

# MIAMI BEACH

## COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Sustainability Resiliency Committee Meeting

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: April 23, 2019

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY COMMITTEE, AND AMENDING THE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR BEACHFRONT CONCESSION OPERATIONS, BY REQUIRING ALL UPLAND OWNER CONCESSIONAIRES AND THEIR THIRD PARTY CONCESSION OPERATORS TO UTILIZE 100% REUSABLE WARES IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR BEACHFRONT CONCESSION OPERATIONS; AND FURTHER APPROVING THE FOURTH AMENDED AND RESTATED RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR BEACHFRONT CONCESSION OPERATIONS, INCORPORATING THIS AMENDMENT.

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### **RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENTS:**

Environment and Sustainability Department

### **LEGISLATIVE TRACKING:**

Item C7H – September 12, 2018 Commission Meeting

### **SPONSORED:**

Commissioner Micky Steinberg

### **ANALYSIS**

The City of Miami Beach is a world-renowned tourist destination that is committed to reducing litter and pollutants for the public's health, safety, and welfare. Clean beaches enhance our community's quality of life and protects the health of the beach ecosystem. To this end the City has already taken several steps to reduce litter and waste generated on the beach including; prohibiting straws, plastic bags, Styrofoam, and glass containers. In addition, in November 2018, the city launched #PlasticFreeMB business certification program and education campaign. The goal of the campaign is to incentives businesses to reduce their reliance on single-use plastics using an incentive based approach.

Single-use plastic is neither readily recyclable nor biodegradable, and takes hundreds to thousands of years to degrade in the environment. Discarded single-use plastic containers and wares from beachfront concessions contribute to additional trash generation on the beach. In February of 2017, the Miami Dade County (MDC) Beach Maintenance Supervisor and the City of Miami Beach (CMB), Beach Maintenance Director recognized the increasing volume of trash being collected from the beach. After study and observation it was concluded that while beachgoers contribute greatly to the volume, Hotel Food and Beverage (F&B)

operations were the largest contributors to the increasing volume. An objective was identified to address beach trash reduction. The study of the increasing volume of beach trash concentrated on two areas; 1) the frequency at which the total monthly trash collection exceeded 300,000 pounds, and 2) the locations on the beach where the incidence of overflow occurred most frequently and where trash cans require multiple daily servicing.

Historically the collection of 300,000 pounds monthly was a rarity and became an earmark being achieved only once or twice annually through 2010. In 2014, 2015, and 2016 the collection of trash from the beach exceeding 300,000 pounds in a single month occurred four times. Furthermore, in the month of July in fiscal year 2016, and again in 2017, the monthly trash collection exceeded 400,000 pounds. An ever increasing amount of trash and litter is being deposited and collected from our beaches each year.

The increasing volume of trash and litter was observed throughout the beach, while the increased incidence of overflowing trash cans and the need for multiple daily servicing of trash cans was seen in specific areas. Those areas needing additional service were identified as being behind hotels with beachfront F&B service. Trash cans in these areas were being filled almost immediately after being emptied. Large paper bags, cardboard like cup holders, plates, and plastic and paper food containers which fail to compact or crush consumed the entire 70 gallon trash cans shortly after being emptied.

As our study continued it became evident that all solutions in the past had addressed the problem of trash volume and never the cause of where and how it was being generated. More trash cans, larger trash cans, longer operating hours for the trash collection equipment, double shifts on weekends and then seven days per week, and then adding a second weekend evening crew on weekends and holidays only enabled the generating of an ever increasing volume of beach trash.

On March 30, 2017, city and county staff met with several of the large hotel managers and Steven Boucher from Boucher Brothers. Those represented at this meeting included the Loews Hotel, Ritz Carlton South Beach, Delano, SLS, The W South Beach, One Hotel, The Miami Beach Edition, and Fontainebleau Hilton. All of these hotels have Commercial Beachfront Concession Agreements, which include F&B service on the beach. Their feedback was sought regarding their favor or displeasure with the idea of serving all F&B items with, on, and in reusable containers. The need to reduce F&B generated trash on the beach was explained and the requirement for the collection of all reusable F&B service wares by hotel staff was discussed. Concurrently Sustainability and Resiliency Committee initiative seeking an alternative to the use of plastics by beach concessions and this beach trash reduction initiative were recognized for their shared common goals.

On May 10, 2017, the Beach Trash Reduction proposal requiring that all commercial concessionaires, who provide F&B services to the general public, be required to deliver and serve the beachfront F&B services on reusable wares and the input received from Hotel Managers was presented to the Sustainability and Resiliency Committee.

On July 19, 2017, a display of F&B trays, plates, bowls, and unbreakable glassware currently in use at various Hotels were placed on display. Comments regarding the use of reusable wares for beachfront F&B service received from management at various Hotels were shared with committee members.

On January 10, 2018, the Sustainability and Resiliency Committee passed a motion to bring the item for consideration and to the February 14, 2018, City Commission meeting. In the interim, the Committee recommended that staff continue to discuss with hoteliers.

## **Feedback from Hotel Management**

- **SLS Miami Beach** – The SLS first observed that staff involved in the delivery of F&B items would typically return to the service area empty handed. Now they deliver and retrieve food service wares on a single trip. In a more recent report completed by the SLS, they accounted for their initial investment in reusable plate ware, water, detergent and electric costs in washing these wares and compared these costs to the cost of disposables which would have been used for their total food servings over the last twelve months. Their average cost per dish served using disposables was \$0.40. Their average cost per dish served using reusable wares was \$0.28, a \$0.12 cost reduction on each dish served.
- **Miami Beach Edition** – Paulo Bernabeu, The use of reusable items has had a positive effect on the work load in the warehouse/supply room and a reduced frequency of receiving deliveries. Reusable items have proven to be much less expensive than disposable.
- **Eden Roc** – Jason Hajbura, Banquet Manager - The use of reusable wares is definitely less expensive than disposable. Cost estimates based on one quarter are as follows: Reusable annual cost = \$17,000. Disposable annual cost = \$24,500 Reusable savings are estimated at \$7,500 annually.
- **Four Seasons, Surfside** – The extended useful life of reusable wares makes it worthwhile. They are less costly over time than disposables, they provide a higher level of service, and their use is a better decision environmentally.
- **Trump International, Sunny Isles Beach** – Curtis Jantz, Chief of Operations – The use of reusable wares is practiced in their beachfront restaurant to a much greater extent than on the beach. Stackable bamboo baskets with covers are used on the beach lined with parchment paper for food service. There is a definite cost savings realized as a result of using the reusable items and they are anxious to expand on this practice.
- **Sole on Sunny Isles Beach** – Pamela Presley, Director of Sales – Currently using stackable bamboo baskets with lids for beach food delivery. Recycled plastic cups and biodegradable paper straws are also used. She has no doubt that reusable wares for beach service has reduce costs and is interested in expanding practice.

On September 12, 2018, Commission referred an item to the Sustainability and Resiliency Committee to further discuss phasing and implementation. Administration met with beachfront concessionaires, hotels and condominiums to obtain additional feedback regarding phasing and implementation of the reusable wares. The attendees identified the following as barriers to implementation:

1. The operational expense associated with purchasing re-useable products.
2. The operational logistics associated with cleaning and storing re-useable products.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Administration recommends that the Sustainability and Resiliency Committee, move to amend the Rules and Regulations for Beachfront Concession Operations to require all upland owner concessionaires and their third party concession operators to eliminate single-use plastics and move to using only 100% reusable wares in connection with their beachfront concession operations. In order to give concessionaires time necessary to adjust their operations, it is recommended that a one-year phase in period be provided. The concessionaire contracts are updated annually on October 1. Hotels will be advised of this change during this year's renewal process and that this rule will come into effect for the contract term beginning October 1, 2020. Starting October 1, 2020, upland owner concessionaires and their third party concession operators will be required use 100% reusable wares. Failure to comply with the contract will result in revocation of their agreement to operate on public property.