

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCY COMMITTEE, AT ITS FEBRUARY 17, 2023 MEETING, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO PROCEED WITH DESIGN OF THE PROPOSED PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF LANE AT MIAMI BEACH SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$160,000.

WHEREAS, Miami Beach Senior High School (MBSH or the School) and the streets in the vicinity of the school grounds experience traffic congestion during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up periods; and

WHEREAS, the critical period for most high schools in Miami-Dade County is the morning drop-off period, as the afternoon pick-up period tends to produce less traffic congestion around the perimeter of a school due to its staggered nature and multiple extracurricular activities requiring many students to remain in school; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the City has worked closely with the Committee for Quality of Education (QEC), MBSH Administration, and residents of the area to discuss traffic concerns, review traffic conditions along adjacent roadways during drop-off and pick-up periods, explore solutions to mitigate the impacts to traffic and improve safety; and

WHEREAS, the City has implemented various safety improvements to enhance safety and reduce congestion, including installation of a pedestrian crosswalk with rapid rectangular flashing beacons on Prairie Avenue north of 23rd Street; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the City completed the installation of school zone flashing beacons on Prairie Avenue to replace older static signs, and installed new pavement markings and signage along Prairie Avenue including re-striping school zone markings; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the City conducted observations during morning drop-off period and discovered that some parents were dropping-off students along eastbound Dade Boulevard forcing students to cross Dade Boulevard at unsignalized mid-block locations (i.e. jaywalking); and

WHEREAS, as a result, the City commissioned a study to explore the feasibility of creating a dedicated pick-up/drop-off lane adjacent to Dade Boulevard to discourage the illegal drop-offs; and

WHEREAS, the study was completed in 2020 and recommended the implementation of a one-way westbound pick-up/drop-off lane between the existing bus lane in front of the School and Dade Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, the study was forwarded to Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) and Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) for programming of the recommended improvements; and

WHEREAS, however, MDCPS expressed some safety concerns with the pick-up/drop-off lane as proposed by the City, and advised that it did not have funding identified for the implementation of the improvements; and

WHEREAS, in the immediate term, MDCPS decided to move forward with the installation of a fence along the back of the north sidewalk in front of the school to deter students from jaywalking across Dade Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, given MDCPS' safety concerns and lack of funding, the City's proposed pick-up/drop-off lane concept was not supported and did not move forward at that time; and

WHEREAS, on October 26, 2021, the QEC passed a motion urging the Transportation and Mobility Department to develop a working plan prioritizing student safety during drop-off and pick-up at MBSH. The motion was transmitted to the Mayor and City Commission on October 28, 2021 via LTC # 463-2021; and

WHEREAS, at the December 8, 2021 City Commission meeting, Commissioner David Richardson sponsored the referral of this item to the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee (FERC) for discussion; and

WHEREAS, at the March 30, 2022 FERC meeting, the City presented the pick-up/drop-off lane concept; and

WHEREAS, at the meeting, FERC supported the City's proposed concept and recommended that City staff meet with DTPW and MDCPS to propose that each agency, including the City, fund one-third of the total cost of the pick-up/drop-off lane in order to fully fund the proposed improvement; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to FERC's recommendation, the City's Transportation and Mobility Department met with both DTPW and MDCPS, however, MDCPS continued to express safety concerns with the proposed pick-up/drop-off lane, and advocated for the installation of a fence as an immediate solution; and

WHEREAS, on November 15, 2022, QEC discussed this item and passed a motion supporting the City's recommended alternative; and

WHEREAS, given QEC's motion, in December 2022, the City's Transportation and Mobility Department met with DTPW and MDCPS to discuss potential modifications to the City's proposed pick-up/drop-off lane concept in an effort to address the MDCPS' safety concerns; and

WHEREAS, both DTPW and MDCPS have expressed a desire to collaborate with the City through the design development process; and

WHEREAS, to advance the pick-up and drop-off lane concept through the design development phase, the Transportation and Mobility Department has reached out to a traffic engineering consultant and received a draft scope of services and price proposal to develop engineering design drawings for the implementation of the proposed pick-up/drop-off lane; and

WHEREAS, the design will address the safety and traffic concerns raised by MDCPS and DTPW; and

WHEREAS, the consultant's design fee is approximately \$160,000 and funding for design has been identified at this time; and

WHEREAS, the scope is based on a seven (7) month duration for completion of final design plans, including DTPW review and permit approval; and

WHEREAS, ultimately, approval from both MDCPS and DTPW will be required to move forward with the implementation of the proposed pick-up and drop-off lane, if determined to be feasible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby accept the recommendation of the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee, at its February 17, 2023 meeting, and authorize the City Administration to proceed with design of the proposed pick-up and drop-off lane at Miami Beach Senior High School at an estimated cost of \$160,000.

PASSED and **ADOPTED** this _____ day of March 2023.

ATTEST:

Dan Gelber, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney
FA

3-22-23
Date