

RESOLUTION NO. 2025- _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF
THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, REAFFIRMING OUR
STRONGEST POSSIBLE SUPPORT FOR OUR SISTER CITY,
ODESSA, UKRAINE.**

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2022, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2022-32114, approving and endorsing a Sister City affiliation with the City of Odessa, Ukraine; and

WHEREAS, known for its beautiful beaches, Odessa is a major seaport and transit hub located on the northwestern shore of the Black Sea; and

WHEREAS, Odessa is also a multicultural enclave with a rich history of literature and culture; and

WHEREAS, on or about February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation ("Russia") launched an unprovoked full-scale military invasion into the country of Ukraine ("Ukraine") which has become one of the deadliest and most destructive conflicts in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, Russia still occupies roughly 20 percent of the country after gaining over four thousand square kilometers of territory in 2024; and

WHEREAS, Western officials have claimed that, by scope, the war could be the largest in Europe since 1945; and

WHEREAS, through December 2024, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has verified about 12,500 civilians have been killed in Ukraine since the beginning of the fighting, (although those are likely undercounted), and there has been an increase in the past few months not seen since the earliest days of the invasion; and

WHEREAS, Russia continues to attack Odessa, including strikes by Russian drones on Odessa's port infrastructure as recently as last week; and

WHEREAS, through January 2025, more than 2,000 instances of damage to civilian structures, including to education and health care facilities — which should be protected under international humanitarian law — have been confirmed, and one in ten homes have been damaged or completely destroyed; and

WHEREAS, on February 14, 2025, Russia, in an exceptionally dangerous act of aggression, attacked and damaged the containment shield protecting Ukraine, Europe, and the rest of the world from nuclear waste from the Chernobyl disaster. This follows the playbook from early 2022, where during intense fighting near the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) Russian troops "violated every principle of nuclear safety," according to IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi; and

WHEREAS, through the end of 2023, nearly 3.7 million Ukrainians (particularly women, children and the elderly) have been internally displaced within Ukraine, and another 6 million have been forced to flee to neighboring countries (through mid-2024); and

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach expresses its grave concern with regard to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which is not only ongoing, but appears to be bolstered by false narratives claiming that Ukraine started the war (it did not - it was invaded by Russia on February 24, 2022); and

WHEREAS, in light of the Russian attack on Ukraine, the people of Ukraine – including the residents in our Sister City of Odessa – are in dire need of humanitarian aid to assist in their safety and well-being, as they face enormous welfare, economic and social challenges; and

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach prides itself on being a diverse, inclusive international community with respect for the rule of law and democratic institutions, with the Mayor and City Commission routinely supporting measures that promote human rights and dignity.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED THAT THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby reaffirm our strongest possible support for our Sister City, Odessa, Ukraine; and direct the City Clerk to transmit this Resolution to U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, the U.S. Delegation to the United Nations, and the City of Odessa Government.

PASSED and ADOPTED this ____ day of February, 2025.

ATTEST:

Steven Meiner, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Vice Mayor Tanya K. Bhatt)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM AND LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

Nickalleg
for City Attorney *NK*

2/25/25
Date