

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO ISSUE REFUNDS FOR UNUSED FARES TO RESIDENTS WHO PROVIDE PROOF OF PURCHASE OF WEEKLY OR MONTHLY PASSES FOR RIDES ON THE WATER TAXI BETWEEN PURDY DOCK AND SEA ISLE MARINA WHO WERE UNABLE TO USE THEIR PASSES DUE TO REPEATED INTERRUPTIONS AND SUSPENSIONS OF SERVICE BY POSEIDON FERRY, LLC; AND FURTHER, DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO IDENTIFY A SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

WHEREAS, on June 28, 2023, the Mayor and City Commission ("City Commission") adopted Resolution No. 2023-32644, waiving, by 5/7th vote, the formal competitive bidding requirement and accepting the recommendation of the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee ("FERC") to direct the City Administration ("Administration") to negotiate a one (1) year Agreement with Poseidon Ferry LLC ("Poseidon") for the operation of a water taxi service between Miami Beach and Miami; and

WHEREAS, on September 13, 2023, the City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2023-32746, approving the term sheet for a one (1) year pilot program for water taxi service, and authorizing the Administration to negotiate and execute an Agreement with Poseidon; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2024, the Agreement between the City and Poseidon was executed, providing for a one-year pilot program at a cost to the City of \$600,000, with the service operating between Maurice Gibb Memorial Park in Miami Beach and the Venetian Marina & Yacht Club, also known as Sea Isle Marina, in Miami; and

WHEREAS, the ferry service commenced on June 30, 2024, but experienced multiple service interruptions due to mechanical failures and adverse weather conditions, including prolonged suspensions of service on various occasions in July and August 2024; and

WHEREAS, as a result of these repeated interruptions and suspensions of service, many residents who had purchased weekly (10 trips for \$30.00) or monthly (40 trips for \$120.00) passes for water taxi rides were unable to fully utilize their purchased trips; and

WHEREAS, at the September 11, 2024 City Commission meeting, pursuant to Resolution 2024-33247, the City Commission directed the Administration to terminate the concession agreement dated March 14, 2024 with Poseidon for the operation of a water taxi pilot program; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission recognizes the need to refund residents for any unused fares purchased due to service disruptions and suspensions caused by Poseidon Ferry, LLC; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission wishes to direct the City Administration to issue refunds to affected residents who provide proof of purchase of the weekly or monthly ferry passes and proof that they were unable to utilize their passes due to the service interruptions; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission further directs the Administration to identify a source of funds for the purpose of issuing these refunds to the affected residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the City Commission directs the City Administration to issue refunds for unused fares to residents who provide proof of purchase of weekly or monthly passes for rides on the water taxi between Purdy Dock and Sea Isle Marina who demonstrate they were unable to use their passes due to repeated interruptions and suspensions of service by Poseidon Ferry, LLC; and further, direct the Administration to identify a source of funds for this purpose.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2024.


ATTEST:

Mayor Steven Meiner

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner David Suarez)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney

10/21/2024
Date