

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, WAIVING THE REQUIREMENTS OF RESOLUTION NO. 2023-32701 TO ALLOW URGE MIAMI FESTIVAL TO CONTINUE ITS LONGSTANDING, DECADES-LONG TRADITION OF HOSTING ITS THANKSGIVING WEEKEND FESTIVAL ON 12TH STREET, A/K/A THE GAY BEACH.**

**WHEREAS**, “Urge Miami Festival” is one of the world’s biggest LGBTQ+ events and circuit parties that celebrates diversity and music in the LGBTQ community; and

**WHEREAS**, Urge Miami is scheduled to take from Friday, November 24, 2023, through Monday, November 27, 2023, and will feature three nighttime events, and three daytime events, including the Royal Palm Pool Party at the Host Hotel and the Legendary Beach Party; and

**WHEREAS**, the beach festival will include live performances, and is scheduled to take place at Lummus Park beachfront at 12<sup>th</sup> Street, affectionately known as “Gay Beach”; and

**WHEREAS**, circuit parties hosted by organizers such as Urge Miami are popular within the LGBTQ+ community – Michael Lozano, a spokesperson for Urge and one of the organizers, describes circuit parties as “themed dance events with curated music, state-of-the-art installations and performers, generally held in large venues”; and

**WHEREAS**, circuit parties emerged out of gay communities in New York around the late 1970, are largely owned and operated by members of the community, and have served as an important safe space for sexual and gender expression; and

**WHEREAS**, more than just a party, Urge Miami is all about shared experiences with other people and celebrating gay culture in a City that unabashedly supports, celebrates, and respects the LGBTQ community; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 25, 2023, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Resolution 2023-32701, approving revisions to the Special Event Requirements and Guidelines, including a prohibition on Special Event Permits to be issued for Lummus Park and Lummus Park Spoil areas north of 13<sup>th</sup> Street, or Beachfront between 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Street, unless approved by the City Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Commission wish to waive the requirements of Resolution No. 2023-32701 to allow Urge Miami to continue its longstanding, decades-long tradition of hosting its Thanksgiving Weekend festival on 12<sup>th</sup> Street; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission’s approval is grounded in the historic and profound association of 12th Street with the LGBTQ+ community, as well as the long-standing celebrations and traditions that have taken place over the years during Thanksgiving weekends, all of which have significantly benefitted the gay community and AIDS-related causes, including the White Party; and

**WHEREAS**, 12<sup>th</sup> Street has served as a gathering place where individuals from diverse backgrounds could come together, celebrate their identities, and create a sense of belonging; and

**WHEREAS**, the Urge Festival in particular, which is always held after the Thanksgiving Holiday, holds a special place in the hearts of the LGBTQ+ community where many gather to celebrate their found families and pride; and

**WHEREAS**, the cultural and historical ties between 12th Street and the LGBTQ+ community are deeply intertwined, and moving this festival to an alternative location would undermine the essence of the event and its historical context.

**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 waive the requirements of Resolution No. 2023-32701 to allow Urge Miami Festival to continue its longstanding, decades-long tradition of hosting its Thanksgiving Weekend Festival on 12th Street, a/k/a the Gay Beach.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Gelber, Mayor

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

(sponsored by Commissioner Alex J. Fernandez)

APPROVED AS TO  
FORM & LANGUAGE  
& FOR EXECUTION

*Nick Kellogg* 10/17/23  
for City Attorney *GP* Date