

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, REQUESTING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS, IN THE INTEREST OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE, TO PREVENT FUTURE MALFUNCTIONS OF THE EAST BASCULE BRIDGE ON THE VENETIAN CAUSEWAY OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, TO PERMANENTLY CLOSE THE BRIDGE.

WHEREAS, the Venetian Causeway was constructed in 1927 and consists of 12 bridges, 10 fixed and two bascule bridges, which span the 11 Venetian Islands connecting mainland Miami with the City of Miami Beach; and

WHEREAS, the East Bascule Bridge on the Venetian Causeway connects Belle Isle and Rivo Alto Island; and

WHEREAS, due to its history of malfunctions, the East Bascule Bridge (Bridge) was closed during 2016 in order for Miami-Dade County, which owns the Bridge, and the United States Coast Guard, which operates the Bridge, to repair and upgrade the Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the Venetian Causeway is the lifeline for the residents on the Venetian Islands who depend upon the proper functioning of the bridges for ingress and egress to and from the mainland and Miami Beach to work, to shop, and, in the event of emergencies, for first responders to provide urgently needed medical care and assistance; and

WHEREAS, the malfunctioning of the bridges on the Venetian Causeway negatively impacts the ability of first responders to timely access emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, the continued malfunctioning of the East Bascule Bridge, despite the 2016 repair work, creates serious safety issues for all who live on and traverse the Venetian Causeway, and it also negatively affects the welfare and quality-of-life of residents on the Venetian Islands; and

WHEREAS, even when the East Bascule Bridge is functioning properly, during periods when the Bridge is open, traffic is at a standstill for an inordinate amount of time, creating excessive congestion of vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic in a concentrated area; and

WHEREAS, safeguards and assurances should be immediately provided by Miami-Dade County and the United States Coast Guard to address the health, safety, and quality-of-life issues created by the continued malfunctioning of the East Bascule Bridge, and if such safeguards cannot be provided, the Bridge should be permanently

closed and only small boats, that do not require an open bridge for passage, should be permitted to pass under the Bridge.

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 request Miami-Dade County and the United States Coast Guard to take immediate steps, in the interest of the public health, safety, and welfare, to prevent future malfunctions of the East Bascule Bridge on the Venetian Causeway or, in the alternative, to permanently close the Bridge.

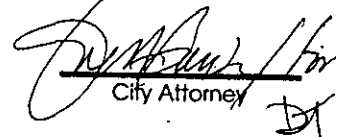
PASSED AND ADOPTED this 22nd day of March, 2017.

ATTEST:

Philip Levine, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney

3-16-12

Date