

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THAT THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (THE "COUNTY") PROVIDE MUTUAL AID ASSISTANCE TO THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH IN CONNECTION WITH THE CITY'S MARCH, 2024 SPRING BREAK CROWD CONTROL EFFORTS, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, DEPLOYMENT OF MIAMI-DADE POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL AND ANY OTHER AVAILABLE RESOURCES, SUCH AS GOODWILL AMBASSADORS AND VOLUNTEERS; AND FURTHER, REQUESTING THAT THE COUNTY RECONSIDER ITS DENIAL OF THE CITY'S REQUEST TO LIMIT TRAFFIC ON THE VENETIAN CAUSEWAY TO MIAMI BEACH RESIDENTS, IN ORDER TO AMELIORATE THE MASSIVE TRAFFIC BURDEN ON CITY RESIDENTS DURING THE MARCH, 2024 HIGH IMPACT EVENT PERIODS.

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach (the "City") is an internationally renowned tourist destination that is famous for its beautiful beaches, world-class shopping, entertainment, fine dining, and vast array of artistic and cultural events; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the City has seen an increasingly large number of visitors during the Spring Break period, which has posed significant challenges including, but not limited to, extreme traffic and congestion, and severe impacts to the City's Police, Fire, Sanitation, and Code Compliance services; and

WHEREAS, many of the visitors to the City during high impact periods, such as Spring Break, are under the influence of alcoholic beverages and have demonstrated a blatant disregard for the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, unruly crowd control issues during Spring Break resulted in the imposition of emergency measures, including an 8:00 pm. curfew in the area between 5th Street and 16th Street, from Pennsylvania Avenue to Ocean Drive; and

WHEREAS, in March 2022, the City also experienced massive crowds and several shootings in a concentrated tourist area over a period of a few days, resulting in the declaration of a state of emergency and imposition of a weekend midnight curfew for the last weekend of March, 2022, based upon the excessively large crowds and violence occurring on the second and third weekend of March, 2022; and

WHEREAS, such 2022 incidents included the shooting of 5 different innocent pedestrians and created stampedes and mayhem in the public streets and rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS, also in 2022, the Police Department and its law enforcement partners impounded one-hundred (100) firearms from February 18, 2022 – March 21, 2022, with approximately thirty-seven (37) of such firearms having been impounded during the third weekend in March spanning March 18 – 20; and

WHEREAS, in March 2023, the City experienced multiple fights, shootings, and various other incidents and police calls for service—for example, for the period between February 27, 2023 and March 18, 2023, there were four (4) aggravated assault arrests, three (3) aggravated battery arrests, seven (7) robbery arrests, twenty (20) arrests for carrying a concealed firearm, thirty-seven (37) felony drug arrests, twelve (12) arrests for battery on a law enforcement officer, and eighty-two (82) arrests for other felonies; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the Police Department and its law enforcement partners impounded over seventy (70) firearms from February 27, 2023 – March 19, 2023; and

WHEREAS, such March 2023 incidents included two (2) shootings that occurred the weekend of March 17th, which resulted in two (2) fatalities and injuries to others, and which also created stampedes that caused injuries to several people, including two (2) volunteer goodwill ambassadors, and all of which posed a danger to public safety and order in the public streets and rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS, in response to each of the two (2) deadly shootings, officers were able to arrive on the scene within a matter of seconds, but nevertheless were unable to prevent the shootings (and were, themselves, endangered by their close proximity to the shootings); and

WHEREAS, despite the vast and highly-visible police presence in the City, criminal activity continues; and

WHEREAS, there is a clear pattern of unreasonably large and uncontrollably unruly crowds, general mayhem, and violence (including deadly violence) that takes place in the City during every recent Spring Break season, concentrated in the same area over the course of two weekends each year; and

WHEREAS, the strain on City resources, particularly law enforcement and administrative resources, has reached unsustainable levels for the City of Miami Beach; and

WHEREAS, the safety and well-being of residents and visitors alike should be of paramount importance to the City and the County alike, and it is imperative that all necessary measures be taken to ensure public safety during this period; and

WHEREAS, the public safety and resident quality-of-life challenges presented during the month of March are a regional problem, not limited to the City of Miami Beach; therefore, a multi-jurisdictional response to these challenges is both necessary and appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach requests that the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners (the "County") provide mutual aid assistance to the City Of Miami Beach in connection with the City's March, 2024 Spring Break crowd control efforts, including, without limitation, deployment of Miami-Dade Police Department personnel and any other available resources, such as goodwill ambassadors and volunteers; and

WHEREAS, in addition to public safety issues requiring a regional response from Miami-Dade County, Miami-Beach residents' ability to traverse between the City and the mainland is significantly impacted by Spring Break traffic during the month of March, causing considerable disruptions for Miami Beach residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach has requested Miami-Dade County approval to limit traffic on the Venetian Causeway to Miami-Beach residents for the period of March 2024, in order to mitigate traffic impacts for City residents; however, to date, the County has declined to approve the City's request; and

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach implores Miami-Dade County to reconsider its denial of this common-sense request, and grant the City's request to limit traffic on the Venetian Causeway to Miami Beach residents during the month of March 2024.

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 that the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners (the "County") provide mutual aid assistance to the City Of Miami Beach in connection with the City's March, 2024 Spring Break crowd control efforts, including, without limitation, deployment of Miami-Dade Police Department personnel and any other available resources, such as goodwill ambassadors and volunteers; and further, requesting that the County reconsider its denial of the City's request to limit traffic on the Venetian Causeway to Miami Beach residents, in order to ameliorate the massive traffic burden on City residents during the March, 2024 high impact event periods.

PASSED and ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2024.

ATTEST:

Steven Meiner, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(sponsored by Mayor Steven Meiner)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

City Attorney

Date

2-19-24

RR