

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION ("CITY COMMISSION") OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCY COMMITTEE, AT ITS MARCH 26, 2025 MEETING, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO NEGOTIATE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH AND NORTH BAY VILLAGE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A JOINT TROLLEY OPERATION, AND RETURN TO THE CITY COMMISSION WITH THE FINAL NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT FOR APPROVAL; FURTHERMORE, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO PROCEED WITH OPTION 2 FOR A SHUTTLE PILOT SERVICE DURING CULTURE CRAWL EVENTS ("PILOT PROGRAM") OCCURRING DURING THE THIRD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, BEGINNING IN MAY 2025 UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE CITY, AT A MINIMUM, HAS SECURED A LETTER OF COMMITMENT FROM NORTH BAY VILLAGE TO FUND THE PILOT PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach ("City") is currently in negotiations with three (3) selected vendors to secure a contract for a new citywide municipal transit circulator service. The goal of this procurement process is to enhance transit connectivity and mobility for residents and visitors while ensuring cost-effectiveness and operational efficiency; and

WHEREAS, the City Administration ("Administration") is aiming to finalize negotiations, select a vendor, and present a negotiated draft agreement to the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee ("FERC" or "Committee") for review and approval within the next 60 days. Following a favorable recommendation by FERC, the agreement will be presented to the City Commission for consideration and approval; and

WHEREAS, on February 19, 2025, the Administration met with the North Bay Village Mayor and City Manager to discuss the potential extension of the Miami Beach Trolley into North Bay Village. The discussion focused on the feasibility of extending the North Beach Trolley Loop for approximately two (2) miles to serve three (3) stops along the 79 Street Causeway in North Bay Village. During the discussion, there was consensus that a pilot program should be explored to assess demand and feasibility before considering implementing a permanent extension; and

WHEREAS, a potential pilot extension of the existing Miami Beach Culture Crawl service was proffered. The Culture Crawl is a monthly event occurring on the third Thursday of each month from October through July. This free event allows locals and visitors to explore Miami Beach's cultural institutions, including museums, music performances, and art exhibits, while utilizing public transit to navigate the area; and

WHEREAS, at the March 26, 2025, FERC meeting, the Committee discussed this item and recommended to proceed to negotiate an intergovernmental agreement with North Bay Village for the implementation of a joint trolley operation and return to the City Commission with the final negotiated agreement for approval; and

WHEREAS, the Committee expressed support for Option 2 consisting of a shuttle pilot service during Culture Crawl events to obtain ridership data, determine operational efficiency, and receive community feedback; and

WHEREAS, based on City staff's preliminary assessment, it is anticipated that two (2) to three (3) additional vehicles will be required to connect North Bay Village to North Beach while providing the desired frequency of service during Culture Crawl events; and

WHEREAS, additional coordination with North Bay Village will be necessary to refine the pilot parameters, determine stop locations, and establish an implementation and funding plan as part of an Intergovernmental Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the success of the pilot program would be assessed based on ridership, operational efficiency, and user feedback; and

WHEREAS, based on the current Culture Crawl model, the estimated cost to operate three (3) buses for four (4) hours each, at \$80/service hour, is approximately \$960 per Culture Crawl event. The final negotiated cost would depend on the number of vehicles in service, frequency of service, and hours of service. It is anticipated that North Bay Village would provide the necessary funding to implement this option as a pilot program; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that North Bay Village would provide the necessary funding to implement this option as a pilot program; and

WHEREAS, the Administration recommends Option 2 as a pilot program to connect to and serve the North Bay Village community and enhance transit connectivity between the two cities; and

WHEREAS, the Administration will continue working with North Bay Village to refine the pilot program scope, identify funding sources, and craft an Intergovernmental Agreement for City Commission approval. Given execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement is anticipated to take several months, in the interim, the Administration will work to secure a letter of funding commitment from North Bay Village in order to commence a pilot program during the current Culture Crawl season; and

WHEREAS, any potential long-term service expansion into North Bay Village will be contingent upon the completion of the ongoing municipal transit circulator procurement process, execution of a contract with the selected vendor, securing adequate resources to launch the new service, and approval from the FERC and City Commission as necessary.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission accept the recommendation of Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee, at its March 26, 2025 meeting, directing the City Administration to negotiate an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Miami Beach ("City") and North Bay Village for the implementation of a joint trolley operation, and return to the City Commission with the final negotiated Agreement for approval; furthermore, directing the City Administration to proceed with Option 2 for a shuttle pilot service during Culture Crawl events ("Pilot Program") occurring during the third Thursday of each month, beginning in May 2025 until such time as the Intergovernmental Agreement has been approved by the City Commission; provided, however, that the City, at a minimum, has secured a letter of commitment from North Bay Village to fund the Pilot Program.

PASSED and **ADOPTED** this 23rd day April, 2025.

ATTEST:

Steven Meiner, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(sponsored by Commissioner David Suarez and co-sponsored Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

City Attorney

4/15/2025

Date