

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATION," BY AMENDING ARTICLE II, ENTITLED "CITY COMMISSION," AND CREATING SECTION 2-18 ENTITLED "STOP THE PAUSE POLICY" TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM VOTING THRESHOLDS RELATING TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS HAVING AN ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST ABOVE A STATED THRESHOLD; AND PROVIDING FOR REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**WHEREAS**, the City of Miami Beach recognizes the importance of critical infrastructure projects that are essential to the health, safety, and well-being of its residents, commuters, and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, such critical infrastructure projects, which for purposes of this Section, shall be defined to include:

- Projects relating to fire flow, stormwater systems, potable water, and sanitary sewer projects deemed critical due to risk of failure.
- Utility projects to replace and/or upgrade systems that are at or near capacity.
- Neighborhood Improvement Projects (NIPs) that have been approved by the city commission, that may include resiliency-related improvements such as road raising and harmonization; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of the City to ensure that such critical infrastructure projects proceed without unnecessary interruptions or modifications once they have reached advanced stages of design or are shovel-ready; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission believes it is prudent to establish a higher threshold of approval to pause, delay, stop, or materially modify critical infrastructure projects at advanced stages to ensure continuity and completion, while allowing for exceptions in the case of unforeseen site conditions that materially impact the cost of the project, funding limitations, and/or funding emergencies, and provided, this policy shall not in any way limit the Commission's ability to accept the recommendation of the City Manager to reject all bids or to take any action the Commission deems necessary to protect the City's rights under a contract with a design consultant or contractor; and

**WHEREAS**, establishing such higher thresholds of approval to pause, delay, stop or materially modify projects will also result in substantial cost savings to taxpayers.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** Article II of Chapter 2 of the Code of the City Miami Beach is hereby amended to create Section 2-18 as follows:

**CHAPTER 2  
ADMINISTRATION**

\* \* \*

**ARTICLE II. CITY COMMISSION**

\* \* \*

**Sec. 2-18. Stop the Pause Policy.**

**(1) Definitions.**

For purposes of this section only:

(a) critical infrastructure projects shall be defined to include:

(i) Projects relating to fire flow, stormwater systems, potable water, and sanitary sewer projects deemed by the city manager to be critical due to risk of failure;

(ii) Utility projects to replace and/or upgrade systems that are at or near capacity; and

(iii) Neighborhood Improvement Projects ("NIPs") that have been approved by the city commission, that may include resiliency-related improvements such as road raising and harmonization.

**(2) Voting Requirements to Pause, Delay, Stop or Materially Modify Critical Infrastructure Projects.**

(a) A 5/7th vote of the City Commission shall be required before the City Commission may take any action that has the effect of pausing, delaying, stopping or materially modifying a critical infrastructure project (as defined herein) having an estimated construction cost of \$1,000,000 or more that is at least at 60% design.

(b) A 6/7th vote of the City Commission shall be required before the City Commission may take any action that has the effect of pausing, delaying, stopping or materially modifying a critical infrastructure project having an estimated construction cost of \$1,000,000 or more that has obtained all permits and is shovel-ready.

(c) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsections (a) and (b), only a 4/7<sup>th</sup> vote shall be required for the Commission to take any action that has the effect of pausing, delaying, stopping or materially modifying a critical infrastructure project having an estimated construction cost of \$1,000,000 or more in the event of (i) unforeseen site conditions that materially impact the cost of construction, (ii) funding limitations, and/or (iii) funding emergencies, and provided, the provisions of this section shall not in any way limit the Commission's ability, on a 4/7<sup>th</sup> vote, to accept the recommendation of the City Manager to reject all bids or to take any action the Commission deems necessary to protect the City's rights under a contract with a design consultant or contractor.



(d) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section, with regard to critical infrastructure projects having an estimated construction cost of \$1,000,000 or more, the approval of (i) material changes to increase the scope of any such critical infrastructure project or (ii) an increase to the contract price for any such project shall continue to require a simple majority (i.e. 4/7th) vote of the commission.

**SECTION 2. REPEALER.**

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith be and the same are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.**

If any section, subsection, clause or provision of this Ordinance is held invalid, the remainder shall not be affected by such invalidity.

**SECTION 4. CODIFICATION.**

It is the intention of the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Miami Beach, and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made part of the Code of the City of Miami Beach, Florida. The sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such intention, and the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section," "article," or other appropriate word.

**SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Ordinance shall take effect on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven Meiner, Mayor

(Sponsored by Commissioner Alex J. Fernandez)

Underline denotes additions  
~~Strike through~~ denotes deletions

APPROVED AS TO  
FORM & LANGUAGE  
& FOR EXECUTION

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

7/16/2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date