

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, RE-ESTABLISHING THE “AD HOC IGUANA REMEDIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE,” FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR (SUBJECT TO EARLIER OR LATER SUNSET BY THE CITY COMMISSION), TO CONTINUE TO STUDY WHAT ACTIONS OTHER JURISDICTIONS HAVE TAKEN TO ADDRESS IGUANA INVASIONS AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION REGARDING IGUANA MITIGATION AND REMOVAL OPTIONS.

WHEREAS, black spiny-tailed iguana, the Mexican spiny-tailed iguana, and green iguanas are not native to Florida and are considered an invasive species due to their impacts to native wildlife; and

WHEREAS, iguanas indiscriminately eat any plant material they can get their claws on, including landscaping, widespread and endangered plants in the state, and tropical fruit and vegetable crops; and

WHEREAS, iguanas also cause significant damage to buildings and other man-made and natural structures with their large, elaborate burrows, and disturb various native wildlife populations by hijacking other animals' burrows, such as the native burrowing owl and gopher tortoise; and

WHEREAS, like all nonnative reptile species, iguanas are not protected in Florida except by anti-cruelty laws and can be humanely removed as long as it is done under the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's guidelines; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the City launched a successful iguana removal pilot program where over 200 iguanas were removed from facilities such as Brittany Bay Park, Muss Park, Pinetree Park, and Flamingo Park by Redline Iguana Removal; and

WHEREAS, after the successful pilot program, the City contracted Redline Iguana Removal for a yearly service to the City, and established an iguana mitigation and removal program, with the strategy to remove large iguanas and control future breeding and nests; and

WHEREAS, the City's Property Management staff also negotiated a resident rate for removal of iguanas on private property at a rate of \$70.00 per service call (regularly \$100.00); and

WHEREAS, on November 3, 2021, the City awarded ITQ 2022-062-NA to Iguana Control for iguana remediation, with the service collecting and humanely euthanizing over 1,000 iguanas citywide since January 2022; and

WHEREAS, however, despite these efforts, the population continues to grow, and additional resources are being further researched and implemented to remove these prolific pests; and

WHEREAS, on September 14, 2022, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2022-32269, establishing an Ad Hoc Iguana Remediation Advisory Committee, for a term of six (6) months, to study actions other jurisdictions have taken to address similar iguana invasions, in addition to contracting with an iguana mitigation and removal program; and

WHEREAS, the Committee sunset in March, 2023 after its six-month period; and

WHEREAS, the City is currently in the process of awarding contracts for iguana remediation services, and much work remains to be done, as iguana remediation efforts of the City are not completed, and residents remain concerned; and

WHEREAS, there is a continued need for the Committee to meet and monitor the progress of the remediation planning, and it would be beneficial for the Committee to continue its work; and

WHEREAS, as such, the Mayor and City Commission wish to re-establish the Committee for an additional one (1) year, with the current members to serve their term in accordance with Resolution No. 2022-32269 through June 28, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby re-establish the "Ad Hoc Iguana Remediation Advisory Committee," for a period of one year (subject to earlier or later sunset by the City Commission), to study what actions other jurisdictions have taken to address iguana invasions and making recommendations to the Mayor and City Commission regarding iguana mitigation and removal options.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____ 2022.

ATTEST:

Dan Gelber, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

(Sponsored by Commissioner Steven Meiner)

[Signature] 6/21/2023

For City Attorney Date