

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, CONSENTING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF DIGNA ABELLO, AS THE FIRE CHIEF OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH.**

**WHEREAS**, public safety is central to the management and operations of the City of Miami Beach (the “City”); and

**WHEREAS**, after serving more than 10 years, Fire Chief Virgil Fernandez is stepping down from his role as Fire Chief with the City on July 1, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, during Chief Fernandez’s tenure, his most impactful accomplishment has been to cultivate a solid leadership team and develop an internal succession plan to ensure the continued success and continuity of the Miami Beach Fire Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the Interim City Manager has appointed Digna Abello, the current Deputy Fire Chief since 2020, as the Fire Chief for the City; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Abello will proudly serve as the first woman named Fire Chief in Miami Beach and Miami-Dade County history; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Abello has over 19 years of service with the Miami Beach Fire Department, rising through the ranks during her tenure; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Abello excelled in her role as Lieutenant with a focus on recruitment and administration; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Abello later excelled as Division Chief of Support Services, Division Chief of Training, and Division Chief of Rescue, three (3) major divisions within the Department; and

**WHEREAS**, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Chief Abello directed the Department’s comprehensive response strategy, including the development of standard operating procedures and collaboration with health departments; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Abello successfully established a vaccination program that inoculated over 13,000 vulnerable residents, ensuring community well-being and safety; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Abello earned a bachelor’s degree in emergency management from Barry University; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Abello holds numerous certifications, including certified Fire Inspector, Fire Officer, Fire Instructor, National Fire Academy Leadership Certification, Incident Command System Certification, and Accreditation Manager from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI); and

**WHEREAS**, to allow for the appropriate transition and continuity within our Fire Department, this appointment will become effective July 1, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Fernandez will serve as a Special Advisor to Chief Abello to ensure a smooth and seamless transition through September 1, 2024, his retirement date; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Commission wish to consent to the appointment of Digna Abello as the Fire Chief for the City of Miami Beach, Florida.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA**, hereby consent to the appointment of Digna Abello as the Fire Chief for the City of Miami Beach.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_ day of June 2024.

**ATTEST:**

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Steven Meiner, Mayor

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Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk