

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE USE OF FUNDS FROM THE MIAMI BEACH TREE PRESERVATION TRUST FUND TO PURCHASE AND PLANT FOUR (4) JAPANESE BLUEBERRY TREES (*ELAEOCARPUS DECIPIENS*) FOR A NORTH BEACH REFORESTATION PILOT PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, Miami Beach's trees are a defining and valued feature of the City of Miami Beach (the "City"), recognized for the important contribution they provide in mitigating the effects of climate change, beautifying the City's landscaping, and providing shelter to local fauna; and

WHEREAS, trees provide countless benefits which promote environmental health, improve quality of life, and beautify spaces; and

WHEREAS, a lack of tree canopy can increase the heat island effect, a phenomenon where there are pockets of higher temperatures and mostly occurs in cities, where the built environment absorbs sunlight and radiates heat back into the environment; and

WHEREAS, the City has a goal to increase the City's canopy cover to 22% by the year 2040; and

WHEREAS, according to the City's Urban Forestry Masterplan, adopted in 2020, certain areas in North Beach are suffering the greatest urban heat island impacts, and focusing City efforts and outreach on tree planting and maintenance in North Beach and other areas most impacted by the effects of the urban heat island can help reduce the negative impacts caused by these elevated temperatures; and

WHEREAS, however, there is very limited space available in North Beach for trees to be planted; and

WHEREAS, new approaches must be tested to find a solution to the high need for new trees within an area with limited space for tree plantings; and

WHEREAS, per Section 46-65(4)(d) of the City Code, the Miami Beach Tree Preservation Trust Fund may be used to obtain trees, landscaping, irrigation systems, and any other items or materials necessary and proper for the preservation, maintenance, relocation or restoration of trees and the urban forest on any publicly owned land or publicly accessible parcels in Miami Beach or for similar programs approved by the City Commission; and

WHEREAS, a pilot project has been developed where four small sections of the

sidewalk on 78th street would be cleared to plant four (4) Japanese Blueberry Trees (*Elaeocarpus decipiens*); and

WHEREAS, the pilot project will be monitored and data will be collected from the four trees to apply to future North Beach reforestation projects.

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 authorize the use of funds from the Miami Beach Tree Preservation Trust Fund to purchase and plant four (4) Japanese Blueberry trees (*Elaeocarpus decipiens*) for a North Beach reforestation pilot program.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of February 2023.

ATTEST:

Dan Gelber, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney

1-17-23

Date