

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN FUNDING TO UNIDAD OF MIAMI BEACH, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$70,000 FOR SENIOR MEAL SERVICES IN FISCAL YEAR 2025, BRINGING THE TOTAL CITY FUNDING SUPPORT FOR UNIDAD TO \$350,000 FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR, IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN SERVICE LEVELS OF 140 MEALS PER DAY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.

WHEREAS, UNIDAD of Miami Beach, Inc. has long served as a vital community partner in providing essential nutrition services and programs to Miami Beach seniors, many of whom are low-income, isolated, or at-risk; and

WHEREAS, since 2018, the City of Miami Beach has awarded an annual grant of \$230,000 to UNIDAD, without any cost-of-living or inflationary adjustments over a six-year period; and

WHEREAS, in addition, UNIDAD successfully leveraged matching federal support through the Older Americans Act to supplement its services and initially provide 120 meals per day to eligible seniors; and

WHEREAS, in October 2024, the Mayor and City Commission approved an increase in City funding to \$280,000, enabling UNIDAD to serve 140 meals per day on a first-come, first-served basis; and

WHEREAS, however, in the past seven weeks alone, UNIDAD has had to turn away 130 Miami Beach seniors due to insufficient meal supply, with growing demand far outpacing resources; and

WHEREAS, tensions have escalated to the point that Miami Beach Police have been called on two occasions due to incidents involving hungry and desperate seniors; and

WHEREAS, recent federal budget decisions have resulted in a freeze and cut to Older Americans Act funding, jeopardizing UNIDAD's ability to serve the community; and

WHEREAS, inflation and rising operating costs, including a significant May 1, 2025, increase in per-meal costs under a competitively bid catering contract, are placing further strain on UNIDAD's budget; and

WHEREAS, without additional funding, UNIDAD will be forced to reduce daily meal service from 140 to 110 meals, leaving even more seniors without access to basic daily nutrition; and

WHEREAS, the requested \$70,000 in additional City support would allow UNIDAD to sustain its current service level of 140 meals per day through September 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission recognizes its moral and civic responsibility to protect its most vulnerable residents and ensure no senior goes hungry in our community; and

WHEREAS, as Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "the test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much, but whether we provide enough for those who have too little," and as Mahatma Gandhi observed, "a nation's greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members."

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 authorize an increase in funding to UNIDAD of Miami Beach, Inc., in the amount of \$70,000 for senior meal services in Fiscal Year 2025, bringing the total City funding support for UNIDAD to \$350,000 for the current Fiscal Year, in order to maintain service levels of 140 meals per day through September 30, 2025.

PASSED and ADOPTED this ____ day of _____ 2025.

ATTEST:

Steven Meiner, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner Laura Dominguez,
Co-sponsored by Commissioners Tanya K. Bhatt,
Alex Fernandez, Joseph Magazine,
Kristen Rosen Gonzalez, and Mayor Steven Meiner)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney

5/8/2025
Date