

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE, AT ITS MARCH 12, 2025 MEETING, URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT LEGISLATION AMENDING FLORIDA STATUTE 784.07 TO INCLUDE PARK RANGERS IN THE LIST OF SPECIFIED PERSONNEL FOR WHOM ASSAULT AND BATTERY OFFENSES ARE SUBJECT TO ENHANCED PENALTIES; AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA, THE PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE CITY'S LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION.

WHEREAS, at the February 3, 2025 City Commission meeting, at the request of Mayor Steven Meiner, the City Commission referred a discussion item to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee ("PSNQLC") to discuss the reclassification of assault and battery offenses against Park Rangers to increase the potential penalty for defendants committing such offenses; and

WHEREAS, at its March 12, 2025 meeting, the PSNQLC unanimously recommended the preparation and adoption of this Resolution at the next City Commission meeting; and

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach presently has 51 funded Park Ranger positions, and these dedicated professionals play a critical role in ensuring the safety and security of the City's parks, beaches, and recreational spaces; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the City of Miami Beach, many other municipalities and counties in Florida employ Park Rangers and rely on these professionals for enhanced public safety, including Miami-Dade County, Broward County, Brevard County, Collier County, Hillsborough County, Indian River County, Lee County, Manatee County, Okaloosa County, Palm Beach County, Pasco County, the City of Orlando, the City of Miami, the City of Ocala, the City of Fort Lauderdale, and the City of Gainesville; and

WHEREAS, Florida Statute 784.07 currently enhances the penalties for defendants who commit assault or battery against specified personnel, including law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical care providers, law enforcement explorers, hospital personnel, parking enforcement specialists, public transit employees, and security officers; and

WHEREAS, Florida Statute 784.083 similarly provides enhanced penalties for defendants committing assault or battery against code inspectors due to the risks associated with their enforcement duties; and

WHEREAS, Park Rangers serve on the frontlines in maintaining public safety, ensuring compliance with park rules and regulations, providing emergency assistance, and de-escalating conflicts in public spaces, often facing the same risks as other personnel covered under Florida Statute 784.07; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate and necessary that Park Rangers receive the same statutory protections afforded to other frontline professionals given the critical responsibilities and inherent risks associated with their work; and

WHEREAS, enhancing penalties for those who assault or batter Park Rangers will serve as a

deterrent to violence against these public servants and reinforce the City's commitment to their safety and well-being.

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 accept the recommendation of the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee, at its March 12, 2025 meeting, urging the Florida Legislature to adopt legislation amending Florida Statute 784.07 to include Park Rangers in the list of specified personnel for whom assault and battery offenses are subject to enhanced penalties; and directing the City Clerk to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Governor of Florida, the President of the Florida Senate, the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, and the City's legislative delegation.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____ 2025.

Steven Meiner, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Mayor Steven Meiner)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

City Attorney

4/16/2025
Date