

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, URGING GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS TO DIRECT THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO COLLABORATE WITH AND SUPPORT THE MIAMI BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT IN MAINTAINING A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE ENVIRONMENT DURING THE BUSY SPRING BREAK SEASON BY COOPERATING WITH THE CITY REGARDING THE INSTALLATION OF LICENSE PLATE READERS AT CERTAIN POINTS ALONG STATE HIGHWAYS TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, AND FURTHER ASSISTING THE CITY IN CLOSING OR LIMITING ACCESS TO KEY CAUSEWAYS DURING PEAK TRAFFIC PERIODS.

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach (the “City”) anticipates an influx of visitors during the upcoming 2022 Spring Break period and desires to maintain a safe and enjoyable environment for both residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the City has received an increasingly large number of visitors during the Spring Break period, which has posed significant challenges including, without limitation, increased traffic and congestion, and severe impacts to Police, Fire, Sanitation, and Code Compliance services; and

WHEREAS, many of the visitors to the City during high impact periods, such as Spring Break, have demonstrated a disregard for the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, SoBeSafe, a volunteer organization comprised of local residents of Miami Beach dedicated to help put an end to recurrent criminal behavior, has issued a letter to Governor DeSantis requesting Florida Department of Transportation’s (FDOT) further collaboration with the MBPD ahead of spring break; and

WHEREAS, while the City continues to implement additional safety measures to proactively limit crime, certain measures involving state highways may require collaboration between the City and FDOT; and

WHEREAS, these measures include (1) installing License Plate Readers (“LPRs”) along state highways within the City and (2) closing or limiting access on key causeways during peak traffic periods as determined by the City; and

WHEREAS, LPRs will deter many visitors intending to cause trouble, and apprehend some ill-intended visitors who are not deterred; and

WHEREAS, furthermore, during peak periods, such as during spring break, visitors often arrive in volumes that exceed the ability of the Miami Beach Police Department

(MBPD) to guarantee the safety of City streets and the ability of emergency vehicles to provide critical emergency services; and

WHEREAS, closing or limiting access to the City via the causeways will allow the City to proactively control crowds and better ensure that the MBPD can better meet the safety and security needs of both residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, despite good faith collaborative efforts thus far, the MBPD finds itself unable to implement these plans without the consent of the FDOT; and

WHEREAS, Governor Ron DeSantis recently declared Florida a “law and order State” and assured the State’s law enforcement Officers “Let there be no doubt to those who wear the uniform: the State of Florida stands with you!”; and

WHEREAS, the City and Governor DeSantis share a common interest in supporting local law enforcement officers in their efforts to uphold order and maintain the safety and prosperity of our communities; and

WHEREAS, Governor DeSantis’ leadership and support on this matter are vital due to the time sensitive nature and regulatory obstacles preventing swift implementation of the City’s proactive measures; and

WHEREAS, the City requests that the Governor continue to stand with law enforcement by directing the FDOT to work with the City and MBPD to ensure that LPRs are installed along key routes including I-195, I-395, and A1A, to the extent permitted by law, and that the FDOT work with MBPD to limit traffic along key causeways as the City deems necessary.

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 direct the Florida Department of Transportation to collaborate with and support the Miami Beach Police Department in maintaining a safe and enjoyable environment during the busy Spring Break period by cooperating with the City regarding the installation of License Plate Readers at certain points along state highways to the extent permitted by law and further assisting the City in closing or limiting access to key causeways during peak traffic periods.

PASSED and ADOPTED this 9th day of March 2022.


ATTEST:

Dan Gelber, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(sponsored by Commissioner Mark Samuelian)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney *RK*

3-1-22
Date