

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, AT ITS JULY 10, 2024 MEETING, AND DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO INCREASE THE VISIBILITY OF CROSSWALKS IN SCHOOL ZONES IN ORDER TO ENHANCE STUDENT SAFETY, SUBJECT TO FUNDING AVAILABILITY.

WHEREAS, at the June 26, 2024 City Commission meeting, Commissioner Joseph Magazine sponsored a referral item (C4 AI) to the July 10, 2024 Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee (“PSNQLC”) meeting to discuss and act on increasing visibility for crosswalks in school zones to enhance student safety; and

WHEREAS, in late 2023, the Transportation and Mobility Department (“Transportation Department”) completed a City of Miami Beach School Zone Speed Study (“Traffic Study”) to evaluate the current vehicular speeds within seventeen (17) school zones associated with eight (8) schools in the City; and

WHEREAS, as part of the Traffic Study, the study team assessed the existing conditions and physical characteristics of the striping and pavement markings within the seventeen (17) school zones evaluated, including all of the pedestrian crosswalks; and

WHEREAS, based upon observations made during their multiple field visits, the study team determined that several crosswalk pavement markings were in poor condition and require restriping to enhance the safety of students (and others) crossing; and

WHEREAS, in January 2024, to improve pedestrian safety in the vicinity of Biscayne Beach Elementary School, the Transportation Department completed the striping of a high emphasis crosswalk, replaced faded school zone signage, and replaced damaged delineators within the school zone; and

WHEREAS, raised crosswalks are primarily intended to elevate pedestrians in order to create greater visibility and driver awareness of their presence and, as a result, increase pedestrian safety; and

WHEREAS, raised crosswalks also provide the collateral benefit of reducing vehicular speeds in a manner similar to traffic calming devices; and

WHEREAS, approval from the Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works (“DTPW”) is required to install a raised pedestrian crosswalk; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the “Miami-Dade County Traffic Flow Modification(s)/Street Closure(s) Procedure Manual”, raised crosswalks are evaluated by DTPW on a case-by-case basis, and to be eligible to implement a raised crosswalk, the street must not be located along an emergency response route, regional transit route, or school bus route; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Department is currently managing several projects intended to improve the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists within school zones in the City; and

WHEREAS, Transportation Department staff will continue to explore opportunities to enhance school zone safety in the City through the installation of appropriate signage and enhanced crosswalks, as well as working with DTPW to upgrade school zone flashing beacons, as necessary; and

WHEREAS, Transportation Department staff conducted multiple on-site assessments of the current conditions at all existing pedestrian crosswalks in City school zones; and

WHEREAS, the assessment of the Transportation Department staff included performing site visits, documenting observations, and taking photographs of all school zone crosswalks; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Department is in the process of preparing a report with its findings and recommendations based upon the staff assessments; and

WHEREAS, at the July 10, 2024 PSNQLC meeting, the Committee discussed this item and passed a motion recommending that the City Administration move forward with increasing visibility for crosswalks in school zones to enhance student safety and return to the September 11, 2024 City Commission meeting with a Resolution accepting the Committee's recommendation.

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, at its July 10, 2024 meeting, and direct the City Administration to increase the visibility of crosswalks in school zones in order to enhance student safety, subject to funding availability.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____ 2024.

Steven Meiner, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner Joseph Magazine)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

City Attorney

Date

9/15/2024
MAF