

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF
THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, URGING THE FLORIDA
LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS'
PROPOSAL TO INVEST \$1 BILLION FOR PROJECTS THAT
ADDRESS THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AS PART OF
THE STATE'S BUDGET FOR THE 2021-22 FISCAL YEAR.**

WHEREAS, Miami Beach is a low-lying area, facing flood risk from high tides, storms, hurricanes, and sea level rise, with 93% of all buildings classified in the FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area; and

WHEREAS, 64% of all existing buildings in the City were built prior to the first Flood Insurance Rate Maps ("FIRM") that have progressively required higher elevation building to reduce flood risk; and

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach is an urban leader in addressing and responding to the actual and measurable impacts of climate change by amending building and land development codes to increase resiliency standards, including without limitation (i) increased open space, and landscape requirements, (ii) new electric vehicle parking requirements, and (iii) a groundbreaking requirement that new construction larger than 7,000 square feet and ground floor additions larger than 10,000 square feet must meet applicable LEED or International Living Future Institute standards, or pay a sustainability fee; and

WHEREAS, the City has also invested more than \$200 million in neighborhood infrastructure projects for stormwater and sea level rise, including stormwater drainage, road elevation and seawall elevation; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the City of Miami Beach, along with Miami-Dade County and Miami, is implementing Resilient305, a shared strategy to address resilience challenges prioritized through intergovernmental and community collaboration; and

WHEREAS, however, despite the City's aggressive steps and tactics to combat climate change, finances for the hard infrastructure to protect its shoreline and buildings have been hard to come by; and

WHEREAS, of the 53 miles of seawalls in Miami Beach built to protect areas of human habitation along the coast against tides, waves, and sea level rise, only five miles are publicly owned, meaning that most of the responsibility for replacing seawalls in disrepair and low elevation, falls on the private homeowner and additional financing mechanisms are needed; and

WHEREAS, a new report commissioned by the South Florida Climate Compact found that if the South Florida region doesn't adapt to climate change, the damage could exceed \$38 billion by 2070; and

WHEREAS, a recent report by the American Flood Coalition and John Hopkins University found that an investment of \$1 billion into flood-resilient infrastructure could create up to 40,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2021, Governor Ron DeSantis, announced a \$1 billion investment over four years that will allow local governments to build new infrastructure to address the impacts of the sea level rise (the "Proposal"); and

WHEREAS, if the Florida Legislature approves the new program, "Resilient Florida" will use revenues from the state documentary stamp tax to pay for the debt service on \$1 billion in bonds for projects that address the impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, according to the Governor's proposal, the projects could range from preserving land to building sea walls to address the impact of sea level rise on dozens of government structures and services; and

WHEREAS, the proposed list includes everything from wastewater treatment, water supply, stormwater management, emergency response centers, transportation infrastructure, healthcare, military bases, public housing and public education facilities; and

WHEREAS, should the Florida Legislature approve the Proposal, the Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP") will manage the program, and will distribute \$165.7 million in grants in the first year, spend \$1.7 million to fund 15 additional positions at the DEP, and spend \$12.1 million to provide grants to coastal counties, coastal municipalities and inland counties that have not completed vulnerability assessments related to the threat of sea level rise, with priority given to local governments that get matching funds from local or federal sources; and

WHEREAS, until now, Florida's main contribution to resilience efforts was the Florida Resilient Coastlines Program which spent its \$5.5 million budget on grants to help local governments plan for sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, both coastal and in-land communities continue to be pummeled by severe storms and flooding, and proactively investing in flood-resilient infrastructure will help meet a number of challenges head on; and

WHEREAS, the need for investment in resilience has never been more urgent and resilient infrastructure will not only help our communities prepare for the future but also drive economic growth; and

WHEREAS, at a time of unprecedented intersecting challenges, including a public health crisis, economic recession, and historic storm season, investing in flood resilient infrastructure can create jobs and provide a multiplier of benefits to communities in need; and

WHEREAS, for these reasons, the Mayor and City Commission of Miami Beach urge Florida Legislature to adopt the Governor's proposal of \$1 billion investment for projects that address the impacts of climate change into the State's budget for the 2021-22 Fiscal Year.

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 the Florida Legislature to adopt Governor Ron DeSantis' proposal to invest \$1 billion for projects that address the impacts of climate change as part of the State's budget for the 2021-22 Fiscal Year.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of February 2021.

ATTEST:

Mayor Dan Gelber

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner Mark Samuelian)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

City Attorney

GA

Date

2-2-21