

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO EVALUATE WHETHER THE CITY COULD PURCHASE THE 63RD STREET BRIDGE FROM THE STATE OF FLORIDA, OR EXPLORE ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE FOR THE CITY TO OPERATE THE BRIDGE ON BEHALF OF THE STATE AT THE CITY'S EXPENSE, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE THE CITY WITH THE ABILITY TO BETTER CONTROL THE BRIDGE SCHEDULE AND MITIGATE THE SEVERE VEHICULAR TRAFFIC CONGESTION CAUSED BY THE BRIDGE OPENING.

WHEREAS, the 63rd Street Bridge (the "Bridge") is a double-leaf bascule bridge with an 11 foot vertical clearance; and

WHEREAS, currently, the operating schedule that governs the Bridge provides that every day of the week, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., except Federal holidays, the draw should open only on the hour and half-hour, if necessary; and

WHEREAS, although located within the City's territorial jurisdiction, the Bridge is owned and maintained by the Florida Department of Transportation ("FDOT"), which manages a contract with a third-party provider for bridge tender services; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Coast Guard establishes and regulates the Bridge's operating schedule, along with any restrictions; and

WHEREAS, the Bridge opening causes severe traffic congestion in the area on a regular basis, with no relief for area residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission wish to direct the Administration and the City Attorney's Office to evaluate whether the City could purchase the Bridge from the State of Florida, or explore entering into an agreement with the State for the City to undertake the obligation to operate the Bridge on behalf of the State at the City's expense; and

WHEREAS, providing the City with the ability to control the Bridge schedule and to work directly with the U.S. Coast Guard to address issues with the schedule would help mitigate the severe vehicular traffic congestion caused by the Bridge opening, and dramatically improve our residents' quality of life.

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 Administration and the City Attorney's Office to evaluate whether the City could purchase the Bridge from the State of Florida, or explore entering into an agreement with the State for the City to operate the Bridge on behalf of the State at

the City's expense, which would provide the City with the ability to better control the Bridge schedule and mitigate the severe vehicular traffic congestion caused by the bridge opening.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2023.


ATTEST:

Dan Gelber, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(sponsored by Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney

6-20-23
Date