

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE (“PSNQLC”), AT ITS MARCH 7, 2022 MEETING, AND APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION NO. 2019-30947, RELATING TO THE CITY’S ADOPT-A-BENCH PROGRAM (THE “PROGRAM”) AS FOLLOWS: (1) REINSTATING THE COMMEMORATIVE BENCH PLAQUE ELEMENT OF THE PROGRAM; (2) REPEALING THE TIERED FEE STRUCTURE AND ESTABLISHING A FIXED DONATION FEE OF \$10,000 TO ADOPT ANY EXISTING OR NEW BENCHES IN CITY PARKS; AND (4) PROVIDING THAT ALL NET PROCEEDS FROM THE ADOPT-A-BENCH PROGRAM SHALL BE DEDICATED TO PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMMING, AND BEAUTIFICATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

WHEREAS, on November 9, 2016, the City Commission passed Resolution No. 2016-29649 (Exhibit A) supporting the creation of the Adopt-A-Bench Program (the “Program”), like the Central Park Conservancy’s Adopt-A-Bench Program as referenced in a 2016 New York Times article (Exhibit B), which provides the public an opportunity to commemorate park benches in honor of loved ones at an initial adoption fee of \$10,000; and

WHEREAS, on June 6, 2018, the City’s Brick Paver Program was created via Resolution No. 2018-30380, to provide the public an opportunity to purchase commemorative brick pavers on the beachwalk corridor, between 53rd and 64th Streets, at a cost of \$ 1,000 per paver, with the program available to individuals only (with no corporate sponsorship option); and

WHEREAS, at the January 17, 2018 Commission meeting, the City Commission approved applications for two commemorative benches sponsored by separate individuals at \$10,000 each; and

WHEREAS, at the same meeting, under a separate agenda item, the City Commission approved Resolution No. 2018-30143 to increase the fees associated with bench adoption from \$10,000 to \$20,000 (Exhibit C); and

WHEREAS, following the 2018 fee increase there were several inquiries, however, all interested parties who contacted the Department declined to participate, noting the cost as the deterrent; and

WHEREAS, at that time, the Parks and Recreation Department reevaluated the program and determined a tiered cost structure that would enable a wider interest in the program; and

WHEREAS, at the September 11, 2019 City Commission meeting, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2019-30947 (Exhibit D), establishing a tiered fee structure for “adopting” City benches, eliminating the element of commemorative bench plaques from the Program, and delegating to the Parks and Recreation Department with the authority to administratively approve future applications for the Program to streamline the process, and eliminating the Brick Paver Program in its entirety; and

WHEREAS, since the removal of the plaque element from the Adopt-A-Bench program, all interested parties to date have either declined to participate or ceased communication after learning that the commemorative plaque element was removed from the program, including one of the Program’s only two participants, who adopted a bench at the original price point of \$10,000; and

WHEREAS, at the December 8, 2021 City Commission meeting, a discussion regarding the "Adopt-A-Bench" Program and the 2019 repeal of the Brick Paver Program was referred to the Neighborhoods and Quality of Life Committee; and

WHEREAS, at the March 7, 2022 Public Safety and Neighborhoods Quality of Life Committee (the “PSNQLC” or the “Committee”) meeting, the Committee discussed and recommended for the City Commission to: (1) reinstate the commemorative bench plaque element to the Program; (2) repeal the tiered fee structure and establish a fixed donation fee of \$10,000 to adopt any existing or new benches in City parks; and (4) provide that all net proceeds from the Program be applied to Parks and Recreation programming, and beautification and improvement projects; and

WHEREAS, based on community feedback that the Parks and Recreation Department has continually received, this Program could be successful if the bench plaque element was re-instated as a component to the Program; and

WHEREAS, further, the Committee recommended that the City Commission continue to delegate to the Parks and Recreation Department the authority to administer and approve any Adopt-A-Bench Program applications in order to streamline the process; and

WHEREAS, with the re-establishment of the commemorative bench plaque element of the Program, an amendment to the City’s Naming Ordinance codified in Section 82-503 will be required to continue allowing the Parks and Recreation Department the authority to administer and approve any Adopt-A-Bench Program applications.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, hereby accept the recommendation of the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee ("PSNQLC"), at its March 7, 2022 meeting, and approve an amendment to Resolution No. 2019-30947, relating to the City's Adopt-A-Bench program (the "Program") as follows: (1) reinstating the commemorative bench plaque element of the Program; (2) repealing the tiered fee structure and establishing a fixed donation fee of \$10,000 to adopt any existing or new benches in City parks; and (4) providing that all net proceeds from the Adopt-A-Bench program shall be dedicated to Parks and Recreation programming, and beautification and improvement projects.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 4th day of May, 2022.

Dan Gelber, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney *AK*

4-15-22
Date