

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, URGING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (“DERM”) TO REVIEW THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY AT MARINA FACILITIES, INCLUDING CHARTER ACTIVITY IN PARTICULAR, AND TO THE FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE, RECOMMEND THAT THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ENACT STRICTER ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS SO AS TO LIMIT COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES AT MARINA FACILITIES AND THEREBY PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT.

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach (the “City”) is comprised of a number of islands with approximately 70 miles of shoreline along numerous canals and waterways, the Atlantic Ocean, and Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve, all of which support a wide variety of flora and fauna; and

WHEREAS, the City hosts approximately 15 million visitors each year, and is considered one of the world’s most popular tourist destinations because of its beaches, crystal-clear blue water, and amazing tropical environment; and

WHEREAS, the City’s marinas are a popular destination for tourists chartering boats for leisure activities; and

WHEREAS, marinas are typically overlooked in the geography of coastal risk; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has identified the following potential environmental impacts from boating and marinas: high toxicity in the water; increased pollutant concentrations in aquatic organisms and sediments; increased erosion rates; increased nutrients, leading to an increase in algae and a decrease in oxygen (eutrophication); and high levels of pathogens; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the need to protect the water and our natural resources and marine life, the City Commission is concerned that commercial operations at facilities near residential areas create considerable disruption, and pollution, particularly from charter activity; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission urge Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management (“DERM”) to review the environmental impacts of commercial activity at marina facilities, in particular, charter activity, and to the fullest extent possible, recommend that the Board of County

Commissioners enact stricter environmental regulations so as to limit commercial activities at marina facilities and thereby protect the environment; and

WHEREAS, to the extent DERM approvals are required for commercial operations at City marinas, the City requests that DERM review its regulations and that the County consider enacting stricter regulations in this area, including limiting the number of boat slips; and

WHEREAS, residents of the South of Fifth neighborhood, including the South of Fifth Neighborhood Association, desire stricter environmental protection for the Miami Beach marinas, and support significantly curbing the number of commercial slips at the Miami Beach marina, with no more than ten (10) slips per marina.

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 Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management (“DERM”) to review the environmental impacts of commercial activity at marina facilities, in particular, charter activity, and to the fullest extent possible, recommend that the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners enact stricter environmental regulations so as to limit commercial activities at marina facilities and thereby protect the environment.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of February 2023.

ATTEST:

Dan Gelber, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(sponsored by Commissioner Alex J. Fernandez)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

[Signature] 1/30/2023

For City Attorney  Date