RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF RE-ESTABLISHING A MOUNTED PATROL UNIT IN THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, AND REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION.

WHEREAS, while modern policing has embraced technology, many cities and municipalities, big and small, maintain Mounted Police Units as an effective crime-fighting tool; and

WHEREAS, horses offer a significant height advantage, and move easily through thick pockets of people, offering more visibility and situational awareness to the officer riding it; and

WHEREAS, mounted police officers are found to be particularly effective in breaking up and dispersing unruly crowds, which would be helpful to the City during high impact periods and events; and

WHEREAS, Mounted Patrol Units also serve as excellent beacons to the community, removing barriers that usually stand between citizens and law enforcement officers, motivating people to approach the horse and the officer, allowing for better information gathering, intelligence, and increasing public confidence; and

WHEREAS, the City of Miami employs a Mounted Patrol Unit which has been around since 1937, and is made up of seven (7) officers and eleven (11) horses; and

WHEREAS, the City's Police Department employed Mounted Patrol Units in the past for a number of years, until the Unit was eliminated in the FY 1992/93 budget; and

WHEREAS, bringing back Mounted Police Units could offer the City another efficient policing tool at its disposal in order to address on-going public safety concerns.

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 direct the City Administration to explore the feasibility of re-establishing a Mounted Patrol Unit in the City of Miami Beach, and report its findings to the Mayor and City Commission.

PASSED and ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2023.

ATTEST:

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(sponsored by Mayor Dan Gelber)

Dan Gelber, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM & LANGUAGE & FOR EXECUTION

1-26-23 City Attomev