

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF MIAMI BEACH FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE, AT ITS JANUARY 29, 2025 MEETING, APPROVING THE ENHANCEMENT OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ACCESSIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY AT SENIOR CENTERS THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A DEDICATED MID-SIZE BUS SERVICE; AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE SERVICE, SUBJECT TO FUNDING APPROPRIATION IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET PROCESS.

WHEREAS, on November 16, 2020, the City of Miami Beach ("City") launched the Freebee On-Demand Transit Service for Seniors ("Freebee Senior Service"); and

WHEREAS, the Freebee Senior Service provides a free shuttle service for senior residents (65 and older) living in affordable housing facilities throughout the City and/or participating in any of the senior programs provided by UNIDAD, Jewish Community Services or Little Havana Activities and Nutrition Center; and

WHEREAS, the Freebee Senior Service is currently provided to/from approximately 40 senior facilities located in South Beach, Mid-Beach, and North Beach and the closest Publix supermarket or pharmacy; and

WHEREAS, the Freebee Senior Service operates seven (7) days a week, from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., with two (2) Gem e6 golf-type electric vehicles; and

WHEREAS, at the June 26, 2024 City Commission meeting, at the request of Mayor Steven Meiner ("Mayor Meiner"), the Mayor and City Commission ("City Commission") referred an item (C4 AR) to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee ("PSNQLC" or "Committee") to discuss enhancing public transportation accessibility and efficiency at senior centers with a dedicated mid-size bus service; and

WHEREAS, at the November 13, 2024 PSNQLC meeting, the Committee discussed this item and recommended that the Administration continue working with the Mayor's Office to provide further input and refine a plan to enhance public transportation accessibility for senior residents through a dedicated mid-size bus service; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation and Mobility Department staff met with the Mayor's Office staff to identify the key parameters for the development of such transportation service for seniors and potential next steps; and

WHEREAS, at the January 29, 2025 PSNQLC meeting, the Committee discussed this item and endorsed a dedicated mid-size bus service to enhance public transportation accessibility and efficiency at senior centers. The Committee moved the item to the City Commission with a favorable recommendation; and

WHEREAS, a senior bus transportation service could potentially be provided on a once-a-month basis, from/to senior housing facilities in the City, including Rebecca Towers, Stella Maris, Four Freedoms, Council Towers, and Federation Towers, and the Walmart Supercenter located at 1425 NE 163 Street in North Miami Beach; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation and Mobility Department could utilize the existing agreement with Limousines of South Florida, Inc. ("LSF") for citywide trolley service; and

WHEREAS, under the terms of the current agreement, LSF would provide dedicated, ADA-compliant/low-floor buses, each with a seating capacity of 25 passengers, for monthly recurring round-trips from each participating senior housing facility to the Walmart Supercenter in North Miami Beach. The trips would be coordinated and pre-scheduled with each participating senior housing facility; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that each round-trip from/to each senior housing facility and Walmart is anticipated to operate for four (4) to eight (8) hours per facility, per month, billed at LSF's current contract rate of \$80 per hour, per bus, for special event transportation service; and

WHEREAS, based on these parameters, the estimated monthly cost to serve the five (5) senior housing facilities - Rebecca Towers, Stella Maris, Four Freedoms, Council Towers, and Federation Towers - would range from \$1,600/month to \$3,200/month. This would result in an annual cost ranging from \$19,200 to \$38,400; and

WHEREAS, each participating senior housing facility would be responsible for assigning dedicated personnel to coordinate directly with the City and LSF for trip-scheduling purposes and to serve as an on-site representative to assist and accompany senior residents on each bus trip; and

WHEREAS, this new senior transportation service could help address a clearly identified need among senior residents and offer a practical, fiscally responsible solution using existing contractual resources; and

WHEREAS, should the City Commission adopt this Resolution, the Transportation and Mobility Department staff would work with senior housing facilities and LSF to develop a schedule that meets the needs of senior residents; and

WHEREAS, City staff would assess opportunities for service adjustments and potential expansion of the new senior transportation service based on community response and program performance.

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 the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee, at its January 29, 2025 meeting, approving the enhancement of public transportation accessibility and efficiency at senior centers through the implementation of a dedicated mid-size bus service; and further authorizing the City Manager to take all necessary steps to implement the service, subject to funding appropriation in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget process.

PASSED and **ADOPTED** this _____ day of _____, 2025.

ATTEST:

Steven Meiner, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(sponsored by Mayor Steven Meiner and
co-sponsored by Commissioner Laura Dominguez
and Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney *RR*

6/16/2025

Date