new location; 3) allow an existing gambling or casino licensee to open a new facility at a new location under the existing license; and, 4) expand gambling operations in the City of Miami, which would bring a poker room and Jai Alai Fronton to the Historic Edgewater Neighborhood and the prospect of future slot machine operations; and, further, hereby supports legislative efforts by the City of Miami to control or prohibit all future expansions of gambling.

10. Preserve Beaches/Beach Renourishment

The City supports legislation that provides additional funding to preserve and repair the State's beaches and dune system.

11. Texting While Driving

The City urges the Legislature to enact legislation that would make texting while driving a primary offense.

12. Local Authority and Unfunded Mandates

The City continues to oppose legislation that would impact home rule powers of municipal governments or in any way reduce local control and authority, as well as any efforts to pass additional costs from the State down to the City. The City supports all efforts made to identify and reduce the number of unfunded mandates imposed on local government.

13. Restrict Availability and Use of Military Grade and/or High Capacity Magazine Assault Weapons

The City continues to urge the Legislature to restrict the availability and use of military-grade and/or high-capacity magazine assault weapons to law enforcement agencies.

14. Resource Extraction

The City supports a Statewide ban on hydraulic fracturing, acid fracturing, and any form of extreme well stimulation for the purpose of resource extraction in the State of Florida.

15. Bridge Designation

The City supports the Florida Legislature's honorary designation of Bridge Number 870054 on State Road 112/W. 41st Street/Arthur Godfrey Road in Miami Beach as the "Senator Paul B. Steinberg Bridge"; and, urges the Florida Department of Transportation ("FDOT") to take any and all actions, as required, to effectuate the designation of the bridge as approved by and consistent with Florida Senate Bill 368. (May 2018)

16. Red Tide And Freshwater Algae Blooms

The City urges the Legislature to fund research to understand the causes of red tide and freshwater algae blooms that threaten the State's tourism economy, and urges the State to develop programs to reduce nutrient pollution that continues to impact the natural ecosystems south of Lake Okeechobee.

LEGISLATION TO BE MONITORED

Legislation regarding the following issues will be monitored:

- Education and School Security
- Alternative and Renewable Energy including Wind and Solar Energy
- Protect condominium owners
- State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program
- Enterprise Zones
- Film Incentives /Enterprise Florida
- Medical Marijuana
- Telecommunications/Wireless Communications
- Tourism-related Issues
- LGBTQ Issues
- Body Cameras
- Senior Programs
- Waterways and Water Regulations/Mooring Issues
- Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRA) Legislation
- Beach Re-nourishment/Erosion Protection
- Resiliency and Environmental Sustainability
- Flood Protection
- Public Private Partnerships
- Red light cameras
- License Plate Readers
- Plastic Stirrers
- Workforce & Affordable Housing Programs
- Affordable Workspace
- Florida Workers' Compensation Reform

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Funding is sought for the following projects/programs:

- Education Programs
- Water Projects
- Economic Development
- State Housing Initiatives Program (SHIP) Funding
- Workforce and Affordable Housing
- Historic Preservation
- Planning for Resiliency/Mitigation
- Security Cameras
- Transportation
- Film Incentives