

C7 BE A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO PREPARE A LETTER TO COMMISSION ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 2024, DESCRIBING THE NECESSARY REGULATORY APPROVALS AND FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A MIAMI BEACH MARINE PARK OR MARINE CONSERVATION AREA FROM SOUTH POINTE PIER TO SIXTEENTH STREET.

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO:	Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
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FROM: City Attorney Ricardo J. Dopico

DATE: June 26, 2024

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO PREPARE A LETTER TO COMMISSION ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 2024, DESCRIBING THE NECESSARY REGULATORY APPROVALS AND FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A MIAMI BEACH MARINE PARK OR MARINE CONSERVATION AREA FROM SOUTH POINTE PIER TO SIXTEENTH STREET.

ANALYSIS

This Resolution is presented for consideration by the Mayor and City Commission by the sponsor, Commissioner Laura Dominguez. It is cosponsored by Commissioner David Suarez.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

Applicable Area

Citywide

Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?

No

Is this item related to a G.O. Bond Project?

No

Was this Agenda Item initially requested by a lobbyist which, as defined in Code Sec. 2-481, includes a principal engaged in lobbying? No

If so, specify the name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s):

Department

City Attorney

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Laura Dominguez

Co-sponsor(s)

Commissioner David Suarez

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO PREPARE A LETTER TO COMMISSION ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 2024, DESCRIBING THE NECESSARY REGULATORY APPROVALS AND FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A MIAMI BEACH MARINE PARK OR MARINE CONSERVATION AREA FROM SOUTH POINTE PIER TO SIXTEENTH STREET.

WHEREAS, the Miami Beach shoreline just beyond the swimming buoys from South Pointe Pier to Sixteenth Street and extending for up to 1600 feet from the shore is home to nurse sharks, endangered green sea turtles, endangered queen conch, seahorses, endless schools of tropical fish, and an impressive mix of hard coral, some of which is endangered; and

WHEREAS, the Miami Herald recently featured a front-page story dedicated to this little-known ecosystem just off the City's shores. The article can be accessed at <https://ca.news.yahoo.com/underwater-jewel-lies-just-off-093000365.html>; and

WHEREAS, this rare and fragile component of the City's natural resources could become a valuable asset if protected with adequate safeguards and could attract residents and desirable ecotourists who could provide an economic boost as they stay in our hotels, eat in our restaurants, and charter dive shops in the area; and

WHEREAS, advertising billboard vessels as well as recreational boaters often traverse the area where this nascent reef and ecosystem exist, sometimes dragging anchors and sometimes endangering snorkelers and divers that the City wishes to encourage to visit and enjoy the reef; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission desire for the City Administration to explore the regulatory approvals necessary, and the feasibility of, creating a Miami Beach Marine Park or Marine Conservation Area from South Pointe Pier to Sixteenth Street, with the understanding that the role of the City may be to advocate for such a park or conservation area with Miami-Dade County and State of Florida agencies.

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 direct the City Administration to prepare a Letter to Commission on or before September 30, 2024, describing the necessary regulatory approvals and feasibility of creating a Miami Beach Marine Park or Marine Conservation Area from South Pointe Pier to Sixteenth Street.

PASSED and ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

ATTEST:

Steven Meiner, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(sponsored by Commissioner Laura Dominguez,
co-sponsored by Commissioner David Suarez)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

City Attorney

6/10/2024

Date