

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING, BY 5/7TH VOTE, THE PLACEMENT OF A COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE IN THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF PRIDE PARK NEAR A TREE IN HONOR OF CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST AND PRESERVATIONIST JOE TOM EASLEY, PURSUANT TO SECTION 82-504 OF THE CITY CODE.

WHEREAS, at the May 15, 2024 City Commission meeting, at the request of Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt, the Mayor and City Commission referred an item (C4 M) to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee ("PSNQLC"), to discuss the placement of a plaque in honor of civil rights activist and preservationist Joe Tom Easley at Pride Park; and

WHEREAS, at the June 5, 2024 Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee ("PSNQLC") meeting, the item was moved to the full Commission with a favorable recommendation; and

WHEREAS, during the July 24, 2024 City Commission meeting, the Mayor and City Commission passed Resolution No. 2024-33191 accepting the recommendation of the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee, at its June 5, 2024 meeting, to approve the placement of a commemorative plaque in the northwest corner of Pride Park near a tree in honor of civil rights activist and preservationist Joe Tom Easley; setting a public hearing on September 11, 2024, pursuant to Section 82-504 of the City Code, to consider the installation of the commemorative plaque; and directing the City Clerk to publish the appropriate public notice; and

WHEREAS, Joe Tom Easley, who passed away in February of 2022, was a leading national civil and gay rights activist, a noted attorney instrumental in getting "don't ask/don't tell" repealed, and a fierce advocate for historic preservation, serving on the board of the Miami Design Preservation League for many years; and

WHEREAS, his marriage to husband Peter Freiberg was among the first same-sex unions announced in the New York Times; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Easley served in the Navy during the Vietnam War, spent years fighting for the repeal of "don't ask/don't tell," and used his skills as a speaker, teacher and leader to serve the gay community; and

WHEREAS, he was a chairman of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a group that sought to end discrimination against gay military personnel, served as chairman of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, an LGBT group, and as president of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation; and

WHEREAS, his husband, Peter Freiberg, and the Palm View Neighborhood Association have requested that the City of Miami Beach honor Joe Tom Easley; and

WHEREAS, the Palm View Neighborhood Association request doing so within the Palm View neighborhood, and are suggesting to place the plaque near a tree in the northwest corner of Pride Park. Mr. Easley fought hard to make Pride Park happen and therefore, they believe it would be a suitable place to honor his memory and legacy; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department and the Economic Development Department support placing a memorial plaque in the northwest corner of Pride Park near a tree; and

WHEREAS, the cost to produce and install a 12" x 12" plaque and a supporting pedestal, is approximately \$3,000 - \$5,000.

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 approve, by 5/7th vote, the placement of a commemorative plaque in the northwest corner of Pride Park near a tree in honor of civil rights activist and preservationist Joe Tom Easley, pursuant to section 82-504 of the City Code.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 11th day of September 2024.

Steven Meiner, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney *SH* Date 9/31/2024