

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, URGING GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS TO EXTEND THE NO-INTEREST PERIOD OF THE FLORIDA SMALL BUSINESS EMERGENCY BRIDGE LOAN PROGRAM FROM ONE (1) YEAR TO (3) YEARS, IN ORDER TO ALLOW SMALL BUSINESSES TO REBUILD THEIR BUSINESSES WITHOUT ACCRUING LARGER DEBTS IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE UNPRECEDENTED COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the rapidly spreading novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") a pandemic, acknowledging what has seemed clear for some time — the virus will likely spread to all countries on the globe; and

WHEREAS, the rate of infection throughout the world and in the US has accelerated rapidly, grinding most markets and businesses around the globe to a halt; and

WHEREAS, in response to COVID-19 impacting businesses and individuals, states around the United States are implementing emergency measures to support their debilitated economies under the COVID-19 threat; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis activated the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program (the "SBE Program") to support small businesses impacted by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the SBE program, managed by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity ("DEO"), will provide short-term, interest-free loans to small businesses that experienced economic injury from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS; loans provided through the SBE Program will be interest-free for one (1) year, after which the interest rate will be 12% per annum on the unpaid balance thereafter, until the loan balance is repaid in full; and

WHEREAS, while Florida's economy has diversified over the past 20 years and has seen growth in areas such as infrastructure and construction, tourism still remains the state's economic "backbone"; and

WHEREAS, tourism is also one of the last industries to bounce back from economic recessions or natural disasters that impact national economy; and

WHEREAS, it is undisputable that with closure of non-essential businesses throughout Florida, COVID-19 is impacting, and will continue to impact Florida and the

rest of the country on a scale that will rival some major world events that have adversely affected tourism and the economy in the past; and

WHEREAS, accordingly, it would be in the best interest of Florida small businesses to extend the no-interest period of the SBE Program from one (1) year to three (3) years, so that small business owners, who are facing the financial challenges of rebuilding their businesses, are protected from even larger debts due to accrued interest.

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 Governor Ron DeSantis to extend the no-interest period of the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program from one (1) year to (3) years, in order to allow small businesses to rebuild their businesses without accruing larger debts in the aftermath of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic.

PASSED and ADOPTED this ____ day of April, 2020.

ATTEST:

Dan Gelber, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(sponsored by Commissioner Michael Gongora)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

City Attorney *FA*

4-8-2020

Date