

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-28430

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE NEIGHBORHOODS/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO EXPLORE POTENTIAL LOCATIONS AND TIMES FOR WATER TAXI SERVICE WITHIN THE CITY AND TO MAINLAND MIAMI.

WHEREAS, a water taxi is a watercraft used to provide public transport, usually but not always, in an urban environment which can operate similar to a bus or taxi and can serve as a charter or commuter service; and

WHEREAS, the City is about to begin developing its Transportation Master Plan (TMP) which will study the City's transportation network, analyze existing conditions, and make recommendations for projected future conditions, including maximizing the use of its Blueways throughout the City; and

WHEREAS, the City's Marine Authority Board discussed this subject and passed a Resolution in January 2012 recommending that the City develop water transportation services within the City and to mainland Miami for commercial and private vessels; and

WHEREAS, the City's Marine Authority Board also recommended the development of a pier or dock at the Lincoln Road street-end with the potential for additional sites at 5th Street, 10th Street, 14th Street, and the Purdy Boat Ramp; and

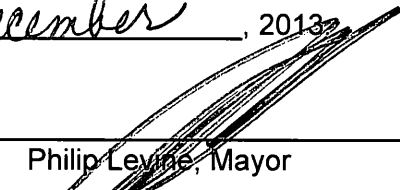
WHEREAS, the City Administration was recently approached by Island Queen Cruises with a proposal for the establishment of permanent locations in the City of Miami Beach in order to provide water taxi service between Bayfront Park and Miami Beach; and

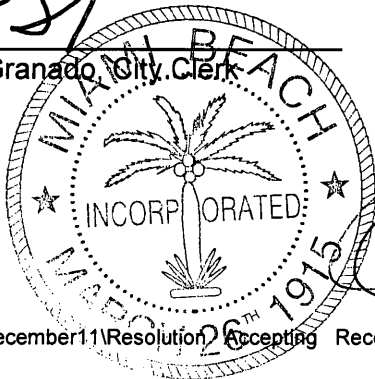
WHEREAS, at the October 28, 2013 Neighborhoods/Community Affairs Committee meeting, the Committee passed a motion requesting that the Administration explore water taxis as an alternative mode of transportation and to further research the issue, including possible pick-up and drop-off locations and times; and to bring the item back to the Committee for further discussion and refinement of the concept.

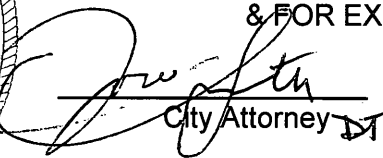
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby accept the recommendation of the Neighborhoods/Community Affairs Committee directing the City Administration to explore potential locations for water taxi service in the City and to further research possible pick-up and drop-off locations and times and to bring the item back to the Committee for further discussion and refinement of the concept.

PASSED and ADOPTED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2013

ATTEST:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Philip Levine, Mayor



APPROVED AS TO  
FORM AND LANGUAGE  
& FOR EXECUTION  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney 12/4/13  
Date

**Condensed Title:**

A Resolution Of The Mayor And City Commission Of The City Of Miami Beach, Florida, Accepting The Recommendation Of The Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee Directing The Administration To Explore Potential Locations For Water Taxi Service

**Key Intended Outcome Supported:**

Enhance Mobility throughout the City

**Supporting Data (Surveys, Environmental Scan, etc.):** In a recent survey, 31% of residents and 43% of businesses rate the traffic flow as excellent or good.

**Item Summary/Recommendation:**

A water taxi is a watercraft used to provide public transport, usually but not always in an urban environment. Service may be scheduled with multiple stops, operating in a similar manner to a bus, or on-demand to multiple locations, operating in a similar manner to a taxi. Water taxis can offer sightseeing, charter and commuter services in order to service both residents and visitors.

The City is about to begin developing its Transportation Master Plan (TMP) which will study the City's transportation network, analyze existing conditions and make recommendations for projected future conditions. Multi-modal alternatives will be a component of the TMP and the City is seeking ways to maximize use navigable waterways. Additionally, the City's 2025 Comprehensive Plan already includes a multi-modal transportation system as a stated goal.

The City's Marine Authority Board discussed this subject and passed a Resolution in January 2012 recommending the City develop water transportation services within the City and connecting to the City of Miami for commercial and private vessels. The recommendation included development of a pier or dock at the Lincoln Road street-end with potential for additional sites at 5th Street, 10th Street, 14th Street, and the Purdy Boat Ramp.

Aside from the attraction to tourists, water taxi service also has the ability to provide an alternative mode of transportation for residents who commute daily to and from Downtown Miami/Brickell area and to connect various destinations in the City of Miami Beach and on the Mainland.

The City Administration was recently approached by Island Queen Cruises with a proposal for the establishment of permanent locations in the City of Miami Beach in order to provide water taxi service between Bayfront Park in the City of Miami and Miami Beach.

This item is being presented to City Commission for acceptance of the recommendation of the NCAC directing the Administration to further explore water taxi service as an alternative form of transportation and gather more details regarding the service, such as possible pick-up and drop-off locations, times, etc., and to bring the item back to the NCAC for further discussion and refinement of the concept.

**Advisory Board Recommendation:**

At the October 28, 2013 meeting of the Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee (NCAC), City staff and industry representatives provided some background regarding the current and proposed service. The service is currently implemented in the City of Fort Lauderdale. The NCAC endorsed the concept as another alternative to reduce traffic congestion between the City of Miami Beach and the Mainland. The Committee passed a motion, which is why it is being presented to the City Commission for acceptance, to direct the Administration to further explore this concept and gather more details regarding the service, such as potential pick-up and drop-off locations, times, etc. and bring the item back to the NCAC for further discussion and refinement of the concept.

**Financial Information:**

Source of Funds	Amount	Account
1		
<b>Total</b>		

**Financial Impact Summary:**

**City Clerk's Office Legislative Tracking:**

**Sign-Offs:**

Department Director	Assistant City Manager	City Manager
ETC 	KGB 	JLM 

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# MIAMI BEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, [www.miamibeachfl.gov](http://www.miamibeachfl.gov)

## COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: December 11, 2013

SUBJECT: **A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO EXPLORE POTENTIAL LOCATIONS FOR WATER TAXI SERVICE**

### BACKGROUND

A water taxi is a watercraft used to provide public transport, usually but not always in an urban environment. Service may be scheduled with multiple stops, operating in a similar manner to a bus, or on-demand to multiple locations, operating in a similar manner to a taxi. Water taxis can offer sightseeing, charter and commuter services in order to service both residents and visitors.

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**CONCLUSION**

This item is being presented to City Commission for acceptance of the recommendation of the NCAC directing the Administration to further explore water taxi service as an alternative form of transportation and gather more details regarding the service, such as possible pick-up and drop-off locations, times, etc., and to bring the item back to the NCAC for further discussion and refinement of the concept.

  
KGB/EEC/JRG/JFD