

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 (PSNQLC) AT ITS JUNE 5, 2024, MEETING AND DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO DEVELOP A DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT THE INSTALLATION OF SIGNS OF POSITIVE AFFIRMATIONS AT BAYSHORE PARK, CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH YOUTH COMMISSION.

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2024, the City of Miami Beach Youth Commission (the "Youth Commission") unanimously passed a motion recommending the Mayor and City Commission create signage with positive mental health affirmations along the jogging trail/butterfly garden in Bayshore Park to coincide with the park opening in fall 2025; and

WHEREAS, on May 15, 2024, the Mayor and City Commission referred item C4 D, sponsored by Vice-Mayor Laura Dominguez, to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee (PSNQLC), to discuss the installation of positive mental health affirmation signage at Bayshore Park as recommended by the Youth Commission; and

WHEREAS, Bayshore Park is approximately 19.4 acres, located at 2300 Pine Tree Drive between Miami Beach Senior High School and the Scott Rakow Youth Center, and is enjoyed by residents, including the City's youth; and

WHEREAS, the new park will include a children's playground for different ages, exercise station, sports tennis courts, pathways, jogging trails, and a dog park and will also include a bathroom/office building, site furnishings, lake with infrastructure for future connection to the neighborhood drainage system, lake circulation and ozone water treatment system, and lake littoral zone; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the park will feature entrance and park identification signs, a parking lot, lighting system, landscaping including the butterfly garden, an irrigation system, and connection to the utilities and FPL system; and

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2016, the City executed an agreement with Savino Miller Design Studio (SMDS) for the Landscaping, Architectural, and Engineering Design Services for the Bayshore Park Project; and

WHEREAS, the park's design was presented at many public meetings including the Design Review Board, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Sustainability Committee, and the Bayshore Homeowner's Association; and

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2022, the Mayor and City Commission approved the award of a contract to Buslam Company Partners Inc., for the construction of the

Bayshore Park and the City hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the project on September 19, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Bayshore Park is currently under construction, and is approximately thirty (30%) complete, with an anticipated completion of Fall of 2025; and

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach Youth Commission has expressed that one of the biggest problems faced by teens in our City is mental health; and

WHEREAS, the Youth Commission's initiative of creating positive affirmation and mental health signage in Bayshore Park aims to help tackle this prevalent issue in our community; and

WHEREAS, Bayshore Park will have an expansive jogging trail circling and bordering different parts of the park, including the butterfly garden; and

WHEREAS, the Youth Commission believes that the butterfly garden can provide calming places for people to relax, meditate, and enjoy nature, and their proposal is to install positive affirmation and mental health signage along the jogging trail in the portion of the park bordering the butterfly garden; and

WHEREAS, the signage could serve as a validating and educational tool, raising awareness about the importance of mental health and destigmatizing conversations surrounding mental health struggles and burnout; and

WHEREAS, and through carefully crafted messages, visitors may gain insights into coping strategies, mindfulness practices, and resources available for mental health support within the community; and

WHEREAS, examples of positive affirmation and mental health signage artwork can be seen in Exhibit B, which, If implemented, would be the first signage of its kind in City parks; and

WHEREAS, under this plan, the artwork for the positive affirmation and mental health signage would be created by local Miami Beach artists and art students at Miami Beach Senior High, thereby highlighting Miami Beach artists and youth while achieving the goal of improving mental health throughout the City; and

WHEREAS, messaging for the signs could be implemented from the Poetry Project, a social experiment originating to promote mental health awareness and well-being within the London Underground; and

WHEREAS, the Poetry Project has experienced considerable growth over time and there would be no cost for using quotes from this project; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of signage featuring positive mental health affirmations in Bayshore Park aligns with the City's commitment to promote the well-being of the community members, especially the City's youth; and

WHEREAS, creating a supportive and uplifting environment within the park can empower individuals to prioritize their mental health and foster a sense of belonging; and

WHEREAS, the Youth Commission's vision for this initiative would include 12 to 16 different, double-sided signs, using a typical size for traffic signs of approximately 12" X 18", with an introduction sign stating information about the initiative, how it was created by the Youth Commission and listing accessible mental health resources; and

WHEREAS, the colorful signs would be installed on poles that would border the jogging trail in the area where it borders the butterfly garden; and

WHEREAS, City staff has shared the Youth Commission's proposal with SMDS who expressed a preference "to keep the park virtually sign free, allowing the user to curate his/her own feelings for the park experience"; and

WHEREAS, concerned that the signs could be distracting to park views, and subjected to vandalism, the consultant suggested that similar results could be achieved through the use of fewer and smaller signs with QR codes, allowing for varying messages and greater flexibility; and

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2024, the PSNQLC discussed this item, and asked that staff provide a rough estimate of the cost required to implement this plan; and

WHEREAS, following PSNQLC direction, staff has discussed this project with SMDS, the design consultant for Bayshore Park, who again expressed concern with potential sign pollution concerns, and interference with the park experience; and

WHEREAS, the consultant has provided a proposal to design up to three alternate sign/message types for review and approval, more closely integrating park design materials and concepts, while allowing for the incorporation of sign graphics as described by the Youth Commission.

WHEREAS, design concepts would ensure that the following concerns are addressed:

- Sign messages are incorporated into park design in various individual locations, not grouped together.
- Sign "base structure" limited to 2'-6" in height and width and 2-0" depth, using durable, non-frangible material, such as stone or metal.
- Sign message "panel" should be replaceable material, such as stone, metal, or clear polycarbonate (no poles).
- Possible inclusion of QR Codes; and

WHEREAS, final Permit drawings and sign material would also need to be developed once sign design and materials are selected; and

WHEREAS, should the Mayor and City Commission elect to implement this initiative, City staff will need to engage the design consultant, coordinate permitting, including the preparation and approval by the Building Department of a sign permit, and explore potential zoning restrictions and the design of the signs; and

WHEREAS, the cost to implement this initiative is approximately \$70,000; and

WHEREAS, Funding will have to be identified and appropriated for this project; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the recommendations by PSNQLC, at its June 5, 2024, meeting, the Administration recommends that the Mayor and City Commission adopt the resolution.

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 accept the recommendation of the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee (PSNQLC) at its June 5, 2024, meeting and direct the Administration to develop a design and implement the installation of signs of positive affirmations at Bayshore Park, currently under construction, as recommended by the City of Miami Beach Youth Commission.

PASSED and ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2024.

Steven Meiner, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

City Attorney *SH* Date 6/17/2024