

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

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, URGING RETAIL STORES IN THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH TO DISCONTINUE THE SALE AND DISPLAY OF SOUVENIR ITEMS CONTAINING PRESERVED DEAD ALLIGATORS, SHARKS, OR OTHER DEAD SEA LIFE IN THE INTEREST OF MARINE CONSERVATION AND THE PUBLIC WELFARE.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Miami Beach ("City") is a world-class tourist destination that attracts visitors globally to its pristine, white sandy beaches and to its vibrant and internationally known entertainment and cultural events; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has a long history as a leader amongst governmental entities in enacting laws and adopting policies that foster the conservation of our environment, our natural resources, and the protection of marine and other wildlife through the banning of various polystyrene products and plastic straws on our City beaches, parks and sidewalk cafes, and other public properties that pose negative consequences to our environment and marine wildlife; and

**WHEREAS**, a disturbing and unsavory practice of selling souvenir alligator skulls and glass bottles containing preserved shark pups or fetuses has been occurring in various retail establishments in the City; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to the disgust of store patrons, some retailers have discontinued the sale of such items, but others have continued to display and sell these alligator skulls and/or small, dead sea creatures as local souvenirs; and

**WHEREAS**, as many other forms of wildlife and sea life, alligators and sharks play a vital role in our ecosystem and should not be the object of crude and objectionable display and profit; and

**WHEREAS**, moreover, under Florida law, certain species of sharks are protected and their harvest, possession, sale, or exchange is unlawful, and Florida law also expressly regulates the sale and possession of manufactured goods composed of alligator skulls; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of alligator skulls and shark fetuses or young shark pups as a souvenir of the City is not only a grotesque enterprise motivated by profits, but it is in complete contradiction to the premier Miami Beach brand and the environmentally conscious laws and policies adopted and embraced by the City; and

**WHEREAS**, in view of the foregoing, all retail stores in the City should immediately discontinue the display and sale of these macabre curios.

**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 retail stores in the City of Miami Beach to discontinue the sale and display of souvenir items containing preserved dead alligators, sharks, or other sea life in the interest of marine conservation and the public welfare.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018.

**ATTEST:**

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

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Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner Mark Samuelian)  
(Co-sponsored by Vice-Mayor Michael Góngora)

APPROVED AS TO  
FORM & LANGUAGE  
& FOR EXECUTION

*D. J. Cortez*      12-10-18  
City Attorney      Date